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Jenkins: Seeberg investigation had 'integrity'

By LAURA McCRYSTAL
News Editor

Following media coverage of sexual assault allegations made by Elizabeth "Lizzy" Seeberg and an announcement from the St. Joseph County Prosecutor's Office that no charges would be filed, the University called its investigation "thorough and careful."

Seeberg, a first year Saint Mary's student, alleged that a Notre Dame student athlete sexually assaulted her on Aug. 31. She committed suicide Sept. 10.

The University had previously declined to comment on the topic, citing the Family Educational

Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), which prohibits colleges and universities from discussing students' education records.

"As you know it's unusual and perhaps unprecedented for me to comment on a case like this," University President Fr. John Jenkins said in a Dec. 21 interview with The South Bend Tribune. "But I cannot stand by and allow the integrity of Notre Dame to be challenged so publicly."

University spokesman Dennis Brown said because Notre Dame takes FERPA seriously, it has a policy of not publicly acknowledging the presence of disciplinary investigations.

"We think the principle of priva-

cy is so important that we're willing to take some of the criticism that comes with that," Brown said.

The University worked with the accused student in the case of Seeberg's allegations, however, and decided to speak about the investigation, Brown said.

"The investigation was thorough and careful and I believe that that needs to be understood by all," Jenkins told The South Bend Tribune. "The main point I want to make is the investigation had integrity. It followed the facts where it led and any results were based on that sort of investigation."

According to a Dec. 16 press

release from the St. Joseph County Prosecutor's Office, Seeberg alleged sexual battery, or forced touching of her breasts. Seeberg did not make an allegation of rape.

On Sept. 1, Brown said Seeberg went to St. Joseph Regional Medical Center to report a Notre Dame student-athlete assaulted her while they were in his dorm room on the evening of Aug. 31. A Notre Dame Security Police (NDSP) officer, who Brown said has over 35 years of experience and has investigated over 200 sex crime allegations, met Seeberg at the hospital that evening and took a handwritten statement.

The next day, Seeberg asked the

officer for a copy of her original statement and said she would like to submit a second statement.

While waiting for Seeberg's second statement, Brown said the officer spoke with two students who had been with Seeberg and the accused student the evening of the alleged assault.

Seeberg e-mailed that statement to the officer at 9 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 5. Because the following day was Labor Day, Brown said the officer did not view the new statement until Sept. 7, at which time he found inconsistencies with the other two students' statements.

The NDSP officer contacted the

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Campus launches off-campus program

By MELISSA FLANAGAN
News Writer

The Off-Campus Council has set up an off-campus student ambassador program in order to increase communication with students living off campus.

The program, which began at the end of last semester, assigns a student representative to each off-campus area where students live. These representatives, who live off campus in the same area, are able to be direct liaisons between the council and the students.

Off-campus president Ryan Hawley said student government came up with the idea while discussing ways to increase the effectiveness of Off-Campus Council.

"It's really to gain better communication with off-campus students," Hawley said. "It's hard when there's three members of the Off-Campus Council and about 1,800 students off (campus)."

Hawley said the ambassadors are geographically based, with a student from each of the housing complexes surrounding Notre Dame as well as from different neighborhoods of student houses.

The jobs of the ambassadors are mainly to distribute informa-

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Greenfields undergoes renovation

By VICTORIA JACOBSEN
News Writer

When customers return to Greenfields Café in the Hesburgh Center for International Studies this semester, they will find renovations have made the campus eatery hard to recognize.

Many aspects of the café — from the décor to the menu — have been modified with the goal of improving convenience and healthy eating options while lessening negative impact on the environment.

Greenfields has not been

given a full renovation since the Hesburgh Center opened in 1991. In addition to giving the café a more modern feel, the changes are aimed at making the ordering process more user-friendly, executive chef of the University Donald Miller said.

"If someone is busy and wants to work at their desk, they can avoid standing in a long line, which we've been known to have," Miller said. "Or, they can sit down at their leisure, so it's adding a new dimension of service."

In order to cut down on

see CAFE/page 4



SUZANNA PRATT/The Observer

During winter break, Greenfields International Café underwent a full renovation with the goal of becoming more sustainable.

'Heritage' dinner to honor Moreau

By ALICIA SMITH
Associate Saint Mary's Editor

Saint Mary's will be hosting a French-themed dinner in honor of the feast of Father Basil Moreau.

The dinner — which will be held on Wednesday in the Noble Family Dining Hall from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. — will feature French dishes in honor of Moreau's French heritage.

According to an e-mail sent to the student body from Barry Bowles, director of dining services, dishes

include food items such as Coq au Vin, a chicken dish with mushrooms, burgundy wine and brandy. Other dishes include Salade Verte Assortie, Rôti de Boeuf au Poirve and Pommes Lyonnaise.



Moreau

see MOREAU/page 4

Seniors end careers as part-time students

By EMILY SCHRANK
News Writer

Some members of Notre Dame's Class of 2011 will end their four-year college careers by completing their final semester at Notre Dame as part-time students.

Assistant registrar Lora Spaulding said many seniors choose to become part-time students in order to save money on tuition.

"If it's a student's last semester and they need less than 12 credit hours to graduate, they can discuss the possibility of becoming part-

time with their academic dean," Spaulding said. "We currently have 192 seniors enrolled as part-time, which in the grand scheme of things really isn't that many."

Spaulding said tuition for part-time students is based on the number of credit hours they are taking during the semester. This semester, part-time students will pay \$1,642 per credit hour, she said.

According to Spaulding, seniors who enroll part-time are unable to live on campus, but still have student IDs and continue to have the same

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THE OBSERVER

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Viewpoint space is available to all readers. The free expression of all opinions through letters is encouraged. Letters to the Editor must be signed and must include contact information.

Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor-in-Chief Matt Gamber

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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 will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

THE HOT SEAT: ONE PERSON, FOUR QUESTIONS, INFINITE POSSIBILITIES



Natalie Novosel

junior
guard

What was your favorite game so far this season?

Novosel: The UConn game, because we stepped up our level of play, and ever since then, we've been playing to make a statement in the Big East Conference.

When did you start playing basketball?

Novosel: My dad went to college for basketball and he got my siblings and me playing when we were little.

How do you get in the zone before games?

Novosel: I usually shoot with one other teammate in the pit, and we listen to music to get ready for the game.

Can you explain your nickname, Nasty?

Novosel: It started when I played with my club team when I was a freshman in high school. They gave me the nickname and it's been with me ever since.

Know someone who should be in the hot seat? E-mail obsphoto@gmail.com



SARAH O'CONNOR/The Observer

Students exercise on the cardio equipment in the fitness room of Rockne Memorial on Thursday. Faculty expect gym attendance to increase drastically as students escape the cold.

OFFBEAT

Restaurant to sell lion meat tacos

TUCSON, Ariz. — A Tucson taco restaurant already has served up python, alligator, elk, kangaroo, rattlesnake and turtle.

What's next? Lion meat.

Boca Tacos y Tequila says it's accepting prepaid orders for African lion tacos, to be served starting Feb. 16. Orders must be placed by Feb. 7 and owner Bryan Mazon says there are already a few reservations from curious customers.

Mazon says his restaurant started offering exotic tacos on its menu every Wednesday about six months ago and has tried "just about anything we can get our hands on."

According to the Food and Drug Administration, lion and other game meat can be sold as long as the species isn't endangered.

The Arizona Daily Star says most of Boca's exotic tacos range between \$3 and \$4. The lion tacos will cost \$8.75 apiece.

Buckeye fan builds Lego replica

COLUMBUS, Ohio — A Columbus-area man has created a Lego replica of Ohio State's horseshoe-shaped football stadium, complete with a decorated archway and scoreboard made of the small blocks.

Paul Janssen used about a million Lego pieces to build the 8-foot-by-6-foot model,

which has room for 6,000 Lego people.

The 42-year-old Ohio State researcher tells The Columbus Dispatch it was a challenge to create the rounded model out of the mostly rectangular blocks that fill his basement in stacked containers.

It took about 1,000 hours over two years. He studied the stadium, bought or traded for pieces and improvised, such as making pipes for the restrooms out of chrome parts from a Lego truck.

Now he's talking about adding a BCS or Heisman trophy to the display.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

The Snite Museum of Art will display four etchings by Francisco de Goya until this Sunday. The display is located in the Scholz Family Works on Paper Gallery.

The 22nd Annual Notre Dame Student Film Festival will take place tonight and tomorrow in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Screenings will take place at 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Cost is \$3 for students, \$5 for faculty and \$6 for the public.

Evidence, A Dance Company will perform tonight at 7 p.m. in the Decio Mainstage Theatre of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Cost is \$15 for students.

Student Activities Office will show "The Goonies" as part of their Dive-In movie event. The event starts at 10 p.m. tonight in the Rolfs Aquatic Center.

A passport fair will be held tomorrow from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Hammes Mowbray Hall. No appointments necessary.

The film "The Apartment" will be shown tomorrow at 3 p.m. in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Cost is \$3 for students.

The Student Activities Office will sponsor Roller Rink 80's Night tomorrow at 9 p.m. in LaFortune Student Center. Free skate rental and snacks provided.

"Superman's Shorts" will be shown on Sunday from 3 to 5 p.m. The event will take place in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, and is \$3 for students.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 09 LOW 08	HIGH 08 LOW 07	HIGH 20 LOW 11	HIGH 17 LOW 13	HIGH 26 LOW 20	HIGH 27 LOW 16

Campuses take initiatives to improve health

SMC creates communal walking program

By ALICIA SMITH
Associate Saint Mary's Editor

For some fresh air and exercise, Saint Mary's College Women's Health created a program offering students, faculty and staff the opportunity to come together for a community walk each weekday at 12:15 p.m., Catherine DeCleene, director of Women's Health said.

"We began the walks because walking at a moderate pace for 30 to 60 minutes burns stored fat and can build muscle to speed up your metabolism," she said. "Walking is also associated with cutting your risk of heart disease, breast cancer, colon cancer, diabetes and stroke."

Women's Health held the first walk on Monday.

According to DeCleene, walkers meet each day at the mailbox outside of Holy Cross Hall. Walkers then proceed to walk one mile around campus.

DeCleene said the walks will increase to two miles as the weather improves.

"Let's face it, everyone tries to begin each year in a healthy, positive light," DeCleene said. "What better

way than you take a few minutes out of your day to enjoy the beauty of the Saint Mary's campus, meet new people, get some exercise and break your day up."

According to DeCleene, about 12 to 15 people have participated in walks each day thus far.

"Most people already know the importance of exercise for a healthy life, but still fail to get started," DeCleene said. "It is a well-documented and accepted fact that exercise is essential for ensuring that body systems and functions work properly. People who do not exercise on a regular basis suffer from various ailments and diseases as they grow older, including the problem of obesity."

DeCleene said walking can be just as effective as jogging and can improve physical fitness.

"Often dismissed in the past as being too easy to be taken seriously, walking recently has gained new respect as a means of improving physical fitness"

Catherine DeCleene
Director of Women's Health
Saint Mary's College

"Walking burns approximately the same amount of calories per mile as does running, a fact particularly appealing to those who find it difficult to sustain the jarring effects of long distance jogging," she said. "Brisk walking one mile in 15 minutes burns just about the same number of calories as jogging an equal distance in eight and a half minutes."

DeCleene encourages everyone to attend the walks, emphasizing the importance of exercise for a healthy lifestyle.

"Often dismissed in the past as being too easy to be taken seriously, walking recently has gained new respect as a means of improving physical fitness," she said. "Studies show that, when done briskly on a regular schedule, it can improve the body's ability to consume oxygen during exertion, lower the resting heart rate, reduce blood pressure and increase the efficiency of the heart and lungs. It also helps burn excess calories."

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Rolfs attendance increases as students escape the cold

By REGINA WOOD
News Writer

As the weather grows colder and the second semester begins, more students are working out, according to Jennie Phillips, assistant director of fitness and fitness facilities at Rolfs Sports Recreation Center (RSRC).

On Tuesday, 1,900 students worked out at Rolfs. Phillips expects that number to rise to at least 2,000 people by next Monday, the beginning of the first full week of classes and Rolfs' usual peak day of the year.

The RecSports staff reminds its supervisors this is the busiest time of year in all of their facilities so they need to be sure to pay attention to even the smallest detail such as cleaning up the snow and salt that gets tracked into the facilities.

"Our goal is to make our facilities a welcoming place for the entire campus community," Phillips said, "Since August we've installed new fitness equipment, new televisions and new flooring in the RSRC fitness room. Other areas of the RSRC have new flooring or carpet and we are awaiting the delivery of new furniture for the lounge area."

In addition, many students attended free fitness classes this week during the "Try It You'll Like It" program. The most popular class this year is "zumba," which is a hot trend throughout the United States.

Phillips said students appreciated the chance to try out instructors and classes before

making any commitments.

Stephanie Prince, a freshman planning to major in biology, said, "I loved trying out 'Step N Sculpt' because it was a fun way to exercise and had good music. It inspired me to exercise more this semester."

In addition, Rolfs offers free training for students wishing to do their first 5-k or first half marathon. Throughout the semester, there will also be other free services, such as body composition tests, blood pressure measurements and strength equipment orientations. Students can also sign up for small personal training groups of two to four people.

Students can find more about the free fitness services and all of RecSports' programs at recsports.nd.edu. Students can also receive a weekly e-newsletter detailing upcoming events and programs.

Phillips said she anticipates the number of students will taper off after spring break as students become busier, Bookstore Basketball gets underway and the weather gets warmer.

"It is really helpful to talk to a professional just so you are making the most out of your time and your workouts are safe and effective," Phillips said. "Do what you like. Schedule exercise in your planner or phone. Find a buddy to work out with. We have so many things to get involved with, including intramurals, club sports, late night Olympics and fitness classes."

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Council

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tion to the students in their jurisdiction and to get student feedback on life off campus. Hawley said the group is mainly concentrating on security and safety issues.

"That's our primary focus right now, how do we alleviate that," Hawley said. "Our initial thing is sending out crime alerts so they know if something happened near them."

Hawley said these crime alerts have prompted many students not only to become more aware of their surroundings, but also to report other incidents that the Off-Campus Council hadn't known about.

The Off-Campus Council recruited students for the ambassador positions by e-mailing all of the students currently living off campus. Hawley said the fact that a person responded to the e-mail means they will be perfect for the job.

"Naturally, the people who responded were the people interested in solving problems," Hawley said.

Student will have bi-weekly meetings at Studebagels — an incentive to join — while others volunteered due to personal experiences with crime. Senior ambassador Deirdre Murdy said she was motivated because her neighborhood has had several

security issues.

"When I saw the opportunity to be more in touch with Off-Campus Council and hopefully increase security for our area I figured it would be helpful," Murdy said.

Lauren Hemington, the ambassador for Legacy Village, was also happy to join the program. Hemington said she was encouraged by the communal aspect of it.

"I just felt senior year I wasn't really doing as many activities as I could be," Hemington said. "I just got an e-mail and thought, 'Why not meet different people my last semester?'"

In addition, Hemington said she hopes to present some of her own ideas to improve off-campus life, including the possibility of an off-campus dining hall.

"I miss the whole social aspect of the dining hall," Hemington said. "And I feel a lot of people aren't using their meal plans, so I think it'd be really convenient."


Off-Campus Council is continuing to spread the news of the program to students. Hawley said while they're still looking for more students to become ambassadors, they'd also like to encourage those who already have ambassadors to utilize them.

"We really want students to use their ambassador and to contact people," Hawley said. "We want them to know what's going on."

Contact Melissa Flanagan at
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HOLY CROSS

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January 24, 7:30 p.m.

Film: God's Doorkeeper: Saint André Bessette, C.S.C.
Andrews Auditorium in Geddes Hall
January 25, 7:30 p.m.

Saint André Bessette's Holy Legacy in Photos
Main Building Rotunda
January 26, 5:30 p.m.

All events are open to the public and free of charge.

holycrossweek.nd.edu
for more information.



Café

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long lines and increase meal options, Greenfields now offers a hot cereal bar for breakfast and a soup bar during lunch hours, as well as various pre-packaged a la carte items.

The new décor is made almost exclusively of recycled or sustainable materials. The sides of the counters, for example, are made of pressed sorghum, while each chair is made of 111 recycled Coke bottles.

The effort to increase sustainability extends to the menu itself. The containers that package the to-go products are recyclable, and almost all the ingredients for menu items are locally produced, which cuts down on environmental impact caused by transportation.

Greenfields executive chef Karen Reynolds described the changes at Greenfields Café as part of a University-wide trend.

"As a campus, the initiative is to go for more locally grown products and to

become more sustainable altogether," Reynolds said.

The increased emphasis on healthy meal options on the new menu is likewise a response to initiatives on the part of the University.

"This is an extension of the University's overall initiative for wellness. This is something they envisioned," Miller said. "The University is definitely interested in having people live healthier lifestyles, for a lot of reasons."

The menu options are mostly comprised of low-fat and organic foods, and taste was an important factor in designing the menu, Miller said.

"Our goal is to give great flavor profiles, so that people come not because it's healthy but because it tastes good," he said.

Reynolds was optimistic about customer reception of the changes at Greenfields.

"I hope that we get more [customers], Reynolds said. "I hope people are interested in eating better and trying some healthy food."

Contact Victoria Jacobsen at vjacobse@nd.edu

Moreau

continued from page 1

A bread and cheese display will also be included with the meal. A dessert station with assorted pastries and a variety of desserts will also be available.

Sr. Mary Gude, vice president of Missions, said the dinner was held in honor of the founding of the College and Moreau's contributions.

"Saint Mary's College is a Holy Cross school," Gude said. "The Sisters of the Holy Cross began teaching young women in 1844, a year after they came from Le Mans to the United States. From those beginnings evolved Saint Mary's College, under the guidance of Mother Pauline."

The dinner will be part of Saint Mary's College Heritage Week, a week celebrating the history of the College. Heritage Week. The week is sponsored by the Student Government Association (SGA) and will begin Monday.

According to Gude, the dinner has become a tradition at the College, and is held annually on or near Moreau's feast day.

"It's become a family tradition or ritual to remind us who we are," she said.

Gude said it is important to honor Moreau's feast day because he was such an influential person in the founding of the College.

"In a very real sense, without his vision, we would not be here at all," she said.

Moreau was the founder of the brothers, sisters and priests of Holy Cross, Gude said.

"Saint Mary's College is one small piece in a vast mosaic of Holy Cross ministries," she said. "The family of Holy Cross serves in 16 countries and five continents. And it all began with Basil Moreau."

According to the e-mail, the dinner is open to all students with I.D., regardless of whether or not a meal plan was purchased. Faculty and staff are also invited to attend with I.D. cards.

In addition, the e-mail said family and friends of the College, as well as guests of the community were invited to attend. The cost for a meal is \$4.39.

Contact Alicia Smith at asmith01@saintmarys.edu

Seniors

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opportunities that full-time students have.

"Part-time students can still go to Rolfs and can still have a meal plan, if they choose to do so," she said.

Senior Allie Colaco, a biology major, said she is taking just one class as a part-time student this semester.

"I had the credits, so I figured I might as well save the money," she said.

As a part-time student, Colaco said she will fill up some of her free time by working in a lab and serving as a teaching assistant (TA) in undergraduate science classes.

Senior Kevin Ritt said he didn't initially plan on becoming a part-time student this semester.

"The idea of being part-time hadn't really occurred to me, but my parents asked if I would mind doing it to save them some money," Ritt said. "I have two brothers, one who just graduated, and one who is a sophomore in college, so the option of saving some cash was very appealing to them, and, frankly, the idea of only having one class didn't bother me too much either."

Ritt said he is especially looking forward to having more free time.

"I'm going to spend my time looking for a job after graduation, working out, and trying to hang out with my friends as much as possible before we all scatter after graduation," he said. "I also expect to be outrageously good at video games by the end of this semester."

Contact Emily Schrank at eschrank@nd.edu



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Seeberg

continued from page 1

accused student on Sept. 9, but the student did not return the phone call.

The officer learned on Sept. 11, a Saturday, that the Sept. 10 suicide of a Saint Mary's student was Seeberg. On Monday, Sept. 13, Brown said the officer contacted other local law enforcement agencies because the death changed the perspective of the investigation. He also tried again to contact the accused student. The accused student met with the NDSP officer on Sept. 15.

The Seeberg family, through media outlets such as ABC News and The Chicago Tribune, expressed concern with the two-week period between the original allegation and the meeting with the accused student. In his interview with The South Bend Tribune, Jenkins cited the inconsistencies between the students' statements as reason for the delay.

"We conducted an investigation, I think, that was judicious and fair to all parties involved," Jenkins

said. "We grieve for the Seebergs, for the loss of their daughter. At the same time, we have to follow the facts where they lead."

According to the statements from Seeberg, she was with the accused student, a Saint Mary's student and another male Notre Dame student in a men's residence hall at Notre Dame on the evening of Aug. 31.

Seeberg's statement said the two male students appeared to text message one another, and then the male student and Saint Mary's student left the room. According to Chicago attorney Joseph A. Power, Jr., who is representing the accused student, cell phone records that NDSP obtained for the investigation show that this text messaging did not occur.

Seeberg alleged that the male student-athlete then kissed her and touched her breasts, then threw her aside when he received a text message or phone call.

Power said the text messages showed neither a text message nor incoming phone call at that time. He said the statements from the other three students and the subpoenaed cell phone records support a phone call from the

accused student to the other male student. According to Power, Seeberg's statement was inconsistent with those of the three other students, who said the phone call was placed because the accused student wanted the other two students to return to the room.

"I think it's important that people recognize that the evidence shows one phone call," Power said. "And that's from the [accused student] from his phone to the dorm mate."

The December press release from the St. Joseph County Prosecutor's Office on its decision not to prosecute also cited inconsistencies in the statements.

"Only Ms. Seeberg and the student-athlete were present during the alleged battery," the release stated. "Conflicts exist among the witnesses' accounts of the events given to the police. Subpoenaed cell phone records are inconsistent with parts of the complaint itself."

Jenkins said the University allows the prosecutor to make a conclusion on charges before determining whether to proceed with an internal disciplinary process. Brown said the University

has not yet decided whether to hold a disciplinary hearing.

In November, Seeberg's parents sent a letter through their attorney to Jenkins, Vice President for Student Affairs Fr. Tom Doyle and Notre Dame general counsel Marianne Corr.

According to Brown, Corr read the letter and also sent it to NDSP. Because Jenkins and Doyle could ultimately serve as levels of appeal in the University's disciplinary process, they did not read the letter.

"I am the ultimate court of appeal in disciplinary matters and, consequently, I tried to remain somewhat distant so I am not tainted by one side or another presenting their side of the story," Jenkins told The South Bend Tribune.

Doyle met Lizzy's father Tom Seeberg on Sept. 13 at a memorial Mass for Lizzy on Saint Mary's campus. Since that time, Brown said Doyle maintained regular contact with Tom Seeberg.

Tom Seeberg declined to comment.

Beyond the Seeberg investigation, Brown said the University is working with the U.S. Department

of Education on an overall review of its policies. This review is not related to any specific case.

He also said NDSP normally does not send reports to St. Joseph County Prosecutor's Office if the student filing an allegation does not request that it be forwarded. Seeberg had not expressed an interest in sending the report to the prosecutor, but the University did choose to forward the investigation results.

The University will work with the prosecutor's office to decide whether to begin forwarding every investigation into sexual assault allegations, Brown said.

"We'll work with the prosecutor on that and try to determine what practice we should follow going forward," he said.

Jenkins said there is always a potential to improve investigations.

"I'm certain, we can always improve," he said, "but I am confident that this investigation was done with integrity. We followed the facts where they led. We achieved a sound result."

Contact Laura McCrystal at lmccrystal@nd.edu

INVESTIGATION TIMELINE

- Sept. 1- Elizabeth Seeberg goes to St. Joseph Regional Medical Center to report that she had been sexually assaulted by a Notre Dame student-athlete the previous evening. She meets the NDSP investigating officer and submits a written statement.
- Sept. 2- Seeberg asks for a copy of her original statement that she had handwritten at the hospital. NDSP speaks with a male Notre Dame student who has been with Seeberg that evening.
- Sept. 3- NDSP speaks to Saint Mary's student who was with Seeberg that evening.
- Sept. 5- Seeberg e-mails her second statement to the NDSP officer at 9 p.m.
- Sept. 7- Officer views Seeberg's new statement.
- Sept. 9- Officer contacts accused student.
- Sept. 10- Seeberg dies.
- Sept. 13- NDSP officer contacts other local law enforcement to discuss the case.

- Sept. 15.- NDSP officer speaks to accused student.
- Sept. 22- NDSP officer talks to a Saint Mary's student who accompanied Seeberg to the hospital on Sept. 1.
- Sept. 28- NDSP begins process of obtaining cell phone records.
- Oct. 20- NDSP receives phone logs.
- Nov. 19- Seeberg family's attorney sends letter from Seebergs to University President Fr. John Jenkins, Vice President for Student Affairs Fr. Doyle and Notre Dame general counsel Marianne Corr.
- Dec. 1 Seebergs meet with St. Joseph County Prosecutor Michael Dvorak.
- Dec. 16- Prosecutor's office announces its decision to file no charges.

CONFIDENTIAL

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BE BRILLIANT



INSIDE COLUMN

Thank you, South Bend winter

Dear South Bend winter,
Since I am currently spending my final months with you, I would like to put my love and respect for you into words.

Last year at this time, I was headed to France for a semester. While I was there, it snowed once or twice but never stuck to the ground. Since returning to South Bend last weekend, I've realized that there are so many things I forgot about winter here in northern Indiana.



**Laura
McCrystal**

*News
Editor*

South Bend winter, there are a few things only you could teach me, and for these I am eternally grateful.

Thank you for giving me a great reason to buy a brand new down coat at an after-Christmas sale over winter break.

Also, thank you for making me rethink my decision to purchase that coat in white as soon as I remembered how that snow stays white for approximately five minutes before turning to gray or brown sludge.

Thank you for making Starbucks' peppermint hot chocolate, my favorite drink, taste especially delightful. There's nothing like walking into LaFortune to get a hot chocolate on a day when the wind-chill is 30 degrees below zero.

Thank you for the valuable reminder that no matter how bad my day is or what kind of mood I am in, sunshine and blue skies are always a reason to smile. After all, it could be several months before the sun peeks out again from behind layers of gray gloom.

Thank you for teaching me balance. Or, at least, for reminding me I should wear boots with traction and try to improve my balance. Within 24 hours of returning to South Bend last weekend, I wiped out in the street in front of my off-campus house. This was also the first time I began to regret purchasing a white coat. But, on another note, this moment reminded how much fun I had when I got similar bruises playing broomball last semester.

Thank you for giving me a reason to spend my Saturday afternoons doing absolutely nothing other than sitting on my couch, watching television and reminiscing about football season.

Thank you for allowing Notre Dame students to look forward to getting to the beach during spring break. After spending January through March in South Bend, we appreciate tropical climates more than students from any other school.

Thank you for the threat that even after spring break, winter is probably far from over. Sudden changes from sun to snowstorm are great life lessons and reality checks.

Thank you for making students think that it's normal to wear shorts, sundresses, flip-flops and t-shirts as soon as the thermometer hits 55 degrees.

Finally, South Bend winter, I would like to thank you for being ridiculously long. Who wants a short and mild winter when sunshine and warm weather also mean graduation and saying goodbye to my days as a Notre Dame student?

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Laura McCrystal at lmccryst@nd.edu

The rhetoric of political Pygmies

Yesterday marked the 50th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's inauguration as well as the two year mark of President Obama's inaugural ceremonies. While both presidential messages were lofty and uplifting, our political dialogue today remains more petty and filled with personal greed than when Kennedy entered the presidency. As a World War II veteran, Kennedy was strong on defense like Obama. Kennedy, like Obama, believed in a governmental role to solve problems and in tax decreases to spur the economy. However, political communications strategies changed drastically since the days of Camelot.

Kennedy's election over Vice President Richard Nixon was more of a choice for youthful style over substance, since both men had strikingly similar military and political service records as well as shared most issue-oriented viewpoints. In fact, when congressional Democrats and Republicans functioned through compromise, Democrats remained the majority for 40 years. Newt Gingrich, while orchestrating the 1994 congressional Republican win, strategized that tearing down Congress was his only way to make Republicans a viable choice. Thus, political discourse began evolving into the message of what we oppose rather than what we favor. Ironically, it is Obama's long-term, steady goal of being a new type of politician — coupled with the assassination attempt of Representative Gabrielle Giffords — that may finally break our nation's nasty rhetorical cycle.

Look no farther than the new Republican-led House of Representatives to see a current example of focus group-driven rhetoric most likely parsed by GOP language guru and pollster Frank Luntz. Prior to the Giffords assassination attempt, an economy-weary public reacted more negatively to the term "job-killing" when offered various descriptions of what opponents previously and disapprovingly coined as "Obamacare." In fact, the official title of H.R. 2 is "Repealing the Job-Killing Health Care Law Act."

Many automatically attempt to blame both parties as equally engaging in inflammatory tactics. Not true. Republicans could have named their repeal legislation using "to correct," "to improve" or "to limit" the current healthcare law. President Ronald Reagan supported eight tax increase bills entitled Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982, Highway Revenue Act of 1982, Interest and Dividend Tax Compliance Act of 1983, Deficit Reduction Act of 1984, Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Acts of 1985 and 1987, Tax Reform Act of 1986, along with the largest tax increase (\$160 Billion) in American history to save Social Security simply entitled, "Social Security Amendments of 1983."



Gary Caruso

*Capitol
Comments*

Such language is more adult-driven, professional and slyly masks its true tax increase nature. But today's rhetoric is smash-mouth and petty. Paradoxically, the first line describing the Republican legislative bill actually includes last year's Democratic health care title that in part included education with the parliamentary budget reconciliation process. The Republican bill adopted this week read, "To repeal the job-killing health care law and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010."

The Republican healthcare repeal bill was introduced prior to Giffords' shooting. So when Giffords was shot, an Arizona blogger summed up our present dumbed-down congressional rhetoric by writing on the Vos Iz Neias site, "Notice how there (in D.C.), people can't come up with a title that doesn't include the word 'kill' or some other inflammatory violent rhetoric designed to rile up their hate sheep. It speaks volumes about the political discourse and inevitable reaction we saw today."

It is no mystery how GOP celebrity Sarah Palin contrived her crosshair images on targeted Democrats, including Giffords, last election cycle to appeal to fellow hunters and NRA supporters. This writer does not find malice in her motives, just a clumsy, political naïveté that comes with political inexperience. On the other hand, her insistence on describing the firestorm after the Giffords' assassination attempt as "blood libel" defies political savvy. However, GOP candidates for decades have depended upon negative rhetorical imagery to attract one-issue voters such as those who are anti-abortion, anti-gay, anti-union and anti-government.

Following the Iowa Caucus two years ago, Hillary Clinton staff members suggested running more against Bush policy. They proposed saying that we need to "take back" our world standing, our government and our America that once thrived under Bill Clinton's tenure. Interestingly, Hillary rejected the exact negative rhetoric that propelled Tea Party candidates to victory last year.

Obama has also remained unfailingly steadfast in his commitment to the rhetorical high road. His long-term efforts to extend a hand to Republicans each step of the way and statesmanlike demeanor have boosted his approval rating to 53 percent this week. Undoing negativity Gingrich ingrained decades ago into our political lexicon requires the Obama marathon approach. One-issue voters who see our political process as dysfunctional should for once expel the negativity and "job-killing" rhetoric disgorged before them. Next year's election will prove just how large Obama is and how puny his opposition's rhetoric becomes.

Gary Caruso, Notre Dame '73, serves in the Department of Homeland Security and was a legislative and public affairs director in President Clinton's administration. His column appears every other Friday. He can be contacted at GaryJCaruso@alumni.nd.edu

EDITORIAL CARTOON



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We must never forget that art is not a form of propaganda; it is a form of truth."

John F. Kennedy
35th President of United States

Submit a Letter
to the Editor at
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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"An adventure is only an inconvenience rightly considered. An inconvenience is an adventure wrongly considered."

G.K. Chesterton
English author & mystery novelist

Re-evaluating politics in remembrance of Christina Taylor Green

Christina Taylor Green. Until a few days ago, we didn't know Christina. We weren't aware of this vibrant nine-year-old's budding interest in politics. We remained ignorant of her love for swimming, gymnastics and baseball. We had no idea she delighted in picking blackberries. Now, we will never forget her name. Christina. Taylor. Green.

**Eileen Flanagan
and
Josh Varanelli**

Guest Column

Given to us on September 11, 2001 — she was a fresh soul, unaware of the tumult and turmoil of a place she would so briefly call home. Perhaps it came with the gravity of being born on such a grave occasion, or maybe she had a natural aptitude for the contemplative, but Christina possessed an uncanny wisdom for her novel nine years. She interpreted the events of 9/11 not as a doomed end, but as an opportunity to transcend the wickedness of the moment — that under such duress and tragedy, courage takes root, greatness becomes possible.

Christina's life ended in an irrational

fit of violence. She had spunk, intelligence and vision — so much potential whisked away with a whiz of metal. If she would have lived, we are sure she would have done great things for the world. But she is gone. And we endure. In a life taken so senselessly, is it possible to derive meaning?

When someone dies, what's truly important is brought sharply into focus. Things that once seemed paramount become inconsequential, our mundane daily strife now seems laughable and the prism through which we view the world widens. Death causes us to reflect and re-evaluate. Death clarifies life.

Christina Taylor Green's death brings great clarity and perspective to American political life. The things we once considered imperative no longer matter. The words we so carelessly slung at each other, the ceaseless bickering, and the aggrandized sense of self seem petty, immature and selfish. These actions absolutely did not cause the gunman to fire those shots; however, it should not prevent us from examining our political consciences. Too often we shout, bludgeon and

generalize. We pass judgments about people, fellow Americans, we know nothing about.

That is not to say we should never disagree. We are America. We are a government composed by the greatest minds of the time, who heartily disagreed about the method and manner our government should be run. Though the Founding Fathers were not one conglomerate group, they agreed on this: the importance of this nation transcended the importance of their own egos. For the sake of Christina and this country, we must strive to emulate their example. Will we choose the politics of difficulty — of honest discussion, of setting aside ego, of selflessness? Or will we fall victim to the ever enticing and easy politics of fear?

We desperately hope Christina was right. We hope that through great tragedy comes great strength, great purpose, great meaning. We hope that tragedy of Tucson inspires the courage to put aside our egos and compromise, the reason to work towards a common good and the wisdom to realize this country is bigger than petty partisan bickering.

We cannot change Washington instantaneously, we cannot force people to adopt our mentality; however, how we choose to act at this specific juncture in time is entirely within our realm of control. We challenge you to go to lunch with someone you disagree with, politically or otherwise (present this article as a token of goodwill if you have to). We challenge you to find out what's important to them, to listen, to re-evaluate, to be great.

Christina Taylor Green entered the world on a day of wickedness, let the day she left be one to inspire transcendence.

Eileen Flanagan is a senior and the Co-President of the Notre Dame College Democrats Committee. She can be reached at Eileen.E.Flanagan.42@nd.edu

Josh Varanelli is a senior and the President of the Notre Dame College Republicans Committee. He can be reached at Joshua.C.Varanelli.1@nd.edu

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Truth about gender issues

Dear Mr. Easley,

Your column, "Liberated Woman's Theology" (Jan. 20) in Thursday's Observer does a better job of showcasing your ignorance of gender studies and feminism than making a strong argument for stay-at-home motherhood. For one thing, feminists in general have never thought being an involved and devoted parent is a bad thing. This is why many (I'd suggest, almost all) feminists think men (at least, most of the ones with children) should be involved and devoted parents — not just breadwinners, but real fathers.

Feminists have, of course, criticized stay-at-home motherhood. Notably, you don't take up any of these criticisms. For one, the classic, Betty Friedan-era critique of stay-at-home motherhood was more about the forced exclusion of women from the trades and professions than motherhood per se. It's one thing to choose to become a stay-at-home parent. It's quite another to be told your whole life — or, shortly after your husband returns from WWII — that it's the only thing you're good for. By ignoring this critique, you mischaracterize your feminist interlocutors. For another, a stay-at-home parent, by definition, is economically dependent on her or his partner. This is fine so long as the family stays together. But divorce leads many former-stay-at-home mothers years behind in their careers and job experience. In part for this reason, about 30 percent of families headed by unmarried women are below the poverty line (US Census data). By neglecting this criticism — and, indeed, claiming that the consequences of divorce are not significant — you reveal your ignorance of well-established economic facts.

Fortunately, there is hope for you — and anyone else who's interested in but ignorant of gender issues. I'm co-teaching Introduction to Gender Studies this semester, and we still have open seats. We'd be more than happy to have you join us.

Dan Hicks
graduate student
Philosophy and Gender Studies
Jan. 20

Lost and found

found: red Coal Headwear hat
contact Will Cernanec
at wcernane@nd.edu

Those pesky, liberated women

Mr. Easley,

I'll speak for all gender studies majors when I say,

"Noted."

Here's to hoping no one spent as much time actually debating your column, "Liberated Theology" (Jan. 20), as you spent writing it.

Robyn Grant
senior
off campus
Jan.20

EDITORIAL CARTOON





Claire Stephens

Scene Writer

Joining more well-known and mainstream films such as “The Social Network” and “Inception” in the running for numerous Golden Globes this year is the highly acclaimed and somewhat controversial ballet drama/thriller “Black Swan.” Directed by Darren Aronofsky, known for similarly dark but praised films “Requiem for a Dream” and “The Wrestler,” the always-exceptional Natalie Portman and impressive Mila Kunis star in a film that has left audiences both amazed and disturbed.

The visionary artistic direction of Aronofsky created a product that could be considered drama, thriller, suspense or even horror. One of the most obvious techniques of Aronofsky’s film is the use of color and stark imagery to symbolically and physically represent the major themes and events the protagonist endures.

The plot and wardrobe intertwine unmistakably and intentionally. The audience compares the “White Swan,” Natalie Portman, to the “Black Swan,” Mila Kunis. Portman is often dressed in white as the embodiment of fragility, naivety, innocence and purity while Kunis — more often clothed in black — is meant to represent confidence, sexuality, power and indulgence. Creating unquestionable extremes sets the tone for the messy and distressing transformation from the pinks and whites of a ballerina’s stuffed animal-filled room to the blacks and reds of the makeup, wardrobe and blood that come from the unpredictable, dangerous beauty of becoming the Black Swan. The director’s astute use of lighting and mirrors to reinforce the transformation and draw attention to the contrasts that come with the doppelganger reality and dual-nature of humanity.

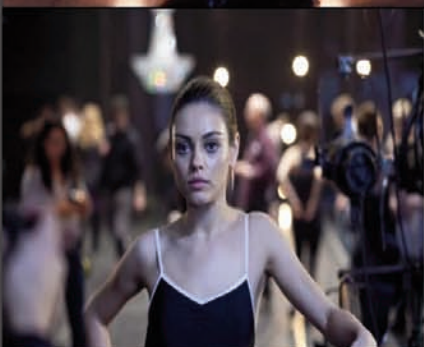
Imagery alone is not what makes “Black Swan” the masterpiece it is, however. While the artistic representations give greater meaning and significance to the story, the movement of the events as they unfold is what seems to have left many both amazed and abhorred. Occasionally using slightly shaky camera angles that follow closely behind the protagonist as she moves in seemingly unthreatening places leaves the audience on edge at all times. Employing techniques similar to what makes an effective horror movie; the audience is rarely given a rest as startling entrances, frightening masks and statues, dimly lit locations and dangerous and threatening characters seem to have found their way into every corner of the protagonist’s world.

The terrifying and confusing spiral from pinks and whites to blacks and reds proves to be horrifying for the protagonist and audience alike as the threats are revealed to often be internal. Unsure of what reality is and what is the product of a more and more distressed, dysfunctional and dangerous mind, the chaotic transition between two identities and the quest for perfection some impossible place between them races onward with no secure end in sight.

This transformation of characters, movement of action and emotional roller coaster that results can be attributed just as much to the powerful score that accompanies the outstanding thespian performances, artful direction and commanding mise en scene. Clint Mansell, also composer of the score for “The Wrestler” and “Requiem for a Dream” brings yet another outstanding score to Aronofsky’s films, charging the emotion to the very end.

Masterful in its very use of the fine arts — dance, music, art — Aronofsky creates a disturbing but beautifully effective look into the contradictions and pressures of the human mind.

Contact Claire Stephens at cstephe4@nd.edu



Black Swan Fox Searchlight

Director: Darren Aronofsky

Starring: Natalie Portman, Mila Kunis, Vincent Cassel, Barbara Hershey, Winona Ryder, Benjamin Millepied



Shane Steinberg

Scene Writer

“Black Swan” opens with a fragile ballerina, Nina Sayers (Natalie Portman), dancing the prologue of “Swan Lake” in the middle of a dimly lit stage as a lone violin plays eerily in the background. The music is as vulnerable as the ballerina and they exist harmoniously. Meanwhile, a figure stands in the near background, breathing heavily and watching intently. For a few moments, all is seemingly calm yet wrought with a brooding feeling, until the figure, a monstrous creature, rushes the ballerina, shattering the calm and causing both her and the music to descend into madness.

That is, in essence, the journey in Darren Aronofsky’s adaptation of the classic ballet, “Swan Lake,” a full-on descent into madness. He blends the same kind of restraint and great trust in his lead that enabled Mickey Rourke to mount a triumphant comeback in “The Wrestler.” With a penchant for flare and technicality, Aronofsky allows Portman to fall deeply into character and give a mesmerizing performance.

What enables Portman to operate so beautifully is that she portrays the progression of her character with exact emotional precision.

As a ballerina vying for the lead in “Swan Lake,” she approaches her naïve, focused and socially deprived self with an intensity that seems pure — white swan-like. Juxtaposed with her counterpart during their night out on the town, Lily (Mila Kunis, in a role that might open some doors for her as a serious actress), she comes off almost too controlled, just like her dancing, which is all technical and prided on “perfection” as she sees it. Lily, on the other hand, is everything the black swan should be — imprecise, sexual and wicked.

It’s during those moments when the two rivals cross that Portman for the first time gives herself unto a different self, if you will. That alternate self is the black swan. Although the true transformation and all the lurid scenes that arrive with it don’t actually come until later, there’s a noticeable shift in Portman’s performance during the scene with Lily. At some point between storming out of a club not knowing what just happened and her ensuing psycho-sexual fantasy, Portman’s innocence and purity are abandoned and she is no longer the “sweet girl” her mother wishes she be.

Much like in “The Wrestler,” Aronofsky takes a step back at this point, shines a light on his lead, and allows his actor to get swept up in his fever hallucination of a film. Just like in the beginning, Portman stands center stage for the rest of the way through, rarely ever leaving the frame as every moment draws her nearer to her emotional and mental collapse and the pure deliriousness that follows.

Some of the best performances come when actors or actresses give themselves unto their director’s uncompromising vision. Charlotte Gainsbourg gave arguably the best performance of any actor last year in “Antichrist,” which won her the Best Actress award at the Cannes Film Festival, because she allowed director Lars von Trier to instill in her the same state of mental anguish that he reportedly felt during filming. Likewise, David Lynch has always been able to get the best out of his female leads because he bewilders them, causing them to feel the same kind of fear towards the role and the process that he wants them to show as their characters come mentally undone before our eyes.

In the case of “Black Swan,” Portman neither gives herself unto Aronofsky nor does he try to push his vision or lofty ambitions on her. Instead, he operates almost like that monster creeping in the background at the film’s open, panting, while holding a shaking camera as the object of his eyes, Portman, feels deathly afraid by his presence.

“Black Swan” isn’t necessarily anchored by Portman’s disarming performance but is instead made all the more visceral because she is so unnerving as such a dynamic role. In this year’s best performance bar none, Portman’s embodies the fragility of the white swan and allows fear and dread wash over her as she unravels, making the film genuinely horrifying.

Contact Shane Steinberg at ssteinb2@nd.edu



TRUE GRIT SALVAGED BY BRIDGES

By SHANE STEINBERG

Scene Writer

Joel and Ethan Coen's faithful adaptation of 1968's "True Grit," the film that finally won John Wayne an Oscar for Best Actor, has a style and sensibility about it that only the Coens can pull off, and that might be its only fault.

If the Academy were ever inclined to award an actor back-to-back Best Actor awards, then Jeff Bridges would deserve it for his portrayal of Rooster Cogburn, the foul-mouthed, irritable gunslinger whom Wayne made famous 40 years ago. Only, in reality, the Academy would rather spread the love than give the same award to the same person over and over again (think Meryl Streep recycling acceptance speeches every year versus some up-and-comer bawling on stage as her career gets propelled to the next level). Nevertheless, Bridges is nothing short of remarkable, anchoring the film and leaving Wayne's seemingly unbeatable effort in his dust.

The story follows Mattie Ross (Hailee Steinfeld, in a performance that felt forced but nonetheless has garnered her multiple awards wins), a 14-year-old girl whose father was gunned down by an outlaw, Tom Chaney (Josh Brolin). The smart-talking, determined girl seeks out Cogburn, a U.S. Marshal known for his shoot-first temperament and penchant for whiskey. Cogburn dismisses young Mattie, doubting that she has the lofty payment she promises him, but agrees to team up

with her after she swindles a horse dealer out of a small fortune.

The two cross paths with a Texas ranger, LaBoeuf (Matt Damon, who more often than not fades into the background in an unmemorable performance) who has been chasing Chaney across the country for three years to no avail. What ensues is a Coen-infused Western shot with starry-eyed brilliance and a strong faithfulness to the source material and the genre.

Like their best works, the Coens walk a tightrope between good and evil with an ambiguity hanging over it all. Rather than judge its characters, the film stands back and makes no assertions about Chaney or Cogburn as if to say that maybe there was something downright rotten about both of them — one being the murderer on the run, the other the murderer with a badge. Instead, the story unfolds like a tall Western tale permeated by gunfights, drunken mishaps and an eye for a genre often forgotten by Hollywood these days.

As in many of their films, the Coens bring a light heartedness to a heavy situation. Understandably, "True Grit" isn't supposed to be some magnum opus of a Western meant to capture our hearts and minds. However, the jokiness of it all, with everyone from Bridges to Brolin acting as though the chase is more of a wild goose chase than the hunt for a cold-blooded murderer, gets in the way of the film's attempt to build to "the last gunfight". Whereas Mattie is

trying to avenge her father, Cogburn is too busy drunkenly rambling and trying to prove that he can shoot cornbread better than LaBoeuf.

The Coens have a résumé that few in Hollywood can top. With an Oscar for "No Country for Old Men" under their belts, they can afford to create art for art's sake, or perhaps better put, a Western for their own enjoyment. Perhaps taking on a film that most believed was entirely Wayne's was their way of indulging themselves in a subject matter/film dear to them the same way they did in "A Serious Man," their homage to growing up in a Jewish family in 1960's Minnesota. Were it not for Bridges, however, True Grit would have been a disappointment.

Contact Shane Steinberg at ssteinb2@nd.edu

True Grit
Paramount

Director: Joel and Ethan Coen

Starring: Jeff Bridges, Matt Damon, Josh Brolin, Hailee Steinfeld



A sneak peek at Scene Around the World

Watch the videos at ndsmcobserver.com/scene



From Greek gods to runway-worthy bods, fall break was full of the buff, the bronzed and the beautiful. Eight girls set out on a mission to conquer Athens, Rome, Cinque Terre and Milan in 10 days, taking in everything from the Parthenon to the Pantheon. We sunbathed on the shores of the Aegean, built the city of Rome in a day and hiked through the hills of the Liguria region. Nothing could beat the slight humiliation of trying to blend in at the Milan Chanel though — talk about an adrenaline rush! Watch the final edition of this semester's "Scene' Around the World" and try not to get too depressed you're stuck in snowy South Bend instead of working on your tan.



Share your own abroad experience!
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how to submit your video.

Screencapture images courtesy of Adriana Pratt

NFL

Rodgers looks to create legacy

Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — On the list of Aaron Rodgers' accomplishments in three seasons as the Green Bay Packers' starting quarterback, one stands out as being something that really didn't seem possible when he first took over as the starter.

He made Brett Favre an afterthought in Green Bay.

Going into Sunday's NFC championship game against the Bears in Chicago, Rodgers is the undisputed face of the Packers, and his success in the playoffs is winning over almost anyone who still had doubts about his place among the NFL's elite quarterbacks.

"I think he's definitely the quarterback we all hoped he would become," coach Mike McCarthy said. "He was a young talented quarterback, had a very bright future, and now we're in year three of his development and he's definitely developed into a special player. He does it the right way. He'll break them down physically, mentally. He's in a great rhythm right now."

He certainly made a believer out of veteran Packers wide receiver Donald Driver.

"I love him," Driver said. "I don't know if you can put words to it but he's playing like one of the best quarterbacks in the game, if not the best."

Rodgers might not have made the Pro Bowl this season, but there's no shortage of praise coming his way after a dominant performance in last Saturday's playoff rout of Atlanta. Rodgers has been particularly sharp since he sustained his second concussion of the season and sat out the Packers' Dec. 19 loss at New England.

Bears linebacker Lance Briggs said he isn't bothered by all the national attention on Rodgers.

"No, that's all it is, it's a sign of respect for what the Packers and Aaron Rodgers have been able to do," Briggs said. "They have been doing a lot of that this whole year. Credit is due."

Rodgers appreciates the praise from fellow players, fans and pundits, but doesn't think he deserves it—not yet.

"We have to put some more hardware around here," Rodgers said.

It once seemed as if Rodgers would never escape comparisons with Favre. But with No. 4 now retired—perhaps even for good this time—Rodgers finally is free.

Well, mostly.

Favre interjected himself into the national conversation about the Bears-Packers rivalry this week, telling ESPN in an e-mail that Rodgers is "the best" quarterback remaining in the playoffs



Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers breaks a tackle for a touchdown in Saturday's 48-21 rout of the Falcons.

and paying compliments to the Packers' receivers and defense.

"I think they will win it all! I hope they do, if you are wondering," Favre said in his e-mail to the network.

Some fans snickered throughout Wisconsin. No, they really weren't wondering.

When asked about Favre's comment, Rodgers' response was upbeat but brief.

"Any time I'm getting a comment like that from somebody who's had a ton of success in the NFL, it's quite an honor," Rodgers said.

And that's about the most Rodgers and the Packers have said about their former quarterback in recent weeks.

With the Packers still scrambling to make the playoffs in December, somebody asked Rodgers whether his apprenticeship under Favre helped or hurt his career.

"I'll be honest with you, man, I've answered that question a gazillion times," Rodgers said then. "So I don't really want to go back into that. Especially not this week."

And after the Packers beat the Vikings at the Metrodome in November, McCarthy was asked whether his team might finally be rid of the Favre-driven circus.

"I'm rid of it; you need to get

rid of it," McCarthy said at the time.

Rodgers hit the toughest stretch of his season a few weeks after that Vikings game, sustaining his second concussion of the season against Detroit and sitting out against New England. Rodgers said he was proud of the way backup Matt Flynn played against the Patriots, but missed playing himself.

"When you go from being a backup for three years to the starter, you just relish those opportunities," Rodgers said. "And when it gets kind of taken away from you, it's just really tough to not be able to get back in the game."

Rodgers has been hotter than ever since returning, leading the Packers to back-to-back wins to make the playoffs. His standout play has continued in the postseason.

"Aaron is a very consistent player and it probably stems from his personality," McCarthy said. "He is clearly one of the most consistent quarterbacks that I have had the opportunity to work with. He is the same person every day. He doesn't swing with the highs and lows of how the season is going or how our practice is going, and I think it really carries over to the playing field."

NFL

Revis and Jets defense can't wait for Steelers

Associated Press

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. — Darrelle Revis used to wonder if something like this would even be possible.

He's considered by many to be the best shutdown cornerback in the NFL and has helped lead the New York Jets to the AFC championship game for the second straight season.

It's a long way from those anxious days in Aliquippa, a city in metropolitan Pittsburgh where big dreams just help you get by.

"It's a tough town," Revis said Wednesday. "It makes you grow up fast. There's a lot of negativity there."

And, he saw plenty of it. Crimes, friends in trouble and people down on their luck. It was tough to stay focused.

"The one thing I did growing up is lean on the people doing positive things: Ty Law and my uncle, Sean Gilbert," Revis recalled. "Mike Ditka's from there. I remember just seeing billboards of him from our hometown and wanting to make it out of there."

Well, he certainly succeeded. He was a star at the University of Pittsburgh, became a first-round pick of the Jets in 1997, and is headed for his third straight Pro Bowl. That is, if he's not playing in the Super Bowl in a few weeks.

First, he's coming back home—and hoping to leave with an AFC title and a huge win over the Steelers on Sunday night.

"It means a lot to me," Revis said. "Jason Taylor is from there, too. We talk about it all the time. We played them a couple of weeks ago, and we were talking about just getting a win from where we're from, and in front of our families and close friends. It's the same situation. It's the AFC championship game, but also it's more personal to me and Jason Taylor."

It was only a few months ago

that Revis was a training-camp holdout with his complicated contract situation a lead story line on HBO's "Hard Knocks." He eventually signed a new deal, reported to the team and was back in the starting secondary for the regular-season opener.

The lack of preparation meant he wasn't close to being the type of player he was last season, though, when he shut down star wide receivers week after week. Then came a strained left hamstring that sidelined him for two games.

"Coming into the season, we all knew it was going to be a setback," Revis said. "The coaches knew, (general manager) Mike Tannenbaum and those guys knew because I hadn't been in football mode. I was trying to work out as much as I can and do what I needed to do to prepare myself, but it's totally different when you're not in training camp."

Revis sets personal goals before each season and writes them down on a sheet of paper. They serve as a constant reminder for how good he knows he can be—and expects to be.

"Didn't reach a lot of them this year," Revis acknowledged. "But one of those goals is where we're at right now, getting to this place we're at, winning this game and going to the Super Bowl. I think that's just a team goal as well for us, just getting here. Everybody's mindset is just getting to the Super Bowl and winning."

Revis has been a major factor in the Jets' run. The health concerns are no longer an issue, and the contract situation is a distant memory. Revis has been at his best the last several weeks, shutting down Pittsburgh's Hines Ward and Indianapolis' Reggie Wayne, and teaming with Antonio Cromartie to take away Tom Brady's favorite weapons last Sunday night.



Jets cornerback Darrelle Revis (left) tackles Patriots receiver Wes Welker during Sunday's 28-21 win.

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GOLF

Love chosen as U.S. captain

Associated Press

MEDINAH, Ill. — Davis Love III had to share his big day with Chicago's beloved Bears.

If he leads the Americans to the Ryder Cup in the fall of 2012, he'll have the whole town to himself.

An emotional and enthusiastic Love was introduced Thursday as the next U.S. captain of the Ryder Cup, then spent the next few hours being feted across Chicago. He was made an honorary member at Medinah Country Club, where the 2012 matches will be played, got a miniature replica of the Stanley Cup, and hobnobbed with Chicago's sports royalty: Scottie Pippen, Dan Hampton and Ernie Banks.

"Good luck to you," Pippen, who teamed with Michael Jordan to win six NBA titles with the Bulls, told Love at an afternoon reception. "I'm looking forward to popping some champagne with you."

All five of Chicago's pro teams presented Love with personalized jerseys, and the White Sox threw in a ball from the 2005 World Series. Love also was to be

a guest of the Bulls at their game against the Dallas Mavericks later Thursday night.

"The whole world is going to be watching what we do here in Chicago," Love said. "When we get here, when the European team gets here, we're going to be at least a point ahead because we're going to have the Chicago fans, the Chicago energy."

The daylong celebration of Love's appointment wraps up a week that put the Ryder Cup in the news some 18 months before the next shot is struck. Europe, which won the gold trophy in Wales last October, appointed two-time Masters champion Jose Maria Olazabal as its captain Tuesday.

Love's appointment was hardly a secret, and it was clear he's already working on a plan to reverse the Americans' recent Ryder Cup woes. Europe has won six of the last eight matchups.

Love has started talking with PGA and Medinah officials about course setup. He's thought about the qualities he wants in his vice captains and who might be suited for those jobs. At dinner Wednesday night, he and wife Robin spent part of the time looking at the ballrooms and imagining how they could be configured for team meeting rooms.

As for those disastrous rain-suits that leaked, causing a distraction before the Americans even teed off in Wales, Love pledged that a big part of his job will be making sure his players feel as comfortable and prepared as possible.

"I'm a players' captain," he said earlier in the day. "I'll try to

get them what they need to be successful. I'm not going to tell the best players in the world how to play golf. I'm going to stay out of their way and let them show their talents. I think a good leader knows he's got a great team and just gets them prepared and let's them go play."

Love, a 20-time winner on the PGA Tour, played on six Ryder Cup teams. His first three matches, with Tom Kite as his partner, were against Olazabal and Seve Ballesteros, the "Spanish Armada" that formed one of the most daunting teams in Ryder Cup history. Love won that first match, but never beat Olazabal again. They never played each other in singles.

Olazabal won his second green jacket in 1999, and while his duel that day was with Greg Norman, the Spaniard held off a late charge by Love, who was the runner-up.

Love recalled that Olazabal brought a special Spanish wine to serve at the Masters' Champions Dinner that next year, and he gave Love the left-over bottles.

"I'll always remember his generosity," said Love, who said he has not spoken to Olazabal this week. "He's always been a good friend. It'll be a tough competition. On Thursday we'll be friends, and Sunday night we'll still be friends."

Love said he would consider playing if he earned his way on the team, although a U.S. captain has never qualified for the team in recent decades. Love last qualified for the team in 2004, when Europe routed the Americans at Oakland Hills.

NBA

Anthony trade talks still in air despite Nets



Nuggets forward Carmelo Anthony smiles during a game Saturday. Trade talks involving Anthony continue to heat up.

Associated Press

DENVER — Carmelo Anthony was hammered by J.R. Smith during a spirited 5 on 5 scrimmage at practice on Thursday. When he stepped to the line, his Denver Nuggets teammates began booing and jeering and scoffing the All-Star forward — just like the home crowd has been doing lately.

"You're a bum, Carmelo!" Smith taunted as Anthony laughed and calmly swished all three free throws.

Anthony was booed during a postgame TV interview at the Pepsi Center Wednesday night following his 35-point performance in Denver's 112-107 win over Oklahoma City, which came hours after the New York Nets ended trade talks for the Nuggets star.

That's not a wise move by the frustrated fans, suggested Kobe Bryant, whose Los Angeles Lakers visit the Nuggets on Friday night. He suggested that if Anthony were at all torn about leaving Denver or staying put, the catcalls might just push him over the edge and on his way.

Bryant said he's only been booed at home once in his 15 years with the Lakers and that was in the 2007-08 opener after saying during that offseason that he wanted to be traded. He said the fans came around when they saw him playing hard.

Anthony's been playing hard, too, but the drama has been playing out since last summer, when Anthony declined to sign a three-year, \$65 million extension with the Nuggets.

Bryant played with Anthony at the 2008 Olympics and said his friend doesn't necessarily want the bright lights of Broadway but just a shot at a title.

"It has nothing to do with a bigger market," Bryant said. "It's about winning. If you want to keep a player here, make the right decisions, make the right choices, personnel. Get a team around a guy that will help you win and there will be no problems. If Denver will make the right decisions, bring in the right personnel, then he'll stick around."

"It's not rocket science." What appears to be rocket science, though, is putting together a trade that will satisfy all parties, especially Anthony, who never gave the Nets nor Nuggets an indication one way or the other whether he'd sign his extension to facilitate a trade to New Jersey.

Denver native Chauncey Billups, who's been dragged into the Anthony trade talks, said he understands why Nuggets fans are booing Anthony but sympathizes with his teammate.

"Melo's like a little brother to me, so I hate him going through that," he said.

Anthony, who didn't stop to speak with reporters after practice Thursday, has said the boos don't bother him or affect his game, suggesting he'll always have his haters one way or the other.

The jeers in Denver are starting to drown out the cheers for the superstar who's led the Nuggets to seven straight playoff berths but has left the extension without his signature, leading general manager Masai Ujiri and team president Josh Kroenke to seek a trading partner so they don't lose him to free agency this summer without any getting anything in return.

Nets owner Mikhail Prokhorov canceled his flight to Denver to meet face-to-face Thursday with Anthony and told the team on Wednesday to end trade talks with the Nuggets, saying he was unhappy with how it played out in public, that it took too long, got too expensive and cost his team games.

Ujiri said Wednesday night he's in discussions with "plenty of teams" about Anthony and that he held no animosity toward the Nets for pulling the plug on a proposed trade that would have netted the Nuggets a couple of first-round picks and rookie power forward Derrick Favors.

With the Nets out of the picture, at least for now, the Knicks are expected to get back into the mix with other possibilities including the Bulls, Mavericks and Rockets.

The Nuggets might have to settle for much less from a team that sees Anthony as a "rent-a-player" for a shot at a championship before losing him as a free agent in a few months.

The Knicks haven't had enough to offer the Nuggets, but they appear to be the one team that could lure Anthony into signing his extension to facilitate a trade.

Anthony was born in Brooklyn and has said he'd love to play in the Big Apple, so with the Nets done talking, the Knicks can expect a bigger wave of Melo chatter.

"We've got to make sure we stay focused and be prepared. We can't let affect us," Knicks star Amare Stoudemire said. "We've got to make sure we still play hard every night."

Knicks coach Mike D'Antoni was surprised to hear that Prokhorov pulled out of his pursuit of Anthony, but he said Wednesday night he didn't think it affects his team. And he said that should some of his players' names get bandied about, he would hope it wouldn't distract them.

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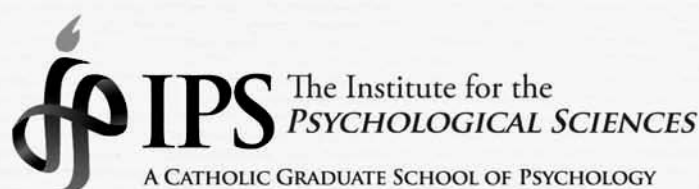


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MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

Irish to host Notre Dame Invitational

By JACK HEFFERON
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will try to post fast times and strong individual performances when it hosts the Notre Dame Invitational Saturday.

As an early season meet, the Irish have an opportunity to polish their times before the Big East championships, which are now less than a month away. The invitational will also be an early test for the team, as it will feature solid competition in Michigan State, DePaul and Western Michigan.

"This weekend is important because it is a great opportunity to get a lot of people qualified for the Big East meet," graduate student Jack Howard said. "It is also a good tune-up before we head into the meat of our schedule."

The team is already off to a great start this year, having notched several individual and relay wins at both of its opening meets.

"So far, we have had a lot of great performances in all three phases — running, jumping and throws," Howard said. "We have a ton of depth and a

lot of strong returners from last year, plus we have some new faces who are really stepping up, so it is pretty exciting."

In particular, one of those great performances was turned in by heptathlete Justin Schneider. At last weekend's Bob Eubanks Open, Schneider won six of seven heptathlon events and scored 5,497 points, breaking his own personal record and earning Big East Male Field Athlete of the Week honors in the process.

With scores like that, Schneider and the Irish should be primed for another run at a conference title. Notre Dame took home both the indoors and outdoors championships last year.

"Our goal is just to keep improving so that we're running our best come the conference meet and beyond," Howard said.

The Invitational will take place Saturday at the Loftus Sports Center. Field events will kick off at 10 a.m., while running events will begin at noon.

Contact Jack Hefferon at whheffero@nd.edu

Bednarski

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season on both the men's and women's sides. Bednarski attributed the top rankings to the success his squad experienced throughout the fall season.

"We had several extremely good results, which is probably why coaches who voted for rankings put us number one on both sides in the preliminary poll," Bednarski said. "It gives us hope that we should be fighting for medals during this coming season."

The duals kicks off a stretch of three consecutive weekends of

dual meets across the country for the Irish, who have plenty of time to adjust to the loss of Meinhardt ahead of the conference championships in early March. After a disappointing third place finish in last year's national championships, the Irish look to prove their lofty early season ranking is warranted.

"Our goal is to prepare to be in the top four, and during the final days just get to the highest place possible in the circumstances," Bednarski said. "I'm optimistic because of the kids' talent and hard work, and we're excited to see how this season will go."

Contact Luke Mansour at lmansour@nd.edu

MLB

Leyland knows job not guaranteed after season

Associated Press

DETROIT — Tigers manager Jim Leyland is blunt as he assesses the situation he and his boss, general manager Dave Dombrowski, face entering the final years of their contracts.

"My tail's on the line, Dave's is on the line," Leyland said Thursday at Comerica Park as the team started its winter tour across the state, a few weeks before spring training. "We all know that."

Leyland's deal was extended by two years during the 2009 season, giving him at least one more shot of helping owner Mike Ilitch hoist World Series hardware.

"I came here to give Mr. (Mike) Ilitch a world championship trophy," Leyland said,

entering his sixth season as the Tigers' manager. "That's what I'm going to continue to try to do as long as I'm the manager. If it got to the point where they don't want me to be the manager anymore, then so be it, that's their business."


"If somebody thinks that I'm going to be intimidated by the fact that this is the last year, I've got all kind of energy, I feel good. I'm really looking forward to it. That's not going to be a topic."

It certainly won't be one that Dombrowski is going to fuel with candor.

Dombrowski was rewarded in 2006 with a four-year extension that runs through 2011 after turning around the franchise in his first five seasons in charge.


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SMC BASKETBALL

Ronan, Saint Mary's take down Hornets

By LAURA COLETTI
Sports Writer

Junior guard Maggie Ronan scored 18 of her 20 points in the first half as Saint Mary's defeated Kalamazoo 90-59 on Thursday night.

After a slow start by both teams and multiple turnovers, the Belles (12-5, 5-3 MIAA) jumped out to a 22-12 lead with 11:25 remaining in the first half. Missed layups and offensive opportunities allowed the Hornets (2-14, 1-7) to close the gap to 26-25 with 7:02 remaining in the half, but Saint Mary's managed to take a 44-34 lead into the locker room at halftime.

Belles coach Jennifer Henley said she was satisfied with her team's first half performance, but acknowledged that her team needed to make adjustments in the second half.

"We talked about a lot of things at halftime," Henley said. "I think the thing we talked about the most was defensively, taking a better stand against what they were doing with us and offensively, communicating more with each other."

The Belles did just that as they scored the first six points of the second half to increase their lead to 16. Junior forward Kelley Murphy scored 14 points in the second half, including six during

a five minute stretch in which the Belles outscored Kalamazoo 13-0.

"I think we had moments of very good defense," Henley said. "I think we countered [our mistakes] a little bit with getting out and getting our transition game going and getting some points offensively."

The play of senior captain Liz Wade at point guard was another strong point for the Belles. Wade finished with six assists and created many scoring opportunities on the offensive end.

"Liz Wade did a good job for us in getting some early steals and making things happen in transition," Henley said. "She's a four year point guard, and she's one of our captains and she gets things going for us."

Henley still feels that her team needs to improve other aspects of its game.

"I think we need to cut down on unforced turnovers," she said. "We made some silly mistakes in our transition game, and we need to do a better job of boxing out and getting rebounds and eliminating second chance points that we give up teams. ... We need to do the little things as we move forward to the second round of our conference play."

Contact Laura Coletti at lcoletti@nd.edu

WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

ND to open up home slate

By SAM GANS
Sports Writer

The Irish return home this week, competing for the first time on Notre Dame's campus since early December.

The Irish welcome Michigan State, DePaul and Western Michigan to this weekend's indoor Notre Dame Invitational with the hope of building upon last weekend's performance in the Bob Eubanks Open at Grand Valley State.

Though the Irish brought limited numbers to last weekend's competition, they still posted several top performances, as sophomore Rebecca Tracy won the 800-meter run with a time of 2:09.05, and senior Rudy Atang came in second in the shotput with a distance of 14.26 meters.

This weekend will be the first time since the Blue and Gold Meet on Dec. 3 that the full Irish squad will be participating.

"We had a meet in December, just to kind of figure out where we're at, and then we had basically a month off," Irish coach Tim Connelly said. "The Christmas vacation was a week longer this year. Most people like that, but I think it kind of hurt you because it took away a week of training and competing."

As this weekend is only the second competition of the season for most of the team, Connelly knows just how important a test this Saturday will be.



GRANT TOBIN/The Observer
Freshman Ann Marie Kelly hurdles her way to the finish line during the Blue and Gold Meet on Dec. 3.

"Saturday is kind of like 'OK, where are we at?'" he said. "It's just a step to kind of see where we're at and how far we have to go before the conference meet, which is a month from now."

The Irish are expected to rely on a broad range of players to rack up top honors this weekend. Three senior middle-distance runners are expected to be key contributors in Kelly Langhans, Natalie Johnson and Abby Higgins.

Connelly realizes a deep and versatile squad is necessary to have a successful team, especially in conference competition.

"If you're going to have a good track team, you have to have a bunch of kids covering a lot of different bases," he said.

Connelly said he believes in the importance of indoor track. Rather than a simple preparation for the outdoor campaign, he also said it is vital to win indoors in January, February and early March, not just the spring.

"It's track. You don't say we take indoors more seriously than outdoors, or vice versa," Connelly said. "The Big East holds a championship for both indoors and outdoors, so obviously we've got an obligation to be at our best for both."

The Irish begin their 2011 home schedule at 10 a.m. Saturday in the Loftus Sports Center.

Contact Sam Gans at sgans@nd.edu

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Buckeyes

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It's definitely a big series for us."

The No. 8 Irish (15-8-3, 12-5-1-1 CCHA) have been a program on the upswing since the Buckeyes swept them out of the CCHA playoffs last March. A host of freshmen and the spectacular play of the team's four seniors have led the team to notch 38 points in the CCHA standings — one point ahead of Michigan for the top spot in the conference.

The Buckeyes (12-9-2, 7-7-2-2 CCHA) rank seventh in the conference, but are riding a stretch of strong play heading into the series with the Irish. The team defeated Miami of Ohio twice during a recent

home series. Jackson said the Buckeyes pose a strong test despite their middling position in the standings.

"They're one of the one of the hottest teams in our conference," Jackson said. "They're going to be a formidable opponent for everybody in the last part of the season. Knocking off Miami twice is pretty impressive."

The Buckeyes feature a deep and experienced group of forwards that have been putting up huge statistics all season. John Albert, who averages more than a point per game, and senior forward Sergio Somma have been leading the scoring attack for Ohio State and pose a challenge for Jackson's defense.

"[Ohio State coach Mark Osiecki has] got his team playing well now and playing the

way he wants them to play," Jackson said. "It certainly looks like they've bought in. They play a pressure system. They're a very aggressive team."

Senior captain and defenseman Joe Lavin said he believed the team is ready to counter Ohio State's experienced offense.

"I think we're pretty excited and pretty set with what we need to do against Ohio State," he said. "I think we just need to be prepared for those guys — a lot of their seniors are having good years."

The teams will face off in a two-game series with the first game beginning Friday night at 7:05 p.m., and the second taking place on Saturday at the same time.

Contact Chris Allen at callen10@nd.edu

Welsh

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But Welsh said he was confident in his group of diver's ability to handle the competition.

"Our divers are a strong group led by three experienced seniors," Welsh said.

The Spartans field a strong slew of opponents for the Irish on the swimming side of the meet as well.

"In every event, the fastest Michigan State swimmer is very strong," Welsh said. "We expect a very tough meet."

Welsh also added that the team's preparation has been a "normal week of practice for

swimming and lifting" for the potentially grueling meet.

Friday's match is the second-to-last meet before the Big East schedule kicks off.

"We are always looking for signs of improvement," Welsh said. "That will be our primary focus this week also."

Last week, the Irish took down Northwestern and Cleveland State. Welsh was pleased with his team's performance.

"Our team raced very well," Welsh said. "We are eager to build on that high level of performance."

The meet begins at 5 p.m. in East Lansing, Mich.

Contact Matthew Robison at mrobison@nd.edu

Freshmen

continued from page 16

men to step up," junior Kristy Frilling said. "Every match is important, and we have a tough schedule and we travel a lot, so we have to make sure we're all really ready to compete."

Part of the No. 1 doubles team in the NCAA two years running, Frilling is returning with her third doubles partner in three years — fellow junior Shannon Mathews.

"It's definitely been a challenge because a new partner means a whole new game style," Frilling said. "So far it's worked out pretty well, and I think me and Shannon will really work well together."

Mathews was a part of the team's No. 2 doubles team last year, and Louderback has high hopes for her success with Frilling as a partner.

Even with the number of returning players, Louderback knows that he will have to amend his coaching style slightly this season in order to break in the new players.

"This year is going to be a little different because when we have two freshmen into the lineup, we'll have to adjust more when we find out how those freshmen do in duel matches," Louderback said.

In addition to the team's success, Frilling has her own personal goals.

"I want to stay at the top of the



PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Freshman Brittany Sanders returns a volley during the Eck Classic Oct. 3. Notre Dame faces Illinois Saturday in Champaign, Ill.

rankings in both singles and doubles," Frilling said. "For my singles. I want to go out and win all of my matches and qualify for the individual NAAs and the doubles tournament."

Frilling is hoping that success this season will help her in her quest to eventually gain professional status.

"I'm going to try to play some tournaments this summer to try to establish a professional ranking, and after I graduate I'm going to try to go on tour for a while and see how that goes," Frilling said.

For now, Frilling is just focusing on leading her team to an NCAA tournament title.

"Every season is new no matter what, so you can't go in thinking

that rankings matter," Frilling said. "You still have to perform the best you can because the results will speak for themselves."

The Irish hit the courts on Saturday at Illinois at 1 p.m.

Contact Katherine Heit at kheit@nd.edu

SMC SWIMMING AND DIVING

Calvin next on MIAA lineup for Saint Mary's

By KELSEY MANNING
Sports Writer

The Belles return from a week of training in Florida with a tough matchup against six-time defending MIAA Champion Calvin College. In what will be Saint Mary's final meet of the season, the squad is set to encounter a familiar opponent.

In early December, Saint Mary's competed at Calvin in a combination Division I, II and III Winter Invitational. The Belles finished the meet in ninth with a particularly strong performance from junior Audrey Dalrymple, who earned a spot in the 200-yard breaststroke final. Tomorrow's adversary, Calvin, took second in that meet.

In the final meet before the

break, Saint Mary's fell just short of Olivet in a short dual meet. The effort was highlighted by the individual performances of Dalrymple, along with sophomores Ellie Watson and Katie Griffin and junior Megan Price. The four swimmers achieved six individual wins, bright spots in the tough 107-96 loss.

Though the Olivet meet brought the Belles to 0-2 in dual meets for the season, they will try to pick up wins in three upcoming matches against Calvin, Albion and Hope.

Saint Mary's will host Calvin in its final home meet of the year tomorrow at the Rolfs Aquatic Center at 6 p.m.

Contact Kelsey Manning at kmannin3@nd.edu



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28 Canadian singer with a 1995 album that went 18x platinum	31 Dumbarton ____ Conference (1944 meeting that laid the groundwork for the U.N.)	39 Slush Puppie alternative
29 Language that reads the same backward and forward	32 Three-time N.B.A. Coach of the Year	40 Lika horses
30 ____ Man, commercial symbol since the 1950s	33 Monitor toppers	41 Comic strip bully
	37 High-strung items?	42 Series opener
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The 1st Week Back After Break...

I missed you so much...

Fro-Yo

IT'S A GOOD THING THE 'NEW ZODIAC' WASN'T INTRODUCED IN THE 1970'S...

HEY BABY, WHAT'S YOUR SIGN?

SAGGITARIUS!

OH WAIT, I THINK I MIGHT BE AN OPHIUCHUS NOW.

DOES ANYONE HAVE A ZODIAC STAR CHART??

AW MAN NOT ANOTHER ONE..

SOMETIMES I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO I AM ANYMORE...

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's	Jumbles: TRIPE SWASH SOCKET AGHAST Answer: When they found out workout fees were increased, it — WAS A "STRETCH"
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Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

HOCKEY

Seeking vengeance

Irish look to knock off Buckeyes in Columbus

By CHRIS ALLEN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame returns to the place where its 2009-10 campaign came to a bitter end when it travels to Columbus, Ohio, this weekend to take on Ohio State.

Though a large portion of the Irish roster is made up of freshmen, the more experienced players on Irish coach Jeff Jackson's squad have not forgotten the disappointing sweep at the hands of Ohio State in the first round of the CCHA playoffs, including an 8-1 blowout in the final game.

"You can't forget that — that's the team that knocked us out last year," senior wing Calle Ridderwall said. "They ended our season, which is something I've hoped a lot of guys who were here last year have in the back of their heads."

see BUCKEYES/page 14



YUE WU/The Observer

Senior left wing Calle Ridderwall chases down the puck against Michigan State Nov. 19 in the Joyce Center. The Irish travel to Ohio State this weekend.

MEN'S SWIMMING

Michigan State next for Irish

By MATTHEW ROBISON
Sports Writer

Notre Dame looks to return the favor to the Spartans in East Lansing, Mich., on Friday after Michigan State handed the squad a loss in a head-to-head match up last season.

The Irish fell to the Spartans 121-179 a year ago. In the all-time series, however, the Irish lead 5-3.

Irish coach Tim Welsh described this year's Spartan squad as "one of their best in recent years."

In addition to the daunting task of beating a strong Michigan State team, the team will have to deal with the extra stress of competing on a day of classes.

"An away meet on a school day is especially challenging," Welsh said. "Diving is especially challenging. Expect diving to be a significant factor in the outcome of the meet."

see WELSH/page 14

MEN'S TENNIS

Irish to open spring season against Virginia, William & Mary

By ANDREW OWENS
Sports Writer

The Irish will kick off the spring half of their season this weekend when they take on William & Mary Saturday and Virginia Sunday in team play.

Irish associate coach Ryan Sachire said the squad put an emphasis on strong conditioning over break to remain in position to win another Big East title and qualify for another NCAA tournament.

er NCAA tournament.

"Our team came back fit and in-shape," Sachire said. "Strength and conditioning coach Chris Sandeen did a great job giving them a program to follow over the break."

Sachire noted, however, a program such as the one Sandeen developed will only go as far as the players take it.

"Some players did tournaments over break to stay in match shape," he said. "Otherwise they would have had two-and-a-half months off from match play like most teams have. It's important to keep the match toughness that was developed during the fall season."

William & Mary is not a new opponent for Notre Dame, as the two teams met in early November at the William & Mary Invitational. Senior Stephen Havens and freshman Billy Pecor were named to the all-tournament team at the event.

Now that the fall season is over and the spring season is just getting started, the Irish shift their focus to achieving success in the Big East and qualifying for the NCAA tournament.

"It's a long season. The NCAA trophy and the Big East trophy aren't handed out until May," Sachire said. "We need to keep an even keel and not get too high or too low during the next few months. We need to avoid getting shaken or too cocky. If any team can do that, we can. Hopefully we will be playing our best team tennis in May."

Saturday's matches begin at 10 a.m., while Sunday's events begin at noon. The two matches will be the first in a string of events for the Irish, who will also compete in the National Team Indoor Championships in February.

Contact Andrew Owens at aowens2@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Finals ultimate goal for ND

By KATHERINE HEIT
Sports Writer

Last season was a familiar story for the Irish — a high ranking, a successful regular season and an exit in the semifinals of the NCAA tournament. This year, Notre Dame is hoping to make it all the way.

"I think there's a good chance of us being in the Final Four again, and once you get to that point you always have a chance of winning," Irish coach Jay Louderback said. "When you're in the Final Four, everyone's good."

The team has quite a few returning starters, but also lost some major players with the departure last year's senior class. Thankfully, the team has a handful of freshmen prepared to fill the void.

"It'll be important for the fresh-

see FRESHMEN/page 14



PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Junior Julie Sabicinski fires a backhand during a match in the Eck Classic Oct. 3 at the Eck Tennis Center.

FENCING

Meinhardt out, Irish head to NYU Duals

By LUKE MANSOUR
Sports Writer

The Irish hope to continue the momentum they gained from a stellar showing at the Dallas North American Cup when both the men's and women's squads travel to the Big Apple to participate in the NYU Duals on Friday.

The tournament will provide an early-season test for the Irish, who lost star fencer Gerek Meinhardt for the season due to a torn meniscus. The Irish will have the opportunity to test out different lineups against top competition at the NYU duals in the wake of losing the NCAA champion and former Olympian.

Olympian.

"There are many fencers who are going to New York with the opportunity to show that they can replace Gerek," Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said. "Fortunately we have a wide bench, and there are some good guys who are ready to step up and take his place."

The NYU duals will also give Notre Dame an early glimpse of some of its top rivals. Ohio State, St. John's, Yale and Columbia will comprise a field that Bednarski called one of the toughest at the NYU Duals in the last ten years.

The Irish recently ranked No. 1 in the initial USFCA poll of the

see BEDNARSKI/page 12

IRISH INSIDER

Friday, January 21, 2011

THE
OBSERVER

LEADING
with CONFIDENCE

Graphic Illustration by Dan Jacobs and Blair Chemidlin

Annual questions return for Irish

It's that time of year again. Mid-January: The days of syllabus week, laughable amounts of snow and the annual questioning of Notre Dame basketball.

What classes will be the easiest this semester?

Will the Irish ever win a game on the road?

When will the walk to South Dining Hall no longer result in frostbite?

Does Notre Dame have an offense aside from a 3-point barrage?

Are there more than seven players on the Irish roster?

Can Mike Brey right the ship before an excess amount of damage is done to his team's resume?

If only these questions hadn't all been heard before. Just like cupcake classes and South Bend snowfalls, doubting Notre Dame has become an annual trend, seemingly with decades of tradition supporting it.

The only chance to buck this habit lies in the very hands of the doubted, and perhaps this is finally the year Brey, Ben Hansbrough, Tim Abromaitis and the rest of the Irish make a statement.

Losing on the road in the Big East, or against Kentucky in Kentucky, is far from preferable, but there are darker black marks to have against you. Syracuse (with only one loss), Marquette and St. John's are all likely NCAA tournament teams. They should be expected to defend their respective home courts. Notre Dame briefly ascended to the top-10 by doing just that, beating likely March Madness participants in Gonzaga, Georgetown, Connecticut, Cincinnati and St. John's. At some point the Irish will find their stride on the road. It is nearly inevitable, especially with a trip to DePaul coming up on Feb. 3.

As for the Irishman's phobia of an offense that so often goes three points at a time, take a deep breath for a should-be-common-sense factoid. Teams that shoot 3s and make them are more likely to win; teams that shoot 3s and miss them are less likely to win. It is not that Notre Dame lives and dies by the 3pointer, but rather a poor shooting percentage on any given night is a tough hurdle to over-

come in general. Any team can go cold. Irish fans simply need to hope that fate does not befall Notre Dame in crunch time, say, in March, as it didn't in 2003, when Brey's squad rode 13 three-pointers, on only 24 attempts, to a Sweet 16 berth, the first in school history since 1987.

As for that lack of depth troubling the Irish, a Wednesday surprise may have changed Notre Dame's fortunes heading into this crucial weekend against Marquette and at Pittsburgh. Senior forward Carleton Scott injured his hamstring during Notre Dame's 70-58 loss at Syracuse on Jan. 1. The Irish have sorely missed their jack-of-all-trades throughout Scott's absence over the last three weeks, but in the victory over No. 25 Cincinnati on Wednesday, he played 15 minutes, hitting both of his field goal attempts — both 3-pointers — for six points.

His return lengthens the portion of the bench Brey is comfortable with by a significant amount, considering without Scott, Brey only used two players off his bench consistently — sophomore guard Joey Brooks and sophomore forward Jack Cooley. Once Scott returns to full health, the Irish starting five should no longer absolutely need to play more than 30 minutes apiece.

Scott's return, along with an eventual — albeit still hopeful — traveling breakthrough will answer some of those annual questions. Notre Dame faced a tough non-conference slate, including wins over Georgia, California and Wisconsin in the span of four days at the Old Spice Classic in Orlando over Thanksgiving weekend, and with 15 wins to date, nobody should be truly concerned about Notre Dame's Big Dance chances.

At that point, the Irish can legitimately, finally silence their critics — including myself — with a strong run, completely contrary to last season's disappointing finale.

This squad, in Brey's 11th season, could be the one to accomplish just that. But until they do, those questions will continue to linger, just like syllabus week remains a joke in most students' eyes and Texas natives — such as Scott — will still find Midwestern winters a nuisance.

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

Contact Douglas Farmer at dfarmer1@nd.edu



Douglas Farmer

Sports Editor

ND to face Marquette, Pittsburgh



DAN JACOBS/The Observer

Irish senior forward Tyrone Nash drives to the basket during Notre Dame's 69-55 home victory over then-No. 9 Georgetown on Dec. 29.

By MIKE GOTIMER
Sports Writer

After a rough week on the road, No. 16 Notre Dame returned home and to victory with a 66-58 win over No. 25 Cincinnati Wednesday. With the Bearcats behind them, the Irish have a shot at redemption against Marquette Saturday before hitting the road again to take on No. 4 Pittsburgh Monday.

In their first matchup, the Irish (15-4, 3-3 Big East) were shut down 79-57 by the Golden Eagles (13-6, 4-2), whose hot hands from behind the arc put Notre Dame in an early hole that they struggled to recover from. Marquette shot 70.6 percent from 3-point range in that contest, led by senior guard Dwight Buycks, who hit all five of his 3-point attempts, and juniors Jae Crowder and Darius Johnson-Odom. On the other end of the court, Marquette shut down Notre Dame's scorers, as the Irish shot just 18.8 percent from 3-point range and 39.6 percent overall.

The offensive woes continued Sunday as St. John's used a similar man-to-man approach against the Irish in a 72-54 win at Madison Square Garden that sent Notre Dame home on its first losing streak of the season. The Irish hit just four field goals in the first half and committed 20 turnovers in the game. Furthermore, Notre Dame continued to struggle from downtown, as the Irish made just three of their 15 3-point attempts.

Irish coach Mike Brey said he thinks his team may have lacked a confidence boost in the early going of the two road loss-

es.

"You need some confidence on the road, and you know we haven't had any of that," Brey said. "Just look at us last week — we just haven't been able to see a 3-point shot go in, you know get an and-one, we get to the line, we miss a free throw, you know, it's just kind of deflating where you've [got to] come back and guard all the time and you haven't gotten anything on that other end."

The absence of senior forward Carleton Scott has hampered the Irish somewhat, as Notre Dame has gone just 2-2 without him. However, Brey said he believes the Irish will still face stiff challenges with Scott in the lineup.

"He's a key guy for us, but I also think you get into league play, it was [going to] be tough with him, you know winning at St. John's or winning at Marquette," Brey said. "Let's be very honest about that. Those

"I don't think you have to even use the phrase 'sense of urgency' with them, they know [what's at stake]."

Mike Brey
Irish coach

would have been tough places to get a win."

Despite the setbacks, Brey said he believes his veteran team will not fade as Notre Dame enters the next phase of its conference season.

"I don't think you have to even use the phrase 'sense of urgency' with them, they know [what's at stake]," Brey said.

No. 4 Pittsburgh has set the pace in the Big East through the first third of the season. The Panthers (18-1, 6-0) entered the season as the coaches' pick to

win the conference title and handed No. 3 Syracuse its first loss of the season Monday night with a 74-66 win Monday night at home. In total, the Panthers have notched wins against five ranked opponents, defeating No. 22 Texas, No. 13 Tennessee, No. 4 Connecticut and No. 19 Georgetown in addition to their victory over Syracuse.

Junior guard Ashton Gibbs leads the Panthers in scoring with 16 points per game. Senior center Gary McGhee leads Pittsburgh in rebounding with 7.7 rebounds per game, and the

6'10, 250-pounder should pose a formidable threat in the middle.

After St. John's successfully duplicated Marquette's tight defensive performance, Brey knows his team will face tough defensive pressure the rest of the way when Big East foes play the Irish, and the Golden Eagles and Panthers should be no exceptions.

"We're [going to] see a lot of guys coming at us," Brey said. "Nobody's coming to play zone, nobody's playing zone. The guys in orange [Syracuse] we already played, so everybody's coming at us."

"It's funny how when you get into the league then 'the book' on how to defend, 'the book' on that, 'the book' — that's 'the book' on us — come after us, make us uncomfortable, frazzle us, how [are] we going to handle it?"

The Irish tip off against Marquette at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Purcell Pavilion before traveling to face Pittsburgh at the Petersen Events Center in Pittsburgh, Pa. Monday on ESPN.

Contact Mike Gotimer
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Transfer takes charge

After making switch to Notre Dame, senior guard Ben Hansbrough has embraced a leadership role

By ERIC PRISTER
Associate Sports Editor

Receiving contributions from transfer students is not a rarity for the Notre Dame basketball program. In fact, two current Irish starters did not start their career in South Bend. But senior guard Ben Hansbrough does more than just contribute for the Irish — he has become the de facto leader of the 2010-11 Notre Dame squad, both on and off the court.

“Being a captain, obviously you have to be a leader,” Hansbrough said. “My overall role is just to continue to get this team going, and provide my spirit and work ethic for the team, and I just hope it rubs off on everybody.”

Hansbrough is leading the Irish in scoring, assists, steals and 3-point percentage, and is second in minutes played. This multi-faceted offensive approach is something that he said he strives for. His 15.7 points per game is good enough for eighth in the Big East, and he ranks fifth in the Big East in 3-pointers made. Irish coach Mike Brey has repeatedly talked about how well Hansbrough has let the game come to him this year, instead of searching for shots.

“I need to just go out there and play, attacking and getting other people open and scoring at the same time,” Hansbrough said.

Defensively, Hansbrough has been excellent for the Irish as well. He often guards the best

player on the opposing squad, and held Connecticut junior guard Kemba Walker, the leading scorer in the Big East and then-leading scorer in the NCAA at more than 25 points per game, to just 19 points and 0-5 shooting from beyond the arc.

“I like setting the tone defensively, playing tough defense,” Hansbrough said. “On defense, I am just trying to get everybody going, and I like to take the best player and try to hide his strengths a little bit.”

But being a leader is not just about statistics, and Hansbrough has embraced his role as the emotional leader of the Irish squad as well, something he learned from the Notre Dame veterans when he arrived in 2008.

“Three years ago when I came here, [former Irish players] Zach Hillesland, Kyle McAlarney, Ryan Ayers and Luke Zellar were on the team, and it helped just being around those guys and watching how they carried themselves,” Hansbrough said. “It really was like a learning process for me. And then once you become a senior, it’s almost like you’ve watched these guys and how hard they’ve worked and you try to embrace it and set an example for the younger guys and then how we do things here. Hopefully they can enjoy the Notre Dame experience at the same time.”

Hansbrough began his career at Mississippi State University, and played two

seasons with the Bulldogs. He averaged 8.8 points over those two years, but when it came to deciding on a new school, he knew that Notre Dame would offer him exactly what he was looking for.

“Obviously you get the best of both worlds here — academically and with sports,” Hansbrough said. “Basketball’s in the best conference in America, and you’re constantly getting national exposure. At the same time, you’re graduating from an excellent academic institution.”

Hansbrough thrives on his confidence, and it’s that confidence that allows him to play at a high level. And once he starts hitting shots, it becomes very difficult to stop him. Hansbrough scored 19 points in the first half against Kentucky, including three straight 3-pointers and 11 points in a row.

“It’s kind of weird, because me and the guy that rebounds for me, Pat Holmes, Jr., he can kind of tell when I go onto that zone,” Hansbrough said. “It’s just hoping you can get to that zone, and constantly working every day, training on your game. Once you get out there on the court and you start to see a couple shots go in, it’s almost like you’re reminiscing from these workouts when you get hot and you can’t wait to touch it again and get another shot up there. Also, my teammates have been doing a great job of finding me when I get into the zone, so it’s partly to their credit also.”

Hansbrough claims his confidence was instilled in him from competing against his older brothers Greg and former North Carolina standout and current Indiana Pacers forward Tyler.

“I think a lot of the confidence comes with the family I



DAN JACOBS/The Observer

Senior guard Ben Hansbrough pulls up for a jumper in Notre Dame’s Jan. 4 win over Connecticut.

was raised in,” Hansbrough said. “I have two very competitive older brothers, and me being the youngest, you almost have to learn how to play with an edge just to compete with those guys. Tyler being 2 1/2 years older than me and Greg being 4 1/2 years older than me, at such a young age you have to kind of learn how you’re going to compete, and I think you pick up an edge, and that edge may reflect confidence. I just think it’s instilled in me almost, being the littlest of the three.”

In addition to the confidence he learned, Hansbrough said that some of his determination came from watching Tyler’s achievements — 2008 National Player of the Year, 2009 National Champion, 2009 NBA Draft lottery pick.

“My brother’s had a lot of success,” he said. “I would say that I took a lot of his work ethic. Seeing the success he’s had and just watching and learning how he got there, you kind of learn how he was successful with his work ethic and his game on and off the court. You just can kind of learn from it, and it’s been really good for me to learn from that and see the success he’s had from his hard work. You just try to adapt it, and it’s worked for me also.”

Because they went to the same high school, Hansbrough was able to witness his brother’s work ethic up-close — sometimes too close.

“We played on the same high school team, and we never played against each other, so the only rivalries we

had would be in open gym at school, and those were pretty bad. There were some lost teeth a couple times. It happens,” he said.

When asked which of the two lost their teeth, Hansbrough answered pointedly.

“Umm ... me,” he said, laughing.

Hansbrough said he embraces any opportunity to get better, and he was allowed a unique opportunity this summer. He played in pickup games at Chapel Hill, N.C. against professional and college athletes, including New York Knicks point guard Raymond Felton.

“It was great for me, because as an athlete, you always want to try to train against the best competition out there,” Hansbrough said. “I was able to train with Raymond Felton, and it was great to go out and play with somebody who’s at that level and compete against. That was really good for my game.”

“It brought my confidence up to a new level, and it brought my game up to a new level too. Going around those guys and seeing how they treat the game and how they dedicate themselves to the game. It was just good for me. Watching how he was a point guard at a professional level, and watching how he got everybody involved, and his tempo, speed and work ethic really surprised me, and I’ve just been trying to translate some of that stuff into my game.”

Contact Eric Prister at epriester@nd.edu



DAN JACOBS/The Observer

Senior guard Ben Hansbrough snags a loose ball in Notre Dame’s Dec. 29 win over Georgetown. Hansbrough leads the Irish in points, assists, steals and 3-point percentage.

Notre Dame

Record: 15-4 (4-3 BIG EAST)

AP: 16 Coaches: 16

Men's: Notre Dame vs. Marquette

2010-11 Schedule	
Nov. 12	Georgia Southern — W
Nov. 14	Liberty — W
Nov. 17	Chicago State — W
Nov. 22	Maine — W
Nov. 25	Georgia — W (2OT)
Nov. 26	California — W
Nov. 28	Wisconsin — W
Nov. 30	Indiana State — W
Dec. 8	Kentucky — L
Dec. 11	Gonazaga — W
Dec. 19	Stony Brook — W
Dec. 22	UMBC — W
Dec. 29	Georgetown — W
Jan. 1	@ Syracuse — L
Jan. 4	Connecticut — W
Jan. 8	St. John's — W
Jan. 10	@ Marquette — L
Jan. 16	@ St. John's — L
Jan. 19	Cincinnati — W
Jan. 22	Marquette
Jan. 24	@ Pittsburgh
Feb. 3	@ DePaul
Feb. 6	Rutgers
Feb. 9	Louisville
Feb. 12	@ South Florida
Feb. 19	@ West Virginia
Feb. 23	@ Providence
Feb. 26	Seton Hall
Feb. 28	Villanova
March 5	@ Connecticut



ERIC ATKINS: 7.3 ppg, 2.4 rpg, 3.6 apg
DWIGHT BUYCKS: 10.8 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 4.1 apg

Buycks, a senior, will likely continue Atkins' introduction into the world of Big East point guard play. The Irish freshman has performed admirably thus far against ranked foes such as Georgetown and Connecticut. While senior forward Carleton Scott takes it easy on an injured hamstring, Atkins has handled his new starter's role with relative ease. He ranks second in the Big East in assist-to-turnover ratio, averaging 2.7 assists per turnover, and recorded zero turnovers in his first Big East start against Connecticut Jan. 19. The Golden Eagles veteran will push Atkins on all fronts, including his defense, but the Maryland native has shown saavy so far, and should continue doing so.

EDGE: ATKINS

BEN HANSBROUGH: 15.7 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 3.8 apg
DARIUS JOHNSON-ODOM: 15.9 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 2.8 apg

Each team's leading scorer will likely draw his counterpart for a defensive assignment, which could inhibit their usual points-production. Hansbrough has proven to be a complete player for the Irish this season, including showing abundant amounts of emotion on the court. Furthermore, his defensive performance against Connecticut's Kemba Walker cemented his status as completely necessary. Johnson-Odom has not faced as stiff a challenge as Walker — currently the nation's second-most prolific scorer — and thus will likely struggle more slowing Hansbrough than Hansbrough will slowing the Golden Eagles' leader.

EDGE: HANSBROUGH

SCOTT MARTIN: 9.9 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 1.7 apg
JIMMY BUTLER: 15.4 ppg, 6.6 rpg, 2.1 apg

Martin, a Purdue transfer, came to Notre Dame with much promise before an ACL injury sidelined him all of last season. After two years spent on the bench, it has taken him some time to readjust to game speed, though with each game he has slipped more into a groove, including an 11-point performance Wednesday during Notre Dame's 66-58 victory over No. 25 Cincinnati. His natural quickness will be needed against Marquette in order to slow down the likes of Butler, who pours in his 15.4 points per game while remaining below the radar. If Butler gets going Saturday night, Martin will likely face a quick leash from Irish coach Mike Brey in favor of a more physical defender such as sophomore guard Joey Brooks, a move that would limit the Irish offensively.

EDGE: BUTLER

TIM ABROMAITIS: 15.3 ppg, 6.8 rpg, 2.1 apg
JAE CROWDER: 13.0 ppg, 6.7 rpg, 1.5 apg

Crowder is quickly moving into the national spotlight as an increasingly difficult matchup. The combination of a body size of some college football linebackers and the ability to drop back and hit a jump shot creates a dilemma for any defender. Abromaitis, solidly built himself, should be up for the challenge, but if Crowder gains any momentum against the Irish forward, he will be difficult to slow down before the final buzzer. Contrarily, Abromaitis' offensive repertoire hinges on his 3-point shooting and ability to slip behind the defensive for backdoor lay-ups. In all of reality, both of those skills are easier to slow down than Crowder's pure physicality is.

EDGE: CROWDER

TYRONE NASH: 9.9 ppg, 5.8 rpg, 2.8 apg
CHRIS OTULE: 5.2 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 0.2 apg

Nash has received consistent playing time for four years now, so he is no stranger to the physical style of play in the Big East. Otule, a sophomore, has not fully adjusted to that not-always-desireable aspect yet. Thus, Nash should be able to negotiate his way past Otule's three-inch height advantage and 30-pound weight difference and hold his own down in the post. If Nash can keep Otule from ruling the boards, most likely with the help of Abromaitis, Martin, senior forward Carleton Scott and sophomore forward Jack Cooley, the Golden Eagles will have difficulty gaining offensive momentum consistently, a factor that could make all the difference Saturday.

EDGE: NASH

BENCH PERFORMANCE/INTANGIBLES

Marquette went seven-players deep against Notre Dame during its 79-57 victory over the Irish on Jan. 10. For the past few weeks, Notre Dame has only been able to go seven-players deep itself, but with the progressive return of senior forward Carleton Scott, currently coming off the bench, suddenly the Irish have eight players to rotate on the hardwood. Sophomore forward Jack Cooley provides a big body when the Irish need that presence.

Meanwhile Marquette's Vander Blue is a dangerous weapon hidden on the bench. Golden Eagles coach Buzz Williams tries to use Blue as a change of pace, but in their previous meeting, the Irish held Blue to only two points in 20 minutes.

EDGE: NOTRE DAME

Women's: Notre Dame vs. St. John's

Notre Dame

Record: 16-4 (5-1 BIG EAST)

AP: 11 Coaches: 10

2010-11 Schedule

Nov. 12	New Hampshire — W
Nov. 15	Morehead State — W
Nov. 18	UCLA — L (2OT)
Nov. 21	@ Kentucky — L
Nov. 26	IUPUI — W
Nov. 27	Wake Forest — W
Nov. 28	Butler — W
Dec. 1	@ Baylor — L
Dec. 5	Purdue — W
Dec. 8	@ Providence — W
Dec. 11	Creighton — W
Dec. 20	@ Valparaiso — W
Dec. 29	Gonzaga — W
Dec. 30	Loyola Marymount — W
Jan. 2	SE Missouri State — W
Jan. 5	@ Marquette — W
Jan. 8	Connecticut — L
Jan. 12	Louisville — W
Jan. 15	@ Pittsburgh — W
Jan. 18	Georgetown — W
Jan. 23	St. John's
Jan. 29	@ Villanova
Feb. 1	Syracuse
Feb. 5	@ South Florida
Feb. 8	Seton Hall
Feb. 12	Rutgers
Feb. 19	@ Connecticut
Feb. 22	@ West Virginia
Feb. 26	Cincinnati
Feb. 28	@ DePaul



Graphic Illustrations by Blair Chermidlin

SKYLAR DIGGINS: 14.1 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 4.7 apg
SKY LINDSAY: 6.3 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 1.2 apg

Despite taking a back seat to Novosel in scoring, Diggins is still Notre Dame's most dangerous player on both sides of the ball. While her scoring average is on line with last season's pace, Diggins has become a better distributor as McGraw's offense runs through her. She ranks sixth in the conference with 4.7 assists per game, and her defense has also improved. Lindsay should have a difficult time creating her own shot, but will not be asked to handle the scoring duties. The veteran guard will still play a valuable role for St. John's as a ball handler. In the end, Diggins should outperform Lindsay, if for no other reason than her advantage amid their similar first names.

EDGE: DIGGINS

NATALIE NOVOSEL: 15.2 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 2.3 apg
NADIRAH MCKENITH: 7.2 pg, 4.3 rpg, 3.2 apg

Novosel has taken her game to another level this season, especially on the offensive side of the ball. Leading the Irish in scoring and is the eighth-leading scorer in the Big East, Novosel, who is McGraw's most consistent player and a factor in the game plan of opposing coaches. She is also comfortable taking the final shot of the game. McKenith is a bit of an unknown in her second season for the Red Storm. She is a good ball handler with enough skill to get to the hoop, but will face a greater challenge in keeping Novosel in front of her while providing Lindsay a bit of support in keeping Diggins out of the lane.

EDGE: NOVOSEL

BRITTANY MALLORY: 6.8 ppg, 1.8 rpg, 2.3 apg
SHENNEIKA SMITH: 14.5 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 1.9 apg

Mallory has struggled to find a rhythm since injuring her ankle during the third game of the season during a loss against Kentucky. The senior guard is one of the lone Irish threats from beyond the arc, shooting 43.4 percent from deep, and can bring the ball up the court, but she is not a serious scoring threat near the basket at this point in her career. On the other hand, Smith is one of the conference's emerging stars and a natural scorer. McGraw said she is one of three sophomores who made a serious impact last season. Smith posted 23 points and 10 rebounds against the Irish in a Red Storm victory in 2010, and has the potential to erupt again.

EDGE: SMITH

BECCA BRUSZEWSKI: 8.3 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 1.7 apg
CENTHYA HART: 8.2 ppg, 6.4 rpg, 0.9 apg

Bruszewski has had a solid season for the Irish thus far and has stepped up in a number of big games. While the senior forward's scoring average has fallen from last season, her rebounding and minutes played are both up, now playing more than 23 minutes per game. She has become a legitimate post defender for the Irish and adds a veteran presence on the floor. Also a senior forward, Hart is a nice complement to Da'Shena Stevens in the post and can score if needed. Hart can still hurt the Irish if she continues to grab offensive rebounds, as she has 56 on the season thus far and ranks in the top-10 in the conference.

EDGE: BRUSZEWSKI

DEVERAUX PETERS: 10.8 ppg, 6.8 rpg, 1.9 apg
Da'SHENA STEVENS: 12.0 ppg, 6.8 rpg, 1.4 apg

This will be the matchup of the night. Peters is coming off her third consecutive Big East Honor Roll appearance, and has improved every aspect of her game. After being plagued by injuries in her first two seasons, the senior has responded to addition playing time with her best numbers in her career. More importantly, she's staying out of foul trouble. But Stevens is St. John's second legitimate scoring option after Smith, and blew through the Irish for 21 points and 11 rebounds last season. The junior forward is a serious threat on offense and will be physical with Peters under the boards. If Bruszewski is not able to help out Peters down low, Stevens could lead to headaches.

EDGE: STEVENS

BENCH PERFORMANCE/INTANGIBLES

Notre Dame has one of the deepest benches in the league, and it's only getting better as the season progresses. Not every team can bring a 6-foot-3 freshman off the bench, but McGraw has that luxury in Natalie Achonwa, who averages 8.1 points and 5.8 boards in just 18 minutes per game. Freshman Kayla McBride ranks fourth on the team in scoring, but has a knack for getting to the hoop and leading the fast break. Kaila Turner and Fraderica Miller also add speed and solid defense in limited minutes. The Red Storm only have one serious threat off the bench in Eugenia McPherson, but she's more than capable of providing the lift. The sophomore guard ranks third on the team in scoring with 10.1 points per game.

EDGE: NOTRE DAME

Post presence

After a slow start to the season, senior forward Devereaux Peters is making her mark down low for ND

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

Critics of the Irish team this season have said Notre Dame is too young to be good, with a major weakness in the post. Senior forward Devereaux Peters is making sure those critics know that they're wrong. And she manages to do so while sitting out for up to 15 minutes per half.

"A lot of people were talking about how we're low in the post this year and how we don't have a post game and that was going to be our weakness. And the posts we're kind of like, 'Oh, OK, that's our weakness, huh?'" Peters said. "We took that as a shot at us, so ever since then we've been fighting back. In practice, we're running if we miss them so it's really ingrained it our heads this year that we have to box out and get on the boards, especially because we're not as big as most people. They really lit that fire under us early."

Standing at 6-foot-2, Peters knows she is not one of the tallest players at her position, but that hasn't stopped her from making the Big East Honor Roll for three consecutive weeks. Peters makes sure to bring her all to the court each game, leading her squad in rebounds (6.5 per game), blocked shots (1.5) and field goal percentage (.570), while placing third in scoring with an average of 11.1 points per game. Peters also ranks among the top players in the conference in field goal percentage (fourth) and blocked shots (eighth).

Helping keep Peters on her game is the very youth for which many have criticized Notre Dame.

"You can never take a play off," Peters said. "We're quick paced, we push it, you can't really take a break at any time because we're always moving,

we're always trying to push it and get it in transition. So you can't really sleep at any time because we're always moving, always pushing. It's not like you have any time to really think about everything and take it all in, you have to go, go, go."

"We may be a young team, but we still work hard. We take pride in that we're ready every game, no matter who it is, we're always ready and we want to work past that point, to get to the point where people say, 'they're a good team,' and you don't have to put in the young factor. I think that everybody thinks about that every day because yes we are a young team, but we're still playing teams that have grown and have a lot more upperclassmen. So I think there's a lot of pressure there."

Most of the pressure Peters feels doesn't come from the outside, but rather from within herself. A constant perfectionist on the court, Peters does her best to make sure she gets everything right the first time.

"I'm somewhat of a perfectionist on the court," she said. "I hate being wrong and I hate letting other people down. If I make a mistake, I'm really on myself. I hate making mistakes. My teammates I think are way more forgiving of me than I am of myself."

Peters doesn't see pushing for perfection as being a negative aspect all the time, however, as she feels it helped her bring her performance to where it needs to be this season after a rough start.

"I think I started out really slow and I was getting really frustrated with how I was playing. I wasn't playing well in the big games, I felt like I wasn't really coming through," she said. "So I tried to pick it up more in practice, my teammates were pushing me more. I expected more of myself, and I think it's starting to come out

now. But once I finally had a really good game where I started to pick the pace back up and started to finish and do the things I used to do, it was just uphill from there and once I started playing better I got that confidence back."

Peters wasn't worried about her playing meeting her own expectations as much as she was concerned about doing the best for her team. She could sense a trend coming out in her performances earlier this season, a trend that wasn't getting her anywhere and almost lost her spot on the court.

"I saw how I was playing was affecting the team as a whole," Peters said. "My play had downgraded a lot from last year and last season, even though I didn't play the whole season, I really wasn't performing at all, I wasn't doing much of anything. It was getting to the point that they [her teammates] were like, 'I don't know if we're going to have to take your spot or what's going to have to happen to make you turn it around.' So that kind of woke me up. I thought ok, I have to pick it up, I'm not really doing much of anything."

"I don't want to let the team down and I don't want to sit on the bench either. So I think that really motivated me to pick it up and really get back to playing how I used to."

The Peters on the court this season sports knee braces on both knees after tearing her ACL earlier in her career, and struggled with tendonitis early on, but has turned her play around to become one of the most explosive players on the Irish squad. And her efforts have not gone unnoticed.

"This is really the best that she's played," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "She had a pre-season this year — she was able to work out this summer and then the preseason, and so she really came into the season



JAMES DOAN/The Observer

Senior forward Devereaux Peters drives to the basket in Notre Dame's Nov. 3 exhibition game against Michigan Tech.

ready. But she's been on the all-Big East honor roll three weeks in a row. She's really been playing well really all season, but certainly since we got into Big East play."

Coming into the season ready gave Peters not only a chance to work on her own strengths and weaknesses but to also mature as a player and to see where she can most help her team.

"The biggest thing she's doing is she's staying in the game," McGraw said. "Foul trouble plagued her early. She's been really smart, she's really maturing, and she's finding ways to score, in addition to the great job she's doing on the boards and on the defensive end. Really pleased with the way she's playing right now — she's definitely become a force inside."

McGraw wasn't ready to let Peters' fouls be an excuse for making a lesser impact on the court, and she let her know it.

"I think at first, with me fouling so much, Coach still expected me to get the numbers. She told me at the beginning of the year that she wanted me to average a double-double," Peters said. "And she still expected that from me even though I was fouling. After your second foul in the first half, you sit out. So I was sitting out for about 15 minutes, but she was still expecting me to get 10 and 10."

"It really pushed me to work harder even if I wasn't getting as many minutes because she was still expecting a certain standard out of me. I was really pushing to work hard in those minutes that I was in because I knew I wasn't going to get as much. Now that I'm getting them [minutes] more, I'm

already trying to get my average, so it's just a bonus to have that extra time." And Peters has been working toward that double-double each game. Peters has secured four of them, most recently at Pittsburgh Jan. 15 where she had 15 points and a game-high 10 rebounds, as well as two blocks, two steals and four assists. Peters snared her fifth double-digit rebounding game on Tuesday night against Georgetown when she made a game-high 12 rebounds, outdoing her previous performances this season. It was the seventh double-digit rebounding effort of her career and is exactly the kind of play Peters expects out of herself. Not for her own stats but for her team.

"Everybody's really working on getting the rebounds in because if you out-rebound a team, you are most likely going to win the game," she said. "I just want to do my part. I don't necessarily need to be making the great plays. Sometimes it's not for me to make the big plays. Sometimes it's for me to guard a certain person or to make sure I box out or do the little things like come high when I'm supposed to. So I really want to make sure I do my role in every game, whatever it might be, and not necessarily make sure to be the big time person, even if it's not getting noticed, I just want to do whatever they need me to do to win that game."

She may not need the attention, but Peters has definitely become a firework on the court for Notre Dame this year.

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SUZANNA PRATT/The Observer

Senior forward Devereaux Peters blocks a shot in Notre Dame's 79-76 loss to Connecticut on Jan. 8. Peters leads the Irish in blocks with 1.5 per game.

New confidence gives new hope

The look on Becca Bruszewski's face in the first five minutes of Notre Dame's 80-58 win over Georgetown Tuesday was all anyone needed to see.



Laura Myers

Sports Writer

The senior forward scored four of her 10 points in the opening minutes of the game. Twice, she barreled through several defenders on her way to the basket, her eyes fiercely inquiring why the Hoyas were trying to mess with her team.

The concentration on Skylar Diggins face in the first half Tuesday was another tell. The sophomore guard hit five of eight shots and five of five free throws for a total of 17 first-half points, enough to bury the country's No. 16 team by halftime.

That attitude of overwhelming confidence has spread to the rest of the team, and has become obvious to those watching.

"Now I think top to bottom we have that. I think everybody's getting that now," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "We're feeding off of Becca, and we're feeding off of Skylar. When you look at two people like that who are out there battling all the time, it makes you want to work hard too."

That Georgetown was ranked didn't matter to the Irish, who were clearly ready to fight.

It was Notre Dame's first win over a ranked team this season after several close losses, none more heart-breaking than its narrow defeat at the hands of Connecticut on Jan. 8.

But rankings didn't matter in that game, either. The Irish approached the game like any other, started strong and led or kept close throughout the game, until a few missed opportunities at the end allowed the Huskies to take the ultimate 79-76 lead.

"Notre Dame outplayed us in every way today," Huskies coach Geno Auriemma admitted after the game.

In January 2010, the No. 3 Irish fell to No. 1 Connecticut by 24 points. Motivated by the loss, they won eight straight before losing twice in a row — to St. John's and Georgetown. They went on to lose twice more to Connecticut, by 25

and 12 points, respectively.

This season is already radically different from last in personnel and results. But now, it is also different in the team's toughness and poise, and that will make the difference going forward.

Since losing by nine points at No. 2 Baylor in December, the Irish have won 11 of 12 and have developed the awareness that they can play with anyone in the country. They'll need to keep that idea in their minds to make it through the rest of the Big East season — and there's no indication they won't.

This year's Connecticut game, which easily could have gone in the other direction, was the first example. The intimidation factor that played a significant role in the three games the Irish and Huskies played last year was gone. No longer was it McGraw admitting that Notre Dame would have to be at its best and Connecticut at its worst for there to be a chance at an upset. Instead, it was the Irish players knowing there was a chance, and Auriemma realizing his own luck.

"Somehow we won the game in the last four minutes," he said. "That is kind of how basketball goes sometimes."

Three games later came the victory over Georgetown, Notre Dame's biggest win over a ranked opponent since a 93-58 win over No. 23 Miami in 2004. Each player did her job on offense and defense. The Irish shot 53.8 percent from the field, with four players scoring points in double figures. They out-rebounded the Hoyas 36-30 and took advantage of 21 Georgetown turnovers for 31 points.

"When we're playing like that, we're a dangerous team," Diggins said.

Next on the list will be St. John's on Sunday, and the Irish are ready to avenge another of last year's losses. The Red Storm come in with a two-game winning streak and a chance to break into the top-25 with a quality win.

But it seems unlikely that Bruszewski, Diggins and the rest of the Irish will allow that to happen.

If anything, Notre Dame will be the ones intimidating the Red Storm.

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

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Red Storm next up for Irish



DAN JACOBS/The Observer

Irish sophomore guard Skylar Diggins plays defense in Notre Dame's Jan. 8 loss to conference rival Connecticut. Diggins leads the Irish in assists with 4.7 per game.

By CHRIS MASOUD
Sports Writer

Heading into the heart of the Big East season, No. 11 Notre Dame looks to keep pace among the conference leaders as it hosts St. John's Sunday. The Irish fell to the Red Storm last season 76-71 on the road, snapping an eight-game win streak.

Despite the additional motivation of returning the favor, Irish coach Muffet McGraw said her team is simply focused on racking up another conference victory.

"They're a ranked opponent, so it's another opportunity for us to improve our RPI. They've got a good RPI, and of course just beating a Big East team every game is really important for us. We've got to take care of the home court."

Notre Dame (16-4, 5-1 Big East) is riding a three-game win streak and is currently ranked fourth in the conference standings. While St. John's (14-5, 3-3) has yet to separate itself from the pack, the Red Storm feature a number of talented players who have risen to the occasion against the Irish.

Averaging 14.5 points per game, sophomore guard Sheneika Smith shredded the Irish for 23 points and 10 rebounds in the Red Storm's victory last season.

"Last year, there were three really good freshmen in the league — Skylar [Diggins], Sugar Rodgers from Georgetown and Sheneika," McGraw said. "She's a great athlete, she can shoot over you, she's got great elevation on her jumper, she can shoot threes —

she's really a dangerous player and a very difficult matchup for us."

In addition to Smith, junior forward Da'Shena Stevens is a dual threat for St. John's who also had a big game during Notre Dame's previous loss to the Red Storm. Stevens finished with 21 points and 11 rebounds in the contest, and currently averages 6.8 rebounds per game.

"That's going to be a good matchup," McGraw said. "Da'Shena's a really good player for St. John's. It's going to be a battle on the boards because she's an excellent rebounder too. I think that was how they beat us at St. John's last year — she really played well, she scored a lot inside, and got a lot of rebounds. That's a key matchup."

The Irish will rely on the post presence of junior forward Devereaux Peters and freshman forward Natalie Achonwa to keep Stevens in check. Peters was named to the Big East Honor Roll for the third consecutive week on Monday after averaging 14.5 point and 6.5 rebounds in two games last week.

Achonwa has opened a number of eyes in her first Big East campaign, averaging 8.1 points and 5.8 rebounds in just 18 minutes per game. The 18-year-old Canadian has been a lift off the bench for McGraw, who has started to gradually increase her playing time as

she incorporates a larger lineup in conference play.

"I think that freshman Natalie Achonwa has really contributed a lot the entire season, and now she's getting a little more playing time," McGraw said. "I think that all the posts are getting a little more playing time and it's been really good. But rebounding is one of Natalie's strengths, and that is something that she's pretty much done all year. And now Devereaux is getting some double-figure rebounding games as well."

Although the Irish are poised to finish the conference season with one of the top seeds heading into the Big East Championships, a number of teams have emerged as legitimate contenders. While Connecticut remains the favorite to win a Big East title, six teams in the conference, including St. John's, are ranked in the top-25 of the USA Today Coaches Poll.

Along with the Huskies (17-1, 6-0), Rutgers (11-6, 4-0) and DePaul (17-2, 5-0) remain unbeaten in conference play.

"It's a great league. Top-to-bottom, it's just so difficult," McGraw said.

"There's probably nine teams with a shot at the NCAA tournament. DePaul is probably one of the surprises in the league this year with the way they've started out."

The Blue Demons are off to the best start in program history and will face the Irish in the final conference game of the regular season. Until then, Notre Dame will continue to plow through its conference schedule, beginning Sunday at 2 p.m. against St. John's at the Purcell Pavilion.

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IRISH INSIDER

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Peters REBOUNDS

...and
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