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ND closes for first time since 2000



SARAH O'CONNOR/The Observer

Freshman Phil Hootsman from Keenan Hall sleds down a hill while The University of Notre Dame was closed due to snow Wednesday.

Observer Staff Report

Notre Dame closed Wednesday due to winter weather for the first time in 10 years.

Students, faculty and staff were notified of the decision through the University's emergency alert system around 6:30 a.m. Wednesday. "Because of dangerous weather conditions, classes have been cancelled and the campus will be closed for business today," the alert said. "Snow Essential Personnel are asked to report to work, but to use caution."

Notre Dame last closed due to winter weather on Dec. 12, 2000, according to University spokesman Dennis Brown. Final exams were postponed for one day.

Before the 2000 snow day, Notre Dame closed due to a snowstorm in January, 1997.

University offices were closed Wednesday, but North and South Dining Halls, LaFortune Student Center and Reckers remained open for students. RecSports recreation facilities, including Rolfs Sports Recreation Center, Rockne Memorial and Rolfs Aquatic Center also

held regular hours.

Classes were also cancelled Wednesday at Saint Mary's, where the Noble Family Dining Hall and C-Store remained open.

South Bend Mayor Luecke declared a "snow emergency" at 6 a.m. Wednesday, prohibiting non-emergency traffic on all streets throughout the city. He advised residents to stay home and restrict travel.

The City of South Bend lifted the "snow emergency" at 4 p.m., but parking was prohibited on snow routes until Thursday morning.

"City crews have been working 24/7 to clear the snow and will continue to do so until all streets are complete," a Wednesday afternoon media advisory from the City stated.

The Associated Press reported tens of millions of people stayed home Wednesday due to the winter storm, which spread from Oklahoma to New England.

Chicago, where 20.2 inches fell, experienced the most snow in the storm, which was a result of the rare clashing of two air masses, according to the Associated Press.

Council approves five tickets

By MELISSA FLANAGAN and EMILY SCHRANK

News Writers

Notre Dame's Judicial Council approved five tickets this week to run for the position of student body president and vice president for the 2011-12 school year.

The candidates are: sophomore Ricky Bevington and junior Olivia Colangelo, junior Pat McCormick and sophomore Brett Rocheleau, freshmen Kevin Noonan and Matthew Thomas, juniors Catherine Soler and Emily LeStrange and junior James Ward and freshman Heather Eaton.

Ricky Bevington and Olivia Colangelo

Bevington said his ticket hopes to achieve three major goals: student government efficacy, University teamwork and student body unity.

"We want to be sure that all of the governing organizations on campus work together to do what

see ELECTION/page 3

Keenan Revue set for Stepan

By AMANDA GRAY
News Writer

The Keenan Revue will be held in the Stepan Center on Feb. 10 - 12, marking its return to Notre Dame's campus from its previous venue, Saint Mary's O'Laughlin Auditorium.

"Last year, we found out through The Observer that we couldn't use the venue anymore," producer Chase Riddle, a junior, said. "They said it wasn't keeping with their mission statement. We went on a wild goose chase to find something comparable [in size]."

Riddle said they searched for a place starting immediately after last year's Revue, looking at options on and off campus. They finalized the

see KEENAN/page 5

University continues work for Sudan

By MEGAN DOYLE
Associate News Editor

A University delegation presented a student petition to policymakers in Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, Md., in December to advocate for a sustainable peace in Sudan.

Social Concerns chair Pat McCormick, men's lacrosse operations coordinator Kevin Dugan, graduate student Emmanuel Gore and junior lacrosse player Jake Brems met with representatives from the government and Catholic Relief Services during their trip.

"The visit to D.C. was the culmination of all the work we had all done as a school, not just student government but also the lacrosse team, the Kroc Institute, the Center for Social Concerns and dorms," McCormick said. "All of these groups had come together to speak for justice and for a peaceful referendum. What was so exciting was to have the opportunity ... to take Notre

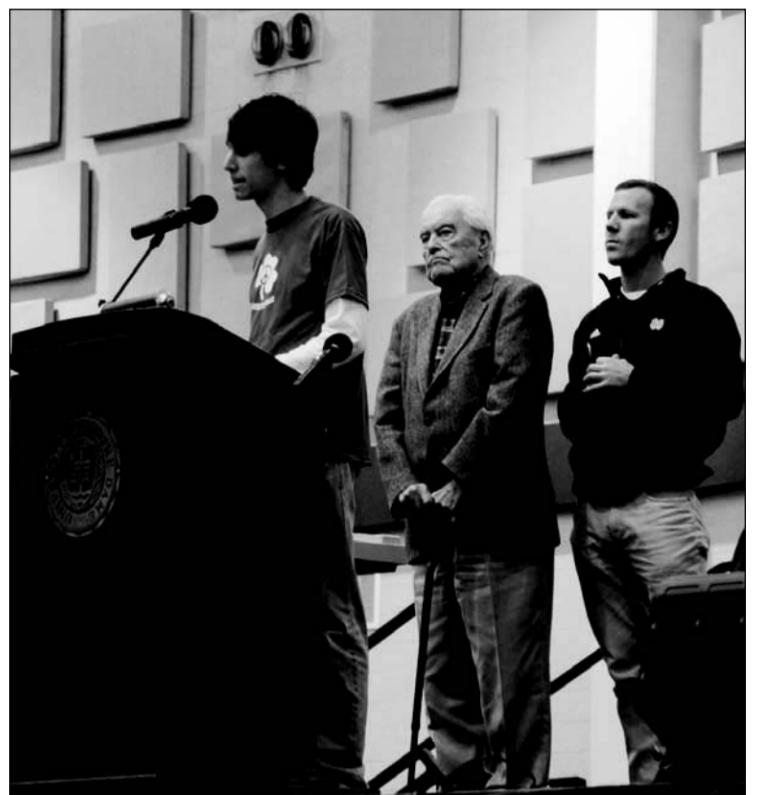
Dame's advocacy to Washington and to Baltimore to make sure the voices of Notre Dame students were heard."

The two-day itinerary included talks with Kalpen Modi, associate director of public engagement at the White House, Samantha Power, special assistant to President Barack Obama for Sudan, and Karen Richardson, international affairs liaison. The group also met with Peter QuAranto, the special envoy to Sudan from the State Department, and Catholic Relief Services.

"The discussion focused on the students' campus-wide campaign to raise awareness of the Jan. 9 referendum in Sudan, genocide in Darfur and the critical role that young people play in mobilizing communities around key humanitarian issues," a press release from Modi stated.

The northern and southern

see SUDAN/page 3



MALCOLM PHELAN/The Observer

Pat McCormick speaks at a Sudan Rally in December with Fr. Hesburgh and men's lacrosse operations coordinator Kevin Dugan.

THE OBSERVER

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The news is reported as accurately and objectively as possible. Unsigned editorials represent the opinion of the majority of the Editor in Chief, Managing Editor, Assistant Managing Editors and department editors. Commentaries, letters and columns present the views of the authors and not necessarily those of The Observer.

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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CORRECTIONS

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY: HOW DID YOU CELEBRATE THE SNOWPOCALYPSE?



Carolyn Christian

junior
Lewis

*"Snow rugby!
We're going to
nationals in
April!"*



Katie Heinzen

senior
Welsh Family

*"I went on an
epic walk with
pictures."*



David Murphy

freshman
Zahm

*"I walked
across the
frozen Saint
Mary's Lake."*



Jennifer Berry

senior
Welsh Family

*"I worked at the
Dining Hall."*



Steven Cress

junior
off campus

*"Watched
reruns of
Modern Family"*

Have an idea for Question of the Day? E-mail obsphoto@gmail.com



Sarah O'Connor/The Observer

Several students frolic in the aftermath of the severe winter weather yesterday. It was the first time the University closed due to winter weather since December of 2000.

OFFBEAT

'Biggest Loser' competitor sells 1.5 lb. burger

AFTON, Wyo. — An Olympic champion wrestler has been serving a 1.5-pound hamburger at his Wyoming restaurant, even while competing to be "The Biggest Loser" on TV.

The mighty Rulon Burger at Rulon Gardner's Burger Barn restaurant is so big it's molded in a pizza tin. It comes on a bun with all the toppings.

Gardner won gold at the 2000 Olympics by beating Alexander Karelin, a Russian who hadn't lost in 13 years. Gardner's challenge to all comers now: Finish the burger plus a basket of fries and a 44-ounce drink in 20 minutes.

Winners get a signed Rulon Gardner Olympic Champion T-shirt and their name on Rulon's Wall of Fame. Gardner's best time is 8 minutes, 23 seconds, set when he opened the restaurant in his hometown in 2004.

This year, Gardner has been competing to lose weight on the NBC show, "The Biggest Loser." He weighed in at the beginning at 474 pounds, more than 200 pounds heavier than when he won gold.

Filipinos celebrate Year of Rabbit with golden cakes

MANILA — Wealthy Chinese-Filipinos are snapping up rice cakes decorated with gold and diamonds to celebrate the Lunar New

Year in hopes of attracting good luck in the Year of the Rabbit.

The rabbit-shaped glutinous rice cakes sell for between \$500 and \$2,700 and are covered with 24-carat gold foil and a few small diamonds.

The creator of the custom-baked sweets, Angelito Araneta Jr., says they are meant to attract wealth as well as secure good ties with friends and kin.

Chinese-Filipinos traditionally share glutinous rice cakes with family and friends to celebrate the Lunar New Year, which falls on Thursday this year.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Kurtis Gurley, associate professor of civil and coastal engineering at the University of Florida, will present the next installment of the Spring 2011 Seminar Series, Challenges and Innovations in Civil and Environmental Engineering. There will be an opportunity to meet Professor Kurtis Gurley prior to the seminar from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. today in the department conference room, which is located in room 156 of Fitzpatrick Hall.

Richard Pierce, associate professor in the Department of History and chair of Africana Studies, will give the third lecture in the Martin Luther King Jr. Series for the Study of Race. The lecture will take place from 6 to 7 p.m. today in room 136 of DeBartolo Hall.

Tonight in the Browning Cinema of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center a film version of "King Lear" will be screened. King Lear explores the very nature of human existence. The film will be shown from 7 to 9 p.m. and ticket prices range from \$16 to \$20.

Tomorrow from 2 to 5 p.m. OIT will be holding a student open house in rooms B003 and B011 in DeBartolo Hall. Students will be able to visit the new experimental classroom and Academic Technologies Lab to see and try out some of the latest learning technologies.

Verónica Leyva of the Mexico Solidarity Network will be giving a lecture titled "Ciudad Juárez: The definitive neoliberal city" in the Eck Visitors Center Auditorium from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. tomorrow.

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	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 16 LOW 10	HIGH 7 LOW 2	HIGH 20 LOW 18	HIGH 27 LOW 27	HIGH 30 LOW 22	HIGH 26 LOW 17

Student government meets with South Bend police

By JOHN CAMERON
News Writer

Two meetings in the past week between student government, the University and local law enforcement were part of ongoing communication between these groups, student body president Catherine Soler said.

Soler said improvements made since the number of arrests spiked in August and September have been extensive, but student complaints have warranted dialogue with police.

"I think we've come a long way, and I think that's evident speaking with students involved in incidents and speaking with police," Soler said. "We do have

some questions about things that happened and [police] are doing some investigation on their part."

Soler and chief of staff Nick Ruof met with South Bend Police Chief Capt. Jeff Rynearson Friday night. Tuesday, Soler, Ruof and student body vice president Andrew Bell met with the chiefs of both Notre Dame Security Police (NDSP) and South Bend Police Department (SBPD) as well as the St. Joseph County's Sheriff's Department and members of University administration including Vice President for Student Affairs Fr. Doyle and Vice President for Public Affairs Tim Sexton.

"Everyone in the room had the same goals, keeping the students

safe, keeping the community safe," Soler said. "Everyone was genuinely interested in not only making things better but maintaining it."

Soler said the talks highlighted the steps taken on both sides of the issue: Students are making better decisions and police are being more consistent in enforcement.

"Capt. Rynearson of SBPD said he'd seen a noticeable difference in student behavior since the fall," she said. "Not necessarily less parties but just being smarter, which is a good thing for everyone."

"At the party at Irish Row, the police set a limit. .05 [blood alcohol content] or above would be taken to jail and below would be

cited. Which is good because at least there's expectations and standards."

Soler said while alcohol-related student arrests and citations still occur, the police have made strides in their execution.

"In terms of respect and professionalism we've come really far," she said. "We see a lot less antagonism and students don't feel as targeted. The police [leaders] definitely expressed that [other officers] had been instructed to ensure that that's not the attitude that comes off when they interact with students."

At the meeting the representatives also discussed improving relevant student programming, Soler said.

"We talked a lot about programming we can do at the beginning of the year," she said. "Not only alcohol education but a lot of safety stuff."

As improving police relations has been a major part of the Soler and Bell's efforts as student government leaders, Soler hopes that communications continue to improve.

"Up until this year, students didn't really have an opportunity to meet with the police [through student government]," she said. "We all agree this communication should continue to happen in the future, that it's been a catalyst on both sides."

Contact John Cameron at jeamero2@nd.edu

Sudan

continued from page 1

parts of Sudan have been in civil war for over 50 years. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) officially ended war in 2005 and called for six years of peace talks between the two regions. The agreement also scheduled a referendum for Jan. 9 in which Southern Sudan would vote on independence from Northern Sudan.

Notre Dame's involvement with Sudan began on Oct. 5, 2010, when a delegation of Sudanese bishops visited the University to speak about the CPA. The bishops then travelled to Washington, D.C. and New York City to meet with national leaders and discuss the crisis.

As the referendum approached, the bishops said both sides began stockpiling weapons, and the possibility of violence loomed for the nation. The New York Times reported that while the results of the referendum are not official, nearly 99 percent of Southern Sudan voted for secession after 3 million votes were cast.

Voting proceeded with only small local conflicts, but difficult times approach as the country heads to divorce.

"In many ways the time of most concern is coming still," McCormick said. "The referendum itself was a potential flashpoint ... but the Comprehensive Peace Agreement will expire over

the summer [and the country could split], so these next few months will be critical ones for Sudan. The advice we got from those who were closer to the situation was that we need to do whatever we can to sustain attention on the fact that this is still a moment of tremendous promise for the people of Sudan but also a moment of potential risk."

Gore is a native of Juba, a city in Southern Sudan, and a graduate student at Notre Dame's Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies.

"My country, which has known little but war and is one of the least developed countries in the world, is in desperate need of peace and stability in order for development to come about," Gore said. "My view on the current unrest between Northern and Southern Sudan is that it does not have to be resolved by bullets, but through peaceful means and dialogue."

An independent state will soon emerge in Southern Sudan, he said.

"Without the tireless and humane efforts of the international community under the leadership of the United States government, this referendum would not have been possible," Gore said. "And without the active role of Notre Dame and other like-minded international civil society groups ... we would have potentially witnessed yet another human catastrophe."

Gore said the meeting with Power, President Obama's special assistant on Sudan, was especially encouraging.

"She assured us that the United States is not leaving 'a stone unturned' to make sure the referendum is held in a timely and peaceful manner," he said. "But she also reiterated that efforts such as Notre Dame's rally provided the legitimacy policymakers need to engage more robustly in Sudan."

After the appeal from the Sudanese bishops, Notre Dame's Student Senate unanimously approved a resolution to pledge support for peace in Sudan. The resolution asked the University to stand behind Sudan and to call for full implementation of the CPA.

Student government and other campus organizations hosted the Playing for Peace three-on-three basketball tournament and peace rally on Dec. 4 to raise more awareness for the situation in Sudan. Over 600 students attended the rally.

McCormick said the Notre Dame delegation delivered a petition signed by over 1,000 students and a copy of the resolution from Student Senate.

"We tried to really symbolize the Notre Dame community uniting for peace in Sudan," he said. "There was a lot of skepticism about whether we could make a difference, and Notre Dame students can confidently say we contributed to peace in Sudan and we will continue to work for peace in Sudan."

Contact Megan Doyle at mdoyle11@nd.edu

Election

continued from page 1

University, the undergraduate students," Bevington said. "Whether this means being sure that the student body is informed of important administration decisions or taking steps to have a stronger student presence with the Board of Trustees, we are determined make sure that the student body can really make its mark on this campus and the world outside."

Bevington, who currently serves as the director of student government's First Undergraduate Experience in Leadership (FUEL) program, said student government has been important to both him and his running mate Colangelo during their time at Notre Dame.

"Olivia and I are hoping the entire student body can connect with us and our goals, seniors to freshmen, he said. "We want to provide them with experience from our years past and dedication through the entirety of our term."

Pat McCormick and Brett Rocheleau

McCormick said his campaign ideas are tied together by the belief that students don't need a voice because they already have a voice.

According to McCormick, the current chair of the Student Senate's Committee on Social Concerns, student voices can be a strong force for change, and Notre Dame students have often been at the forefront of that change.

"We've seen students use their voices and they can be heard," McCormick said. "We think it's time student government join them and serve them in that effort."

The main focus for McCormick and his running mate Rocheleau, current sophomore class president, is the further development of Playing for Peace, the three-on-three basketball tournament held last semester in support of Sudan.

Some of their ideas include a Playing for Peace advocacy concert and turning the Notre Dame vs. Villanova basketball game into a Playing for Peace game.

"We think it could be a major platform for the University to not only come together for important and urgent issues, but also to hopefully do it in ways that are exciting for students," McCormick said.

Kevin Noonan and Matthew Thomas

The Zahm freshmen said the major components of their platform are "really quite simple" and

include "some wood, a few nails and a little old-fashioned American hard work."

"If I had to give one piece of information to the student body about our campaign as a whole it would be this — we represent your real interests," Noonan said. "Which would mean more to you, hangover hours in the dining hall and a new food court, or a vague promise of taxi reform? If you said taxi reform, then I don't really want your vote."

Catherine Soler and Emily LeStrange

Soler, student body president, and LeStrange, off-campus concerns chair, are running a campaign based on their experience within student government.

"It enables us to understand how student government works and what it can do," Soler said.

The ticket will focus the relationships of the University with the South Bend community and the police. Soler said the connections she and LeStrange have already established will be a huge asset.

The duo has several other ideas, including expanding tutoring resources, student employment reform and a monthly midnight breakfast sponsored by student government.

"We hope students recognize how valuable our experience can be in regards to efficiency and previous relationships," Soler said. "Emily and I are both creative and interested in doing things better and doing more for the student body."

James Ward and Heather Eaton

Ward, current junior class president, said he hopes to address the everyday issues that students complain about by becoming a strong leader who remains down-to-Earth.

"Our main focus is to make student government run by students who can demonstrate leadership but at the same time remain one of their peer group," Ward said.

Some of the topics the ticket is looking to address include bringing back quarter dogs, adding more points to the Grab n' Go system and putting a Redbox for movie rentals in LaFortune Student Center.

Ward said the fact that Eaton, freshman class president, is younger than most other nominees is a huge asset to their campaign.

"There wasn't ever much policy consideration to the younger grades," Ward said. "That's what we hope to impact next year, to have a better representation across the student body."

Contact Melissa Flanagan at mflanag3@nd.edu and Emily Schrank at eschrank@nd.edu

SMC library display promotes peace efforts

By CAITLIN HOUSLEY
News Writer

A display of CodePink ribbon panels in the Cushwa-Leighton Library is promoting peace.

According to the display, the group is “a women-initiated grassroots peace and social justice movement working to end the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, stop new wars and redirect ... resources into health care, education, green jobs and other life-affirming activities.”

“The CodePink Peace Ribbon is in the tradition of remembering those who have died or been injured,” Cushwa-Leighton librarian Bob Hohl said.

According to Hohl, the display complements “The Aesthetics of War and Reconciliation” exhibition showing at the Moreau Art Galleries now until Feb. 25.

Hohl said this display continues and expands on last fall’s display, which was about the life of Jane Addams.

“This semester, the CodePink exhibit and the series of talks by women peacemakers, continues to examine how we can continue the work and leadership of Jane Addams in establishing peace.”

On the schedule of women peacemakers, Pat Hunt, co-chair of Chicago CodePink will speak on Feb. 9.

On Feb. 14, National Chair of Women’s Actions for New Directions (WAND) Karen Jacob will speak.

According to Hohl, both lectures will be take place at the Cushwa-Leighton Library.

In addition, Barbara Gottschalk from Seeds of Peace will give a Feb. 23 public presentation entitled “Out Beyond Words: Building Seeds of Peace Worldwide.”

Hohl said a Drumming Circle for peace and an open microphone for poetry, prose and thoughts for peace will wrap up the events March 4 in the Library.

“The display gives us the opportunity to reflect on something we seem to take for granted — peace,” Saint Mary’s junior Kelly Golden said. “Whether we have given up hope for peace in a world that seems so dominated by war, or whether we forget about it because our personal lives are running smoothly, it’s healthy to be reminded that peace is still needed in the world.”

Other students said it’s not just the idea behind the display, but the display itself that generates emotion.

“The panels themselves are moving,” junior Kim Jordan said. “Just to think that each one was hand created by women in remembrance of someone they knew and loved — that’s powerful. Each one of the creators has been influenced by war or some other tragedy.”

Hohl said the display is a way to remember survivors of war.

“Like the AIDS ribbon, it speaks to our heart and soul of the irreplaceable absence of persons loved and cherished by family and friends,” he said. “It is a cry against those who would wage modern war.”

Contact Caitlin Housley at chousl01@saintmarys.edu

“This semester, the CodePink exhibit and the series of talks by women peacemakers, continues to examine how we can continue the work and leadership of Jane Addams in establishing peace.”

Bob Hohl
librarian
Cushwa-Leighton Library

Prof. researches doll marketing

Research focuses on customers at American Girl Place in Chicago

By MARISA IATI
News Writer

Notre Dame marketing professor John F. Sherry, Jr. received the 2011 William R. Davidson Honorable Mention Award from the “Journal of Retailing,” where his article on the American Girl Company appeared in 2009.

Sherry’s article, titled, “Why Are Themed Brand Stores so Powerful? Retail Brand Ideology at American Girl Place.” Sherry and five other college professors wrote the article after observing customers at American Girl Place in Chicago, Sherry said.

Sherry said the most interesting aspect of the project was being admitted into the female world of American Girl Place.

The Journal of Retailing is a marketing journal that publishes four issues annually. One article each year receives the Award for Best Paper and one receives the Honorable Mention Award, Sherry said.

Sherry and his colleagues will receive a plaque at the American Marketing Association Winter Educators’ Conference in Boston later this month.

Sherry said he chose to research American Girl because he wanted to study a retail company that caters to

females.

“I had studied a number of other retail outlets that were more masculine in character, places like Niketown and ESPN Zone,” Sherry said. “Most of them that I studied before were male-oriented, and it struck me as a good idea to try to

“Most of them that I studied before were male-oriented, and it struck me as a good idea to try to understand a female counterpart.”

John F. Sherry
Marketing Professor

understand a female counterpart.”

Sherry and the other researchers studied consumers’ relationships with American Girl Place by observing customers at the store.

“I’m an anthropologist by training, so

the research I do is called ethnographic research,” Sherry said. “What that means is you

collect participant observations, a lot of video-taping and photography. The idea is to actually be present when the consumers are using the services so you can catch them in the act.”

The researchers focused on how consumers co-create their experiences with the American Girl brand, Sherry said.

“Marketers create a product, but they don’t control all the meanings associated with it;

they don’t control the behaviors the consumers engage in,” Sherry said. “We’re interested in what the consumers do with the brand to create that brand. The [marketing] field is still trying to understand what makes for an iconic brand.”

In addition to writing the journal article, the researchers also created a film in order to produce multiple ways to understand American Girl Place.

Sherry said working with researchers of different ages and ethnicities was also exciting because they brought different perspectives on the problem. The other researchers are from Loyola University and DePaul University in Chicago, York University in Canada and Bocconi University in Italy.

Sherry has taught at the University of Florida,

“Marketers create a product, but they don’t control all the meanings associated with it; they don’t control the behaviors the consumers engage in.”

John F. Sherry
Marketing Professor

Katholieke Universiteit in Belgium, Chulalongkorn University Bangkok in Thailand and Northwestern University. He has been the Raymond W. & Kenneth G. Herrick Professor of Marketing at the Mendoza College of

Business at Notre Dame since 2005.

Contact Marisa Iati at marisa.s.iati.1@nd.edu

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For more information, contact John or Sylvia Dillon at 631-7163 or dillon.14@nd.edu

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UNIVERSITY**



GRACE KENESEY/The Observer

Members of the Keenan Review perform at O'Laughlin Auditorium at Saint Mary's College in 2010.

Keenan

continued from page 1

use of the Stepan Center this fall.

"We wanted to bring it back to Notre Dame," director Grayson Duren, a junior, said.

Riddle said this year's Revue is titled "Keenan Revue: Too Big For Saint Mary's," and ticket distribution begins today at 4 p.m. at the gate three of the Joyce Center.

Each student can bring two student IDs and get two tickets per student ID, Burley said. There will be 1,300 tick-

ets per show, with three showings. Keenan residents will also receive tickets.

Riddle said the Revue has been growing less offensive.

"What surprises me is we were going into past scripts, and they were vulgar," he said. "In our two years [working with the Revue], it's been much cleaner."

Duren said the jokes have become more clever.

"We've been moving away from vulgarity because they've been censoring skits," Nick Burley, Keenan Hall co-president and junior, said. "...The best thing you can do is find a balance between the two. Witty skits are just okay. Vulgar ones are hit or miss. Skits that strike the balance are the best."

Duren said the Revue has 26 to 28 segments, including two speeches, four songs performed by the band and 20 to 22 skits.

Keenan residents create the skits and bring them to the Revue staff on tryout days, Duren said. After a few initial rounds, the remaining skits are brought before Keenan rector Fr. Dan Nolan.

"If it's someone's idea, they'll be in [the skit]," Burley said. "It's neat. You usually see a skit all the way through the creative process to onstage."

The skits are put into a script, which is then censored by the rector, Riddle said.

"[In 2009] there was one skit cut," Riddle said. "No full skits were cut this year."

The musicians are all Keenan residents too.

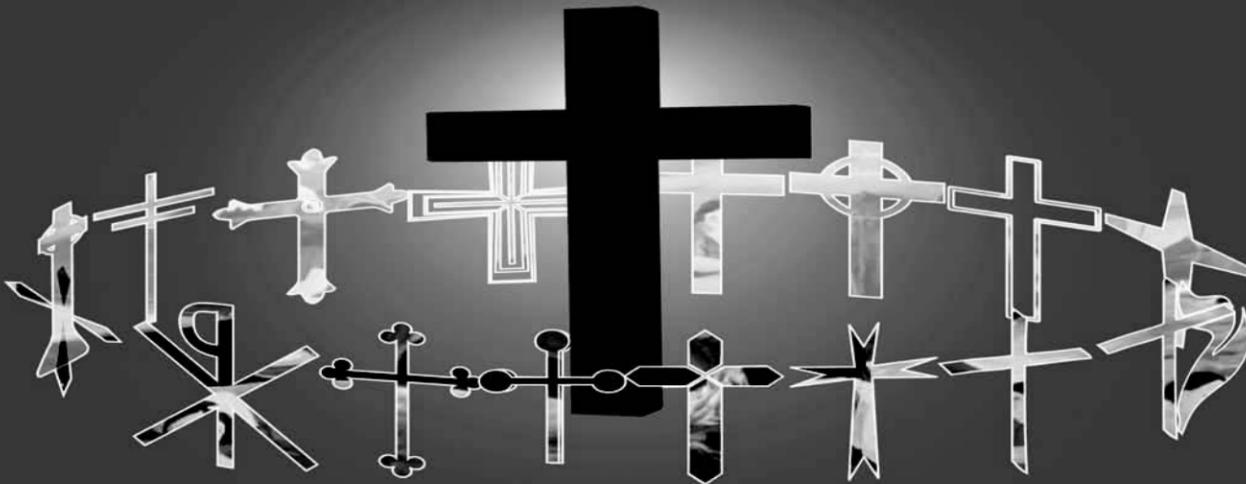
"There is a good array of music this year," Riddle said. "Everyone is going to be happy about the two 'exotic dancer' songs."

The participants will be rehearsing through the week, Riddle said.

Duren said the dancers take collections during the Revue for Keenan's Hall Scholarship, which the rector distributes the funds to hall residents. Alumni donations fund approximately 80 percent of the Revue, which cannot be paid for completely by Student Activities Office funding, Riddle said.

Contact Amanda Gray at agray3@nd.edu

CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK 2011 JANUARY 31 - FEBRUARY 4 PEOPLE OF ALL FAITHS ARE WELCOME



Mon. Jan. 31 – Ecumenical Lecture

- * "Being an Eastern Catholic: A Challenge for Catholic-Orthodox Ecumenical Relations?"
- * Fr. Yury Avvakumov (ND Theology Dept. and Byzantine Catholic Priest)
- * 7:00 pm, Coleman-Morse Lounge

Tues. Feb. 1 – Four:7 Catholic Fellowship

- * Speakers: Ryan Solava & Kaitlyn Kiger (ISI Co-Leaders)
- * 8:30 pm, Cavanaugh Hall Chapel

Wed. Feb. 2 – Ecumenical Lecture

- * "Evangelicals and Catholics Together? Some Real Progress But Some Real Problems Too"
- * Profs. Mark Noll & Brad Gregory (ND History Dept)
- * 7:00 pm, Oak Room @ South Dining Hall

Thurs. Feb. 3 – Prayer Service

- * Presider: Fr. Joe Carey, CSC
- * Reflections: Mr. Tim O'Malley (ND Center for Liturgy) and Ms. Jennie Weller (Senior & ISI Member)
- * Music provided by: Voices of Faith, Celebration Choir, Coro Primavera, ISI Worship Team, Totus Tuus Band
- * 10:00 pm, Basilica

Fri. Feb. 4 – ISI / Four:7

- Praise & Worship Service**
- * 8:00 pm, Keenan-Stanford Chapel

I pray ... that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. John 17:21



campusministry.nd.edu/ecumenical-interfaith/christian-unity/

Please recycle The Observer.

Punxsutawney Phil does not see shadow



Punxsutawney Phil is placed on a stump during the annual Groundhog Day festivities in Punxsutawney, Pa. Wednesday.

Associated Press

PUNXSUTAWNEY, Pa. — The country's most famous groundhog predicted an early spring Wednesday but wasn't willing to go out on a limb to forecast whether his state's Pittsburgh Steelers will win the Super Bowl.

Punxsutawney Phil emerged just after dawn on Groundhog Day to make his 125th annual weather forecast in front of a smaller-than-usual crowd in rural Pennsylvania who braved muddy, icy conditions to hear his handlers reveal that he had not seen his shadow.

Including Wednesday's forecast, Phil has seen his shadow 98 times and hasn't seen it just 16 times since 1887, according to the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club's Inner Circle, which runs the event. There are no records for the remaining years, though the group has never failed to issue a forecast.

Two years ago, Phil's forecast also acknowledged the Steelers' Super Bowl XLIII win the night

before. This year, Sunday's game was mentioned in the forecast but no winner was predicted between the Steelers and the Green Bay Packers, who meet in Dallas for Super Bowl XLV.

"The Steelers are going to the Super Bowl," Mike Johnson, vice president of the Inner Circle, said just before the forecast was read, drawing cheers from the clearly partisan crowd gathered on Gobbler's Knob, a tiny hill in this borough of about 6,100 residents some 65 miles northeast of Pittsburgh.

The Groundhog Day celebration is rooted in a German superstition that says if a hibernating animal casts a shadow on Feb. 2, the Christian holiday of Candlemas, winter will last another six weeks. If no shadow was seen, legend said spring would come early.

In reality, Pennsylvania's prophetic rodent doesn't see much of anything. The result is actually decided in advance by 14 members of the Inner Circle, who don tuxedos and top hats for the event.

Winter storm strikes US

Associated Press

CHICAGO — A fearsome storm spread a smothering shroud of white over nearly half the nation Wednesday, snarling transportation from Oklahoma to New England, burying parts of the Midwest under 2 feet of snow and laying down dangerously heavy ice in the Northeast that was too much for some buildings to bear.

Tens of millions of people stayed home. The hardy few who ventured out faced howling winds that turned snowflakes into face-stinging needles. Chicago's 20.2 inches of snow was the city's third-largest amount on record. In New York's Central Park, the pathways resembled skating rinks.

The storm that resulted from two clashing air masses was, if not unprecedented, extraordinarily rare for its size and ferocious strength.

"A storm that produces a swath of 20-inch snow is really something we'd see once every 50 years — maybe," National Weather Service meteorologist Thomas Spriggs said.

Across the storm's path, lonely commuters struggled against drifts 3 and 4 feet deep in eerily silent streets, some of which had not seen a plow's blade since the snow started a day earlier. Parkas and ski goggles normally reserved for the slopes became essential for getting to work.

"This is probably the most snow I've seen in the last 34 years," joked 34-year-old Chicagoan Michael George. "I saw some people cross-country skiing on my way to the train. It was pretty wild."

Although skies were beginning to clear by mid-afternoon over much of the nation's midsection, the storm promised to leave a



A tow truck works on Lake Shore Drive in Chicago, where hundreds of cars are stranded Wednesday.

blast of bitter cold in its wake. Overnight temperatures in the upper Midwest were expected to fall to minus 5 to minus 20, with wind chills as low as minus 30.

The system was blamed for the deaths of at least a dozen people, including a homeless man who burned to death on New York's Long Island as he tried to light cans of cooking fuel and a woman in Oklahoma City who was killed while being pulled behind a truck on a sled that hit a guard rail.

Airport operations slowed to a crawl nationwide, and flight cancellations reached 13,000 for the week, making this system the most disruptive so far this winter. A massive post-Christmas blizzard led to about 10,000 cancellations.

In the winter-weary Northeast, thick ice collapsed several struc-

tures, including a gas station canopy on Long Island and an airplane hangar and garages near Boston. In at least two places, workers heard the structures beginning to crack and narrowly escaped.

In Middletown, Conn., the entire third floor of a building failed, littering the street with bricks and snapping two trees. Acting Fire Marshal Al Santostefano said two workers fled when they heard a cracking sound.

"It's like a bomb scene," Santostefano said. "Thank God they left the building when they did."

More than a half-dozen states began digging out from up to a foot of snow that made roads treacherous and left hundreds of thousands of homes without power.

Pacific Coast Concerts

The Rock Tripleheader! Proudly Presents in South Bend, Indiana Tickets On Sale Now!



special guests



BLUE OYSTER CULT Friday April 8 • 7:00 pm
and Guitarist/Singer/Songwriter Grand Funk Railroad's **MARK FARNER** Morris Performing Arts Center
South Bend, Indiana

Country Music Legend!



Tickets On Sale Saturday February 5

WILLIE NELSON & FAMILY

Sunday March 20 • 7:00 pm
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South Bend, Indiana

LORETTA LYNN On sale NOW!

Sunday February 13 • 7:00 PM
Morris Performing Arts Center
South Bend, Indiana

Tickets on sale now at the Morris Box Office, SuperSounds/Goshen, Hammes Bookstore/South Bend, Karma Records/Plymouth & Warsaw, Charge by phone 574/235-9190 or online www.morriscenter.org



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February 7, 2011

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Submit electronically
gender@nd.edu



U.S. government responds to events in Cairo

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Confronted by scenes of bloody chaos in Cairo, the White House on Wednesday challenged Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to show the world “exactly who he is” by quickly leading a peaceful transition to democracy.

An Egyptian official complained that the U.S. was pressing for Mubarak’s swift departure even as President Barack Obama publicly urges an orderly transition. “There is a clear contradiction between an orderly process of transition and the insistence that this process be rushed,” said the official, who was speaking for his government but said the government would not allow his name to be associated with the statement.

“Now means now,” White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said, and he declared anew that continued aid to Egypt would be influenced by the Egyptian government’s response to the crisis.

While the U.S. has not directly called for Mubarak to resign — the protesters’ chief demand — Gibbs was echoing Obama’s public call one night earlier for an immediate and orderly transition to democracy in Egypt. Instead the images on TV were of a brutal clash between protesters and Mubarak supporters.

“If any of the violence is instigated by the government, it should stop immediately,” Gibbs said, while declining to speculate whether the Egyptian government was in fact behind the violence. Protesters contended plainclothes police were among the pro-Mubarak groups.

The White House had attempted to nudge Mubarak to the exits, dispatching former U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner as a special envoy to deliver the message to him. But by Wednesday, Wisner was on his way back to the United States.

The White House said it had had no indication that such violence was in the offing when

Obama and Mubarak had spoken frankly Tuesday night. The Egyptian president announced on television that he would not seek re-election in September, but protesters want him out now.

With Mubarak’s grip on his country in doubt, Obama’s team is evaluating scenarios of what may come next. But the conflict underscores the limits of the American president’s power to shape the outcome.

For example, State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley acknowledged the hardline Muslim Brotherhood is “a fact of life in Egypt” and might play a role in the nation’s transition. U.S. officials haven’t met with members of the organization though they’ve spoken to other opposition groups, Crowley said.

Obama has spelled out what Egypt’s transition to free elections should look like, but he has refused to say whether Mubarak should be in charge all the while. Obama has spoken to

Mubarak and telephoned fellow world leaders to try to bolster stability in the region, but he cannot stop violence in the streets of Cairo. To the degree Obama has spelled out consequences of inaction to Mubarak, the White House will not say much publicly.

Obama also is trying to find a balance between responding appropriately to events without being sucked up in hour-by-hour reaction. Gibbs said history was being made, and “this is not all going to be wrapped up in a matter of hours. It’s going to take some time.”

Thousands of supporters and opponents of Mubarak battled in Cairo’s main square on Wednesday, throwing stones, bottles and firebombs as soldiers stood by without intervening. The fighting started when several thousand Mubarak supporters, including some riding horses and camels and wielding whips, attacked anti-government protesters.

Gibbs didn’t directly answer

when asked whether Obama viewed Mubarak as a dictator, saying the Egyptian president had a chance to show who he was. Mubarak has been an important ally to the U.S. during his 30-year reign, ensuring passage through the Suez Canal and maintaining peace with Israel. But for many Egyptian people, these have been years of corrosive poverty, repression and corruption.

Gibbs said the U.S. expects that whatever government comes into power will respect the treaties entered into by previous Egyptian governments — a clear reference to Egypt’s peace agreement with Israel, which has provided an important measure of stability for the region.

American officials are keen to promote an ordered transition that safeguards Egypt’s status as a powerful American ally in the Middle East, instrumental in promoting Arab-Israeli peace, countering Iran’s growing influence and fighting terrorism.

Senate votes on health care

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Republican drive to repeal the year-old health care law ended in party-line defeat in the Senate on Wednesday, leaving the Supreme Court to render a final, unpredictable verdict on an issue steeped in political and constitutional controversy.

The vote was 47-51.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell said the vote marked an opportunity for Democrats who voted for the bill last year “to listen to those who have desperately been trying to get your attention.”

Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said the Republican repeal movement would “take away a child’s right to get health insurance and instead give insurance companies the right to use asthma or diabetes as an excuse to take away that care.”

“It would kick kids off their parents’ health insurance,” Reid said. “It would take away seniors’ rights to a free wellness check.”

According to the Congressional Budget Office, the law in question would expand coverage to tens of millions who lack it, crack down on insurance industry abuses and cut federal budget deficits. At its core, the bill would require most Americans to purchase insurance, a so-called individual mandate that has become one of the principal points of opposition among Republicans and the tea party activists who propelled them to gains last fall.

All 47 Republicans voted to repeal the law, but no Democrat joined them.

The law that passed a year ago had the support of 58 Democrats and two independents aligned with them. All 40 Republicans voted against it.



“Our Mouths Full Of Song Like The Sea”

JEWISH PRAYER

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING THROUGH SONG
RABBI ERIC J. SIROKA - TEMPLE BETH-EL

Monday, February 7
7 - 7:45 pm
330 Coleman-Morse



Prayer From Around The World Series
Campus Ministry

Notre Dame Park Flyer Pilots

....a new club for students interested in learning how to fly R/C airplanes indoors



Flying Demonstrations

Everyone interested in learning about a club just formed to help students learn about the principles of flight and how to fly radio controlled aircraft are encouraged to attend.

Thursday
February 3 6:00 – 7:30 PM
Stegan Center

F I L M S C R E E N I N G

[pelada]

AWAY FROM THE BRIGHT LIGHTS AND MANICURED FIELDS, THERE IS ANOTHER SIDE OF SOCCER

Showings— 6:30 pm & 9:30 pm Friday, February 4 and Noon Saturday, February 5
Film makers Gwendolyn Oxenham, MFA '06 and Luke Boughen '05 are scheduled to attend.

DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, Browning Cinema
Information and Tickets: performingarts.nd.edu -or 574.631.2800



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INSIDE COLUMN

Super Bowl storytime

Somewhere, there is always a story to be told. As an aspiring journalist this is something that I hold dear. I could write a feature story about any one of you reading this column (yes, all five of you), because there is something interesting that makes you tick. So here in this space, as America's unofficial holiday approaches (aka Super Bowl Sunday) I will tell the stories of people that I have never met, so that you feel like you just did.



Andrew Gastelum

Sports Production Editor

Every fan thinks they know the story behind Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers. His story is being the guy who followed the legend. But what you may not know is how he even got the opportunity. Coming out of high school, Rodgers received as many Division I football scholarships as I did. Zip.

So he continued his dream, playing for Butte Community College in northern California, where Cal coach Jeff Tedford noticed him and brought him back to the Bay Area. But the funny part was that Tedford wasn't there to recruit Rodgers, but Butte's tight end. Rodgers simply tagged along for the ride. And what a ride it has been. I guarantee that if you told that community college coach that his gunslinger would one day be starting in the Super Bowl he would have bet his house against it.

Do I even need to tell the troubled story of Rodgers' opposing quarterback?

Well maybe of one of his receivers then — a key contributor in the Steelers' third Super Bowl trip in six years. At first glance, Hines Ward seems like the standard guy walking down the street at 6-feet tall. But check his fingers because he already has two Super Bowl rings, built by a reputation as one of the league's toughest. But his story is a bit more complicated, being born in South Korea to an African American father and a Korean mother. In school Ward was a loner, denied by the Koreans for being African American and shunned by the African Americans for being Korean. But he found solace in football, going on to a 13-year career in the NFL while missing only six games in his career.

From one receiver to another, Packers wide-out and consummate hard worker Donald Driver is a fan-favorite around the league. But few know that as a kid, he sold drugs on the streets of Houston to provide for his family. Football brought him out of this life, relying on a simple imperative to get him to the NFL: Make it.

This piece could go on forever, but since we are snowed in, try reading up on Clay Matthews, James Harrison and Tramon Williams. Because for these guys who take the field Sunday, a childhood dream that was never supposed to come true will be fulfilled. Who said there is no such thing as a happy ending?

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

Contact Andrew Gastelum at agastel1@nd.edu

The new digital revolution

While I was basking in the Caribbean sun, jet-setting the world and such over break, I had an epiphany. At the airport, on the bus and aboard the boat, children were playing with their parents' (maybe even their own) iPhones and iPod touches. Not the New Moon crazed tweens, but 4- to 8-year-olds who barely grasp the concepts of basic arithmetic. It is difficult to impossible to teach anyone over the age of 65 how to use a computer, but these little rugrats can operate quite a complicated technology with ease. Then it hit me, as it has hit other financial analysts and tech gurus. We are entering the next great tech boom.



Mark Easley

Elephant in the Room

Smart phones and tablets are constantly being advertised to us in the media for good reason. They bring instant connectivity in an easy to use and portable interface. This is strangely reminiscent of the early personal computer days, with all the excitement of the early internet boom. What's still keeping people back, but not for long, is the price. Data plans and the hardware are expensive right now and not everyone can afford a pretentious Apple product or 3G, 4G and G-string data plans. But the masses want access to these products and more and more device makers and

service providers will answer the call to create better products for a cheaper price.

The all-knowing and ever-prevalent internet is the big enabler of this new tech boom. What we are seeing is the drive to cloud computing and wireless connectivity. All data is stored and processed centrally and distributed to simpler machines for display and control via the network. It is now very easy to locate a wireless router, even in the most mundane places, and data coverage for phones is getting better every day. You see, the reason I don't own a smartphone is because it is cheaper to run a basic cell phone and I get all the connectivity I need from my netbook. I recently switched over to netbooks from powerful gaming laptops because of the portability and the price, and they are great for class. Now with these newer and even more portable touch screen tablets, sometimes referred to as slates or pads, easy access to the web can be attained anywhere with some wireless signal. With the vast majority of daily tasks being web based, what more could you ask for? Tablets also provide a more comfortable format than a pocket-sized hand-held device, although many will opt for the convenience of being able to easily carry around a link to the net in their pocket.

There are many applications for these technologies that will allow them to be successful and widespread. The educational benefits are enormous. Imagine children being able to carry around a tablet in elementary school that can have access to network based educational apps, to

improve learning and knowledge gathering. Even high school and college students will be able to carry around their light and portable devices to classes. As software continues to migrate to the Cloud, you will be able to do everything you can do now on your computer from a tablet or smart phone. Word processing, email, document viewing, presentations, image editing, video streaming, gaming and even a virtual desktop and software development tools can be accessed quickly and easily. Easy enough an 8-year-old could figure it out.

The price of these new tech devices will decline as competition and efficient production methods further develop in the near future. I foresee basic but very functional models will become as affordable as current netbooks in a few years, especially with the more frequent use of open source software. This will be a real game changer because even more people all over the world will have access to the Cloud and compete in the global market place. We may even begin to see the decline of traditional phone use in the U.S. as VoIP calls become more widespread with the inevitable lowering of data plan prices.

It's not too late to change your major to Computer Science and Engineering. It is quite an exciting time in the field.

Mark Easley is a junior majoring in computer science. He can be reached at measley@nd.edu

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



OBSERVER POLL

Who do you want to win the Super Bowl?

- Green Bay Packers
- Pittsburgh Steelers

Who do you think will win the Super Bowl?

- Green Bay Packers
- Pittsburgh Steelers

Vote by Thursday at 5 p.m. at www.ndsmcobserver.com.

Submit a Letter
to the Editor at

www.ndsmcobserver.com

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If you tell the truth you don't have to remember anything."

Mark Twain
U.S. novelist

After the blizzard, peace

That turbulent blizzard, once passed, left behind such a peaceful scene.

We all like to think of Jesus as a man of peace. One of our archetypal images of Jesus, dating all the way back to the prophecies of Isaiah, is the Prince of Peace.

Fr. Lou DeFra

Faithpoint

And, in fact, when Jesus walked our earth, he indeed preached peace. He preached peace between peoples — “Those who live by the sword shall die by the sword” and “You shall forgive 70 times seven times.” He preached and promised peace within the hearts of those who would follow him — “Come to me, all you who are labored and carry heavy burdens. And your souls shall find rest.”

Jesus was a man of peace. And yet, even a cursory reading of the Gospels raises one inescapable problem.

In the Gospels, it is impossible to miss that Jesus’ life was often anything but peaceful. In fact, just the opposite — Jesus’ life was a life of chaos and commotion. In one passage, so many people crowded to hear Jesus that he was forced to get into a boat and teach from offshore, because he was afraid of being crushed. Another time, after Jesus began healing people, so many sick people came to see him and tried to touch him that four men had to lower a paralytic through the roof to even get near him. Still again,

after he had preached into the early evening, Jesus needed to feed a crowd of 5,000 people who had come to hear him.

These are hardly the stories of a person who lived a peaceful daily life. Rather, he surely understood the feeling, “I’m overwhelmed! I’m being pulled in a hundred directions!”

And yet, we also know that Jesus was a man of deep peace and centeredness. Which raises an interesting question for us, who are plenty busy ourselves: How does Jesus pull it off? How does Jesus stay centered, and interiorly peaceful, in the midst of a hectic and demanding daily life?

Here are four answers that come to me as I read the life of Jesus in the Gospels.

The first answer comes when I cannot avoid how many times the Gospels mention that “Jesus withdrew to a solitary place to pray.” Praying is perhaps the most frequently cited activity of Jesus in the Gospels. Jesus had a privileged relationship with the Father, as the Father’s only Son. As John’s Gospel tell us, “In the beginning, he was with God; he was God.” Still, when Jesus became human, he constantly needed to “withdraw to a solitary place to pray.” Clearly, if we wish to lead lives of peace, there is no shortcut around the human need to pray.

Second, I find it notable that, in none of the four Gospels, does Jesus call his first disciples later than chapter five. (And it is only this late in Matthew and Luke, who include infancy narratives, when Jesus

couldn’t call disciples for the good reason that he didn’t know how to talk yet!) From the beginning of his hectic public ministry, Jesus surrounds himself with friends who, like him, were hungry to find God at work in their lives and who supported Jesus in his mission.

Jesus had a busy life, but he did not face it alone. This is an important lesson in leading peaceful lives. It can be a hard lesson in our culture. We inhale individualism like oxygen. We like to get things done on our own. But perhaps it’s no coincidence that we’re also often fried, or we’re constantly tired, or we quickly lose patience with others. Jesus lived a life at least as hectic as ours. But he did not live it alone, and he lived it in peace.

Third, as regards his daily work — a frequent robber of our peace — we can see that Jesus, though he’s constantly and tirelessly laboring for the mission, understands his work almost exclusively in terms of the good it is accomplishing for others. He thinks about his life primarily in terms of service. If we spend too much time thinking about how much energy we’re expending, or forget the other-centered goals for which we are laboring, our work can leave us self-absorbed and, ultimately, burnt out, or searching for a deeper meaning to live. Regarding his daily work, Jesus stays focused on the good he is doing for others, and this seems to increase his energy for the mission, not drain it. Consciously understanding our work as service to others is an act

of inner peace.

Finally, to the extent that Jesus does focus on himself, it is almost always in recognition that his life is in the hands of his Father. He stays in touch with his firm belief that his life is unfolding providentially. This trust in God’s Presence centers Jesus, brings him peace, even in the most stressful of situations. Whatever is being asked of him — to deal with a crowd or to be in solitude, to heal a blind man or to be unable to perform a miracle because of the people’s lack of faith, to be enthusiastically received or to be rejected, to preach the Sermon on the Mount or to stand silent before Pontius Pilate — all these things could be accomplished peacefully, because he believed that all these things were unfolding in God’s Providence, in God’s plan for his life. Trust in Providence brings with it the gift of peace.

The life of Jesus reveals a way — through prayer, through friendships-in-faith, through a life of other-centered service, through a trust in Providence — that can turn even the most turbulent storms of our souls into long, snow-tucked quads that speak to us only of peace.

This week’s column is written by Fr. Lou DeFra, CSC, ACE director of Pastoral Life and campus minister. He can be reached at delfra.2@nd.edu

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



UWIRE

Effects of Arab riots on Israel

Demonstrations all across Egypt have erupted against the government. In Lebanon, protestors have flooded the streets calling for a new government and Tunisia remains in a political turmoil.

Arabs across the Middle East are taking things with their own hands asking for freedom of choice. And freedom they shall get, but what will be the cost of freedom to the Arab-Israeli conflict?

Nuseir Yassin

The Harvard Political Review

It is no mystery that the stagnant waters of the Arab world have become violent. Countless antigovernment protestors are rising and calling for a democratic system that would offer them better living conditions. With more than 25% of the Egyptian population under the poverty line, drastic reforms are much needed.

However, economic incentives are not the only motives behind such protests. The political agenda of Arab presidents has been met with nationwide disapproval. To be more precise, many Arabs, Egyptians especially, want to cut ties with Israel and help out their Palestinian brethren by opening up the borders and voiding the Israeli peace treaty. Husni Mubarak has ignored such requests for the sake of political and economic stability with Israel. He realized that adhering to the nation’s request by confronting Israel could potentially backfire and overthrow his government. He submitted to foreign-made pressure and to his own personal interests.

Now that riots are ubiquitous in Cairo, Mubarak’s 29.35 year-long trek is nearing its end (see my prior

blog post). In addition to building a better economy, Egyptians will be constructing a different foreign policy that could affect the ongoing peace process between Israel and Palestine. As to how this new policy is going to affect the situation, I don’t know. One thing is for sure though: Israel will no longer depend on full cooperation from the Egyptian end. Now that Israel is dealing with millions of Arabs instead of handful leaders, it must step back and weigh its actions accordingly.

Overthrowing any Arab government in the Middle East is dangerous for the status quo. Now, I realize that democracy in Egypt and any other Middle Eastern country is necessary. However, people should be extremely careful with their new foreign policy choices, as this could lead to more Middle Eastern conflicts. War is never the answer for the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. We’ve seen many of them take place in the Middle East, and unfortunately, Palestinians suffer more with every war. As riots continue, we must practice self-restraint and wisely choose our next steps when it comes to foreign policies.

Despite all of the risks mentioned above, I support an Arab world free of greedy dictators. I used to be ashamed of my Arab roots because we were many led by few. We were intelligent, yet we specialized in demeaning manual labor. We were consumers, but tomorrow we’ll be innovators.

This article first appeared in the Jan. 30 edition of The Harvard Political Review, the daily publication serving Harvard University.

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

Weekend Events Calendar

thursday



friday



saturday



sunday



Toes on the Nose/In Euphoric Company Legends
10 p.m. - 12 a.m.
Free with ND/SMC/HCC ID

Two student bands take the stage at Legends. Last year's Battle of the Bands winner Toes on the Nose follows In Euphoric Company, a trio made of up Sacramento natives that gets regular play on WVFI and has been making the rounds in the indie-music blogosphere.

McGlinn Casino Night
South Dining Hall
10 p.m. - 1 a.m.
\$5

Welcome to fabulous South Bend, home of McGlinn Hall's signature event. All students are welcome to enter the Texas Hold 'Em tournament or take a few rounds at the blackjack tables - playing with paper money, of course. The fake cash can be turned in for the raffle. If you don't like gambling, then there's nothing like dancing in left-left of South Dining Hall.

Flannel Formal
Oak Room of South Dining Hall
10 p.m. to 1 a.m.
\$5

Blizzard got you freezing and feeling cabin-feverish? Pull on some snugly flannel and snowshoe up to the Oak Room on the second floor of SDH. The "barn dance," sponsored by the Texas and Minnesota clubs, promises to be a warm and ironic good time.

"The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest"
Browning Cinema
3 p.m.
\$3 for students, \$4 for senior citizens, \$6 general public

The final film in the Millenium trilogy concludes DPAC's weekend marathon of all three original Swedish adaptations of the bestselling books.

Contact Jordan Gamble at jgamble@nd.edu



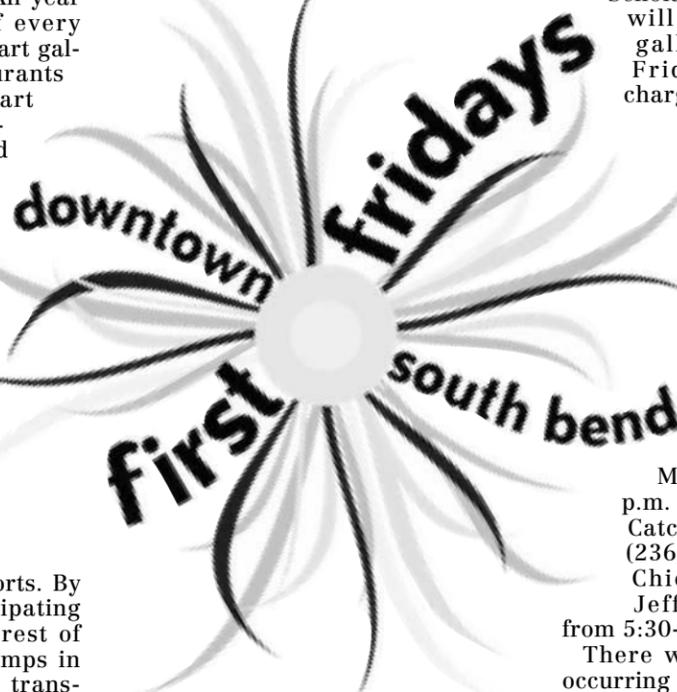
By LAUREN HENDERSON
Scene Writer

Looking for something to do off Notre Dame's campus this weekend? This Friday, venture out into downtown South Bend for the city's monthly event, First Friday. All year long, on the first Friday of every month, many of South Bend's art galleries, businesses and restaurants stay open late to showcase art exhibitions and live performances. Various restaurants and stores also have menu and shopping specials.

February's First Friday will take place Friday from 5 - 9 p.m. The theme for this month's events is "Fit and Fabulous." Restaurants will be offering prizes for customers who order healthy food options in order to encourage a healthier lifestyle in 2011. Certain restaurants will also be handing out Healthy Dining Passports. By dining at one of these participating restaurants throughout the rest of the month, you can earn stamps in your passport. These stamps translate into chances to win nutrition and other health-related prizes as well.

Galleries such as Artpost (216 West Madison Street) and CircaArts Gallery (528 East Colfax Avenue) will have special exhibitions open to the public. Artpost's exhibit, "CUBA ¡PRESENTE!: Cuban posters from the collection of Gerrie Casey and Paul

Mishler" will be on view until Feb. 27. This exhibition displays graphic Cuban posters from the second half of the 20th century. At CircaArts, you can watch local artists working live



and in person as they create wintery scenes of local landscapes in pastel. The opening reception for this show, called "Let It Snow," will take place Friday.

The South Bend Museum of Art (120 South St. Joseph Street) will be

hosting an event called "Meet Me in the Gallery" from 5 - 8:30 p.m., where you can mingle and enjoy food and drink while listening to a live band. Over 450 artworks by junior and senior high school students selected to be included in the 2011

Scholastic Art Award exhibition will be on display in the gallery. Most of the First Friday events are free of charge, but there is a reduced cost of \$5 for admission to "Meet Me in the Gallery" (free for museum members).

Additionally, Bombay International (119 South Michigan Street) will be hosting a tea tasting of various Chinese teas, and the Friends of the St. Joseph County Library will be hosting a book sale (333 South Michigan Street) from 4 - 8

p.m. Catch live music at C.J.'s Pub (236 S. Michigan Street) or at Chicory Café (105 East Jefferson Boulevard), both from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

There will be many more events occurring around the city during this month's First Friday than the ones listed here. Also, the downtown Transpo trolley route will be available for free during the events. To see a full listing of events, go to http://www.dtsbfirstfridays.com/event_s.htm

Contact Lauren Henderson at lhender1@nd.edu

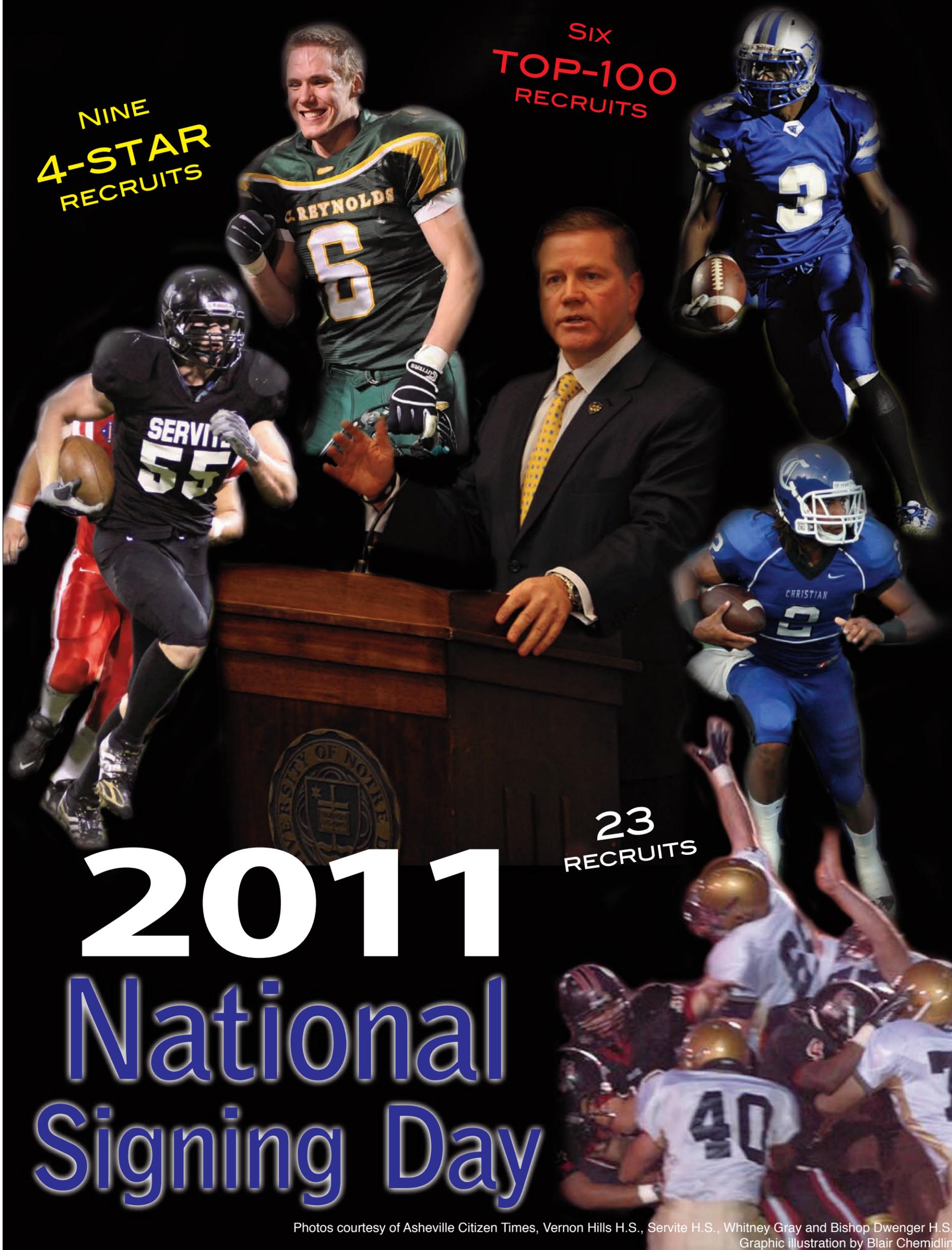
IRISH INSIDER

Thursday, February 3, 2011

THE
OBSERVER

NINE
4-STAR
RECRUITS

SIX
TOP-100
RECRUITS



23
RECRUITS

2011 National Signing Day

Photos courtesy of Asheville Citizen Times, Vernon Hills H.S., Servite H.S., Whitney Gray and Bishop Dwenger H.S.
Graphic illustration by Blair Chemidlin

COMMENTARY

NSD may actually hold an influence

I traditionally ridicule National Signing Day. Watching football players barely three years younger than me play with baseball caps — or even a sweated bulldog this year — seems inherently pointless.

Yet this past season I confronted a very difficult realization: Freshmen really do affect the direction of a program.

My biggest quarrel with this day of teenage glorification has always focused on the vast inaccuracy of most recruiting rankings and projections. A 22-year-old's physical and mental characteristics often bear no resemblance to his appearance four years prior.

Yet today's descriptions of Everett Golson and George Atkinson, of Ishaq Williams and Aaron Lynch will still be very much accurate in September. And, as hard as this is for me to admit, freshmen matter.

A year ago, few Notre Dame fans were overjoyed at Tommy Rees' early enrollment. TJ Jones slid beneath most people's radar as well. Yet it is nearly impossible to imagine this past season, or even the Sun Bowl victory, without those two contributors.

Freshmen matter.

Thus, Wednesday's recruiting haul, 23 recruits full, brings great promise for Notre Dame fans for the next four years, beginning in seven short months.

Last February, Irish coach Brian Kelly only had weeks to piece together his first Notre Dame recruiting class. Given the circumstances, Kelly and his staff did pretty well, but they all knew there was room for improvement.

With a full year under their belt, the Irish coaches showed how much room for improvement there was.

Kelly received 18 faxes with signatures on them Wednesday. Combine those with the five recruits who have already enrolled in classes this semester, and the class of 23 recruits includes: six of ESPN's final top-100 recruits, headlined by No. 15 Aaron Lynch, a four-star defensive end. ESPN rates the Irish class as No. 12 in the country, but those rankings are often skewed by over-signing and sketchy handlings by other programs — another set of reasons I have always despised this college football holiday.

But Kelly and his staff did not resort to any of those illegitimate tactics in racking up this talented class. Instead, defensive coordinator Bob Diaco boarded a red-eye flight to Brooklyn, N.Y., to arrive at Ishaq Williams' doorstep at 4:30 a.m. Upon Diaco's arrival, Williams — the seventh-ranked defensive

end in the country — cancelled a planned official visit to Penn State and committed to Notre Dame. Four days later Williams took his first classes on campus, opting to enroll for the current semester and gain a few extra months under Diaco's tutelage.

Williams and Lynch are only the head-liners of a group of defensive linemen that will most likely define this recruiting class. Lynch, who did waffle back-and-forth concerning Notre Dame before eventually joining Williams as an early enrollee, will likely line-up opposite Stephon Tuitt, hailing from Georgia, at many points in his career.

Tuitt briefly decommitted from Notre Dame to turn his eyes toward Georgia Tech in January. Some schools would have shrugged their shoulders and signed three more defensive ends. Some schools would have bad-mouthed Tech to Tuitt. Notre Dame did neither. Instead, Kelly, Diaco and a few other coaches boarded a plane the next day on a trip to the Peach State to remind Tuitt why he ever looked to the Golden Dome in the first place. Their success led to his Tech commitment only lasting a brief period.

Tony Springmann, Chase Hounshell and Brad Carrico complete the grouping of defensive linemen, though at least one of them — most likely Williams — will eventually move to an outside linebacker position, a la junior Darius Fleming.

Irish fans have not seen a position-in-need so quickly stocked with depth since the early days of Lou Holtz. Yet those six linemen simply show the true strengths of Kelly's recruiting. In Diaco's 3-4 defense, only three defensive linemen are on the field at a time, yet he and Kelly managed to convince six of these players to come in at the same time. Whatever the Notre Dame coaching staff is selling these days, these recruits bought.

As did dual-threat, four-star quarterback Everett Golson, who switched his commitment to the Irish from North Carolina in December, both Josh and George Atkinson — heralded twins from Oregon — and four-star wide receiver DaVaris Daniels, who so badly wanted to come to Notre Dame he essentially put his recruiting process on hold while he raised his grades and test scores.

Next season these freshmen will have a chance to positively or negatively affect the Irish season. Given the descriptions of them today, it seems they will affect that season positively.

Hence, maybe National Signing Day isn't all that bad, at least when it benefits Notre Dame.

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

Contact Douglas Farmer at dfarmer1@nd.edu



Douglas Farmer

Sports Editor

Kelly hopes recruits improve 'D'



Irish coach Brian Kelly provided the media with reviews of each of the 23 recruits that signed National Letters of Intent to play for Notre Dame Wednesday.

By ERIC PRISTER
Associate Sports Editor

Irish coach Brian Kelly said he and his coaching staff went into the recruiting season with a plan — improve on the defensive line. By adding six players listed at that position, including two ranked in the top-5 defensive linemen by most experts, Notre Dame followed through on that plan.

"I really would like to say that the plan came together," Kelly said. "We had a plan, and that's clear. I think I spoke at this press conference last year and said 'listen, in 2011, our focus is the edge of our defense, it's defensive linemen, it's speed, it's length.' And we hit that. We had a plan and it's nice when a plan comes together like it did with this recruiting class. And now the next step is what we believe we're really good at, and that's developing these young men."

Kelly said recruiting defensive players is key for any team, simply because of the nature of the game.

"You can't fake it on defense," he said. "You can fake it a little on offense. Defensively, you have to win the one-on-one matchups. Sometimes you can not block the defensive end and option him. Sometimes you can do things with misdirection. But on defense, it's about players making plays, and you can't hide there. So the recruiting efforts start with the defensive line, and they work out from there. You can't fake it on defense — you have to be able to recruit the players."

The recruiting process was difficult for the Irish coaches, both emotionally and physically. Fourteen states are represented in Notre Dame's recruiting class of 2011, more than any other class in the country.

"If you take a look at the major BCS programs, their recruiting five or six states, and that's a lot," Kelly said. "Just look at the nation and how they recruit compared to the 14 different

states. I think Stanford is the only other school that even comes close to recruiting that many states.

"In just two months time I put up over 15,000 miles in terms of air travel and 55 hours in the air. It just requires a lot of time. And you can't just have six guys recruiting. You can't have six really good position coaches and three professional recruiters. All nine at Notre Dame have to recruit, and I think that you'll see that all nine of our coaches played a very important part of putting this class together."

The Irish coaching staff traveled the country following recruits, but they had one clear message to present — come to Notre Dame if you want to be at Notre Dame.

"I think you really have to be able to sell the message of Notre Dame," Kelly said. "It's really clear. Number one, you would come to Notre Dame for a degree, and what that does for you. That's number one, so the player has to have a connection there. If they have no value of a degree from Notre Dame, move to the next guy. Number two, he's coming to play for Notre Dame, and to win championships at Notre Dame. That has to be clear, that he's coming here, and he's going to be part of a team at the University of Notre Dame. And three, that he wants to be developed — physically, socially, spiritually, in his skill. Those are the three things that we stayed with as our bullet points, and we did not waver from those three things. We didn't promise playing time. We didn't promise 10 national championships. We didn't promise anything. We told them, 'This is what we're about, and this is what you'll get if you come to Notre Dame.'"

Committing to Notre Dame also requires some flexibility. Kelly and his coaching staff separate players into three different categories rather than traditional positions — 'Skill,' which includes quarterbacks, running backs, wide receivers and defensive backs, 'Big Skill,' which

includes fullbacks, tight ends and linebackers, and 'Power,' which includes offensive and defensive linemen. Kelly said that most players are not turned off by the potential that they will end up at a new position, as long as communication stays consistent.

"Once we're able to communicate what we're doing and how we're doing it instead of listening to someone else who knows more sometimes about our system than we do — which is absolutely ridiculous — as long as we get an opportunity to show you what our plans are for you and continue that message, we're fine. Most of these young men, they want to be in the best position to help the team win. And obviously each of these young men that we have on this roster, they have dreams too, about getting a degree and playing in the NFL, and that's fine. I want those kind of guys. So I think it's less about 'no, I'm only this.' And when we do get that, that sends up a bit of a red flag for us. And that doesn't mean we're going to drop him, but it sends up a bit of a red flag."

Because high school positions are not as important for the Irish coaching staff, they have more flexibility to attract players of the same position. Kelly said that an overabundance at a single position, defensive line for instance, is not a problem.

"I just want the very best players," he said. "That will all sort itself out very early in the process. I don't think it'll be two or three years down the road. I think it sorts itself out very quickly. I know that we've got a great understanding of our players, even in this one year, more than anything else, we know where our guys will best fit our program. So I'm very confident that in a very short period of time, a lot of this will take care of itself. If your assets are on the defensive line, that's a good place to start, and that's where we'll start."

Contact Eric Prister at epriester@nd.edu

Groundhog's Day Class a new standard at Notre Dame

With a class consisting of seven Top-150 recruits according to ESPN, the Irish signed an impressive class filled with talent, and more importantly, one that addressed specific needs moving forward. Irish coach Brian Kelly's goal was to strengthen the edge of his defense, and six defensive end recruits, including Top-150 signings Aaron Lynch, Ishaq Williams and Stephon Tuitt, does just that.

Williams will likely move to outside linebacker, as will four-star recruit Ben Councill. Lynch and Tuitt lead the group who will continue playing with their hand on the ground, but will face competition from fellow four-star defensive lineman Anthony Rabasa.

On the opposite side of the ball, the Irish signed four offensive linemen, including

four-star-rated Matthew Hegarty. In the future, they will likely be blocking for dual-threat quarterback Everett Golson, whom looks to fit nicely into Kelly's spread offense.

Notre Dame also signed solid targets for Golson, including four-star wide receiver DaVaris Daniels and four-star tight end Ben Koyack. Daniels could fit in nicely in the slot while Koyack has the body and ball skills to join Notre Dame's line of NFL caliber tight ends.

Other significant recruits include three-star athlete George Atkinson and his brother Josh, a defensive back, three-star running back Cam McDaniel, six-foot-six Troy Niklas, who could play offensive line, defensive line or tight end, and kicker Kyle Brindza, who the Irish had pegged as the top kicker in the 2011 recruiting class.

GEORGE ATKINSON WR, ★★★, 190 pounds, 6'2" Granada High School Livermore, Calif.

Listed as an athlete by most recruiting services, George Atkinson III scored 17 touchdowns in his senior season, and could be a weapon offensively for the Irish at either running back or wide receiver.

His explosiveness is most evident when looking at his best single-game performance of his senior season, when he ran for 206 yards and three touchdowns on five carries in a game against Castro Valley High School. Atkinson's performance earned him not only a bid in the U.S. Army All-American Game but also a spot as captain of the West team.

His speed is one of his best assets, as he competed in the 100-meter dash in high school with a personal best of 10.66 seconds.



Photo Courtesy of Jeffrey Bennett/Patch.com

JOSH ATKINSON CB, ★★★, 185 pounds, 6'0" Granada High School Livermore, Calif.

Joining his twin brother George (above) in the 2011 recruiting class for the Irish, Josh Atkinson played on both sides of the ball in high school, but is listed by the Notre Dame coaching staff as a defensive back. He recorded 20 tackles and broke up 11 passes on defense during his senior year. Aided by his size and physicality, Atkinson sheds blocks well and can knock receivers off their routes.

Though he does not have the pure speed of his brother, Atkinson has good recovery speed, an important asset for a defensive back. He and George both competed for Team USA in the Team USA vs. The World all-star game Wednesday. Atkinson has the size to play safety at the college level, or could see early playing time as a nickel back.



Photo Courtesy of Jeffrey Bennett/Patch.com

KYLE BRINDZA K, ★★★, 219 pounds, 6'1" Plymouth High School Canton, Mich.

Kyle Brindza will have an uphill climb at the kicking position as he competes as a freshman. With senior David Ruffer and sophomore Nick Tausch coming back next season, the Irish are returning the owners of the two longest consecutive field goals converted streaks in Notre Dame history. With Brindza's track record, that should not faze him in the slightest.

The Michigan native was one of the most heavily recruited kickers in the nation in the class of 2011 and features a very strong foot, as he consistently made long field goals and sent kickoffs through the end zone. Although he is unlikely to see game action in 2011 for the Irish, he should be a key contributor in the future.

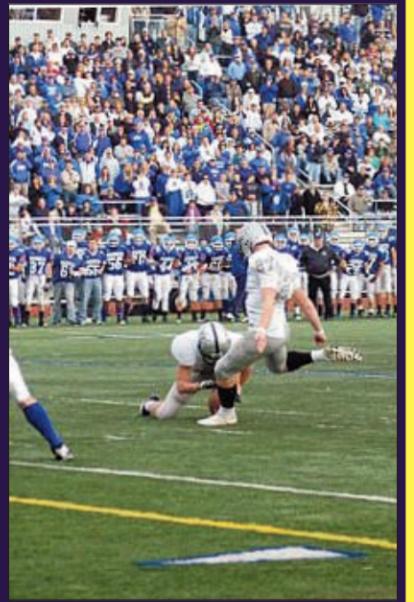


Photo Courtesy of Plymouth High School

JALEN BROWN CB, ★★★, 180 pounds, 6'1" Irving McArthur High School Irving, Texas

Jalen Brown will be a familiar sight in the Irish secondary for years to come. Recruited by assistant coach Kerry Cooks, Brown utilizes his long arms to break up pass plays in man coverage.

Even though his high school defense required him to play off the receiver, Brown's quickness and instincts enabled him to jump passes on a regular basis; once he spends a year under seniors Gary Gray and Robert Blanton learning the defensive scheme, Brown has the potential to develop into a lockdown corner.

In addition, he plays with evident toughness and loves to dish out a big hit. His physical style of play will be an asset in run defense as well as against the pass, especially screen passes.



Photo Courtesy of Irving MacArthur High School

BRAD CARRICO DE, ★★★, 287 pounds, 6'5" Dublin Coffman High School Dublin, Ohio

The first commitment of Notre Dame's recruiting class of 2011, Brad Carrico started his high school career as a quarterback.

He made the switch to defensive line after his sophomore season, and in his first year at the new position. Carrico recorded 74 tackles, eight for loss, along with nine sacks. His performance as a senior then earned him a bid to play in the Offense-Defense All-American Bowl in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

With his good size which has the potential to fill out even more with weight training, Carrico could possibly be a better fit on the offensive line, a position with more scarcity than the jam-packed defensive line crew in this year's recruiting class.



Photo Courtesy of Dublin Coffman High School

BEN COUNCELL LB, ★★★★★, 220 pounds, 6'5" A.C. Reynolds High School Asheville, N.C.

An outside linebacker from Asheville, N.C., Councill recorded 141 tackles, 22 for loss, in his senior season, just his third season playing football. He also recovered two fumbles, blocked two kicks and scored two touchdowns. In his junior season, Councill showed a flair for the dramatic as he blocked a field goal to seal a state championship for his team.

Also a track star at A.C. Reynolds High School, he runs the 40-yard dash in 4.41, the quickest of Notre Dame's linebacker recruits.

The four-star recruit played in the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas and was named the Division 4-A State defensive player of the year and first team All-Western North Carolina.



Photo Courtesy of A.C. Reynolds High School

DaVARIS DANIELS WR, ★★★★★, 190 pounds, 6'3" Vernon Hills High School Vernon Hills, Ill.

DaVaris Daniels stated his desire to attend Notre Dame very early in the recruiting process but waited until Sept. 28 to verbally commit to Irish coach Brian Kelly and his staff.

The Vernon Hills standout contributed in nearly every facet his senior season, tallying 16 offensive touchdowns, two special teams scores and one more trip to the end zone from the defensive side of the ball.

His season ended in the Illinois Class 5A quarterfinals.

Irish fans will hope Daniels has the same successes as his father, Washington Redskins defensive end Phillip Daniels. The elder Daniels is now in his 15th year in the NFL, having tallied 62 sacks in his career.



Photo Courtesy of Vernon Hills High School



Photo Courtesy of Whitney Gray

MATTHIAS FARLEY
 CB, ★★★, 194 pounds, 6'0"
 Charlotte Christian High School
 Charlotte, N.C.

Having only played two years of organized football coming into Notre Dame, Farley is the epitome of raw talent. With a 40-yard dash of 4.5 seconds and versatility on both sides of the ball Farley can only improve in a college system.

Out of Charlotte Christian High School in North Carolina, the all-state phenom tallied 1,500 yards receiving and 22 touchdowns while being used as a slot receiver, wideout and at, times, tailback. As a defensive back, Farley recorded 49 tackles this past season, after previously committing to Notre Dame in April as Kelly's fourth recruit to join team. With the ability to play multiple positions, look for Farley to be all over the field, from special teams to receiver to safety, where his ball-hawking abilities are sure to shine.



Photo Courtesy of The Sun News

EVERETT GOLSON
 QB, ★★★★★, 175 pounds, 6'0"
 Myrtle Beach High School
 Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Originally committed to North Carolina, dual-threat quarterback Everett Golson switched over to Notre Dame on Dec. 2. He has enrolled early and will compete for the wide-open quarterback race at spring practice. Nonetheless, it will be difficult for Golson to crack the starting lineup as a freshman, as all of his competitors for the starting job have the advantage of been in Brian Kelly's spread offense for a year already.

Golson is built more like a wide receiver than a quarterback, and some analysts question his ability to start at quarterback in college because of his height. However, Golson has some very strong traits as a passer, including his arm strength, which could lead to him being the Irish signal-caller in the future.



Photo Courtesy of Colerain High School

JARRETT GRACE
 WR, ★★★, 235 pounds, 6'3"
 Colerain High School
 Cincinnati, Ohio

Athletic and tough, Jarrett Grace will join the Irish roster as a linebacker, and has the potential to play both inside and outside.

He recorded 95 tackles during his junior year and 69 tackles in his senior season, and was an all-Ohio first team selection.

Grace has the size to contribute early, but behind the likes of Manti Te'o and Carlo Calabrese, his best opportunity for early playing time will likely be on special teams.

He pursues ball carriers well, keeps moving throughout the play, and his technique will be an asset for him.

He has the size to be a good run stopper, but also the speed and quickness to cover tight ends and running backs.



Photo Courtesy of New Canaan High School

CONNOR HANRATTY
 OG, ★★★, 300 pounds, 6'4"
 New Canaan High School
 New Canaan, CT

It looks like being Irish runs in the family as Connor's father, Terry, was an All-American quarterback for Notre Dame in the 1960's. But rather than hurling touchdowns like his father, Hanratty will be protecting the quarterback in Kelly's offense.

The lineman learned from legendary coach Lou Marinelli at New Canaan High in Connecticut (where he won two state championships) and will probably make the switch from tackle to guard, enabling him to use his agility to serve as the critical pulling guard.

He possesses solid pass protection skills and footwork, fitting the mold of a spread-style lineman but does need work on his run blocking and downfield blocking.



Photo Courtesy of Pickerington High School Central

EILAR HARDY
 S, ★★★, 172 pounds, 6'0"
 Pickerington High School Central
 Pickerington, Ohio

With cornerback Darrin Walls departing the defensive backfield and seniors-to-be Gary Gray and Robert Blanton entering the final years of their time at Notre Dame, recruiting impact players to play defensive back was a key focus of this recruiting cycle.

Hardy should help shore up the depth chart and see the field early in his career. He is versatile enough to play cornerback or safety at the college level.

Hardy is a physical player who makes solid tackles, especially in the run game — a much-needed capability in Bob Diaco's defensive scheme. He will need to add muscle to play effectively in college but is renowned for his fluidity and quickness that allow him to play either as a free-ranging safety or a cover corner.



Photo Courtesy of Irish Sports Daily

MATTHEW HEGARTY
 OL, ★★★★★, 280 pounds, 6'5"
 Aztec High School
 Aztec, N.M.

Hegarty, a four-star offensive line recruit, had offers from nearly every elite program in the country, including Oregon, Auburn, Stanford and USC, but committed to Notre Dame in April and didn't waver.

He is the No. 36-ranked prospect in the country by ESPN and was named a 2010 Army All-American and to the 2010 USA Football Junior National Team. Both honors were largely based on his large number of pancake blocks, 81, compared to his lack of sacks given up this past season.

Hegarty was also an All-State first team All-Academic for his 3.8 GPA at Aztec High School in Aztec, N.M. He is very versatile and could move inside to the guard position or stay at tackle, which he played in high school.

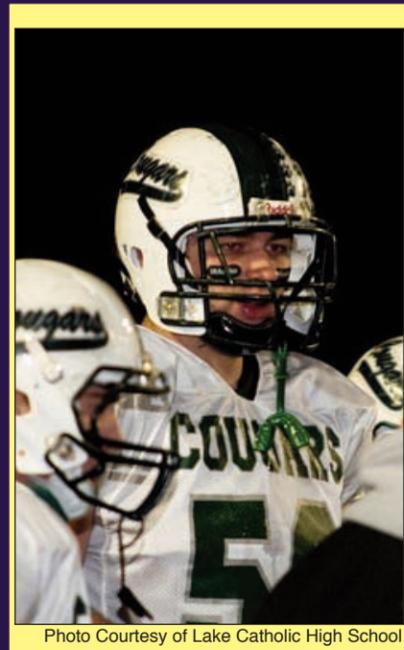


Photo Courtesy of Lake Catholic High School

CHASE HOUNSHELL
 DE, ★★★, 255 pounds, 6'5"
 Lake Catholic High School
 Kirtland, Ohio

Though Chase Hounshell plays on both the offensive and defensive lines in high school, he was primarily recruited by Ed Warriner as one of the many defensive linemen in the 2011 class. Suited to play defensive end in the 3-4 scheme and tackle in the 4-3, Hounshell's versatility may be his best asset. Quick and powerful for his size, Hounshell will find himself fighting to see the field as an underclassman with the other standout defensive ends in this class.

His experience on the offensive line may not be wasted; a return to the offensive line would not be particularly surprising to relieve the glut of supremely talented defensive ends. On the other hand, Hounshell could very well become an integral part of a Notre Dame's defensive front in the coming years.



Photo Courtesy of Irish Sports Daily

BEN KOYACK
 TE, ★★★★★, 242 pounds, 6'5"
 Oil City High School
 Oil City, Pa.

Notre Dame has a long history of excellent pass-catching tight ends, and Ben Koyack could be next in line. After catching six touchdowns in seven games during his junior season, Koyack was sidelined for the rest of 2009. He came back strong for his senior campaign, catching 62 passes for 1031 yards and 11 touchdowns and was named to Pennsylvania's AAA all-state team.

While Koyack has shown the ability to block to the level his position demands, his strength is his pass-catching ability. His size and ball skills make him a dangerous threat vertically, and he can go up and get passes because of his size and good on-field awareness. Koyack will join the Irish behind junior Tyler Eifert and fifth-year senior Mike Ragone.

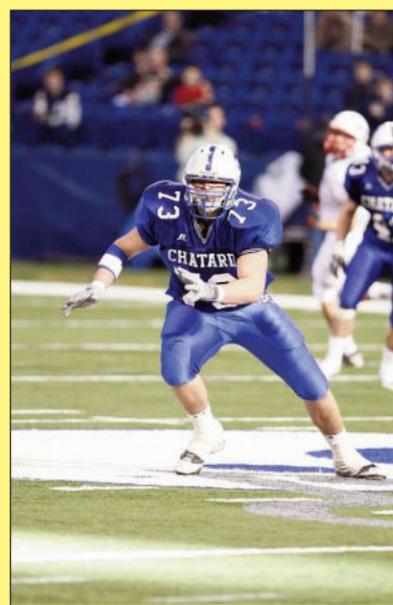


AARON LYNCH
DE, ★★★★★, 240 pounds, 6'6"
Island Coast High School
Cape Coral Fla.

After a slightly rocky recruiting process, Aaron Lynch signed with the Irish as one of the top defensive ends in the country. Lynch originally committed to the Irish early in the process, then switched to Florida State before returning to Notre Dame.

His 31 solo tackles and 10-and-a-half sacks earned him a bid to the U.S. Army All-American Bowl. He excelled early in the week in one-on-one drills, and his high-level performance carried over into the actual game, where he recorded two-and-a-half-sacks.

Lynch enters the Irish roster behind veteran starters Ethan Johnson and Kapron Lewis-Moore, but his pure athletic ability gives him a chance to make his presence felt early in his career.



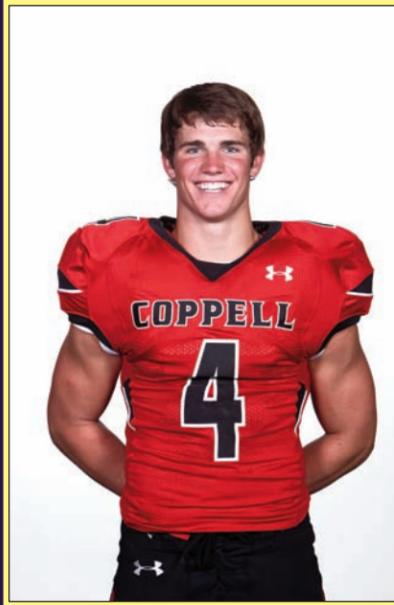
NICK MARTIN
OL, ★★★, 270 pounds, 6'4"
Bishop Chatard High School
Indianapolis, Ind.

Offensive lineman Nick Martin, a two-way standout at Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis, originally committed to Kentucky, where his father played in the 1980s, but in due time instead opted to join his older brother, Irish sophomore Zack Martin, after Notre Dame offered him a scholarship in December. He committed to the Irish on Jan. 11.

Martin started on offense and defense for Bishop Chatard in his senior season and helped the Trojans win the Indiana Class 3A state championship. It was Bishop Chatard's first state title since 2007.

Martin will likely compete for a vacant spot on Notre Dame's offensive line following the departure of fifth-year guard Chris Stewart.

Photo Courtesy of Bishop Chatard High School



CAM McDANIEL
RB, ★★★, 192 pounds, 5'10"
Coppel High School
Coppel Texas

If all prospects were evaluated on their productivity in high school, McDaniel might be among the nation's top prospects. The versatile back rushed for 1,956 yards and 32 touchdowns in his senior season at Coppel against a difficult schedule.

At Notre Dame, he will likely be utilized in a number of ways in Brian Kelly's offense. McDaniel can be expected to contribute in the kick return game as well as running the ball out wide and catching the ball out of the backfield.

Though he lacks elite timed speed, McDaniel's elusiveness helped him post big numbers in high school and will come in handy at the college level. His mix of intangibles will be a nice addition to the Irish backfield.

Photo Courtesy of Coppel High School



TROY NIKLAS
OL, ★★★, 240 pounds, 6'7"
Servite High School
Fullerton, Calif.

Troy Niklas was the last member of this recruiting class to commit, as he waited until National Signing Day to publicly choose Notre Dame over USC.

Niklas starred as a two-way player at Servite High School near Anaheim, Calif., although he was recruited by Notre Dame to be a defensive lineman.

He has good speed but will need to bulk up quickly to be a candidate for playing time at such a deep position in his freshman season.

He joins Stephon Tuitt, Aaron Lynch, Brad Carrico, Chase Hounshell and Tony Springmann in the top defensive line haul in the country. He is unlikely to see meaningful game action in 2011 because of the depth the Irish now carry at that position.

Photo Courtesy of Servite High School



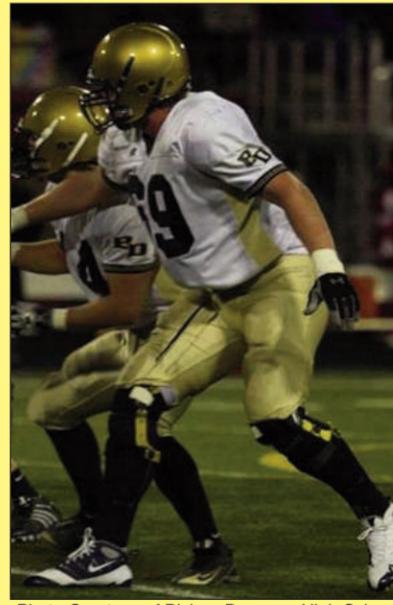
ANTHONY RABASA
LB, ★★★★★, 233 pounds, 6'3"
Columbus High School
Miami, Fla.

A speed-rushing type of player, Anthony Rabasa played defensive end in high school, but will likely join the Notre Dame roster as a linebacker. Rabasa was heavily recruited in Florida, targeted by Miami, Florida and Florida State, but verbally committed to the Irish in July.

He has a body type with room to expand, which should help him round out his game stopping the run. Rabasa recorded 10 sacks during his junior year, and utilizes his speed and field awareness to get to the quarterback, which should make the transfer to linebacker easier.

Rabasa joins the Notre Dame roster behind more-veteran Darius Fleming and returning letter-winners Prince Shembo and Steve Filer.

Photo Courtesy of Irish Sports Daily



TONY SPRINGMANN
DE, ★★★, 275 pounds, 6'6"
Bishop Dwenger High School
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Only traveling two hours from his hometown Fort Wayne, Ind., Tony Springmann already knows two players on the Irish roster — coming from the same high school as sophomore tight end Tyler Eifert and junior receiver John Goodman. He was recruited nationally on both sides of the ball. For Notre Dame he is expected to play on the defensive line, at least initially.

Springmann's top attribute as a defensive end is his speed. He will need to add bulk before he can be expected to compete at the highest level, but not to the point where it slows him down too much and takes away what he does best.

He will compete with a very deep freshman defensive line class, along with returning contributors, for playing time in 2011, although it is unlikely he will play in his freshman campaign.

Photo Courtesy of Bishop Dwenger High School



STEPHON TUITT
DE, ★★★★★, 270 pounds, 6'5"
Monroe Area High School
Monroe, Ga.

Stephon Tuitt committed to Notre Dame in September before decommitting, committing to Georgia Tech, and recommitting to the Irish in a matter of days in mid-January.

Tuitt, arguably the top prospect in the Class of 2011, landed in the top-100 lists of nearly every recruit service. For example, Rivals.com rates him as a five-star prospect and the second best defensive lineman in the country.

His size and impressive speed for a defensive lineman could propel him into the mix of things in his freshman season. Although the Irish return both starters at defensive end, Tuitt should see some meaningful time at the position in 2011. It is only a matter of time before he emerges as a starter and key contributor on the Irish squad.

Photo Courtesy of Walton Tribune



ISHAQ WILLIAMS
OLB, ★★★★★, 242 pounds, 6'5"
Lincoln High School
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Williams played defensive end in high school but has been recruited as an outside linebacker. In his senior year at Lincoln High School in Brooklyn, he recorded 40 tackles, eight sacks and four fumble recoveries.

The four-star recruit was the first of 90 high school players to be named to the Army All-American Bowl and has earned many other honors as well, including being named the 2010 Gatorade New York player of the year and New York Coaches state and city player of the year.

The No. 26 recruit in the ESPNU 150, Williams selected Notre Dame over dozens of offers, including those from Oregon, Ohio State, Florida and USC. He chose to enroll early and is now taking classes at Notre Dame.

Photo Courtesy of Irish Sports Daily

ND survives chaotic period

By SAM WERNER
Sports Writer

As up and down as Notre Dame's season was on the football field, it may have fluctuated even more on the recruiting trail.

There were commitments, decommitments and, rarest of all, recommitments leading up to National Signing Day Wednesday, when the Irish signed 23 new players to join the team next fall.

Mike Frank, who covers recruiting for the ESPN-affiliated website Irish Sports Daily, said the arrival of Irish coach Brian Kelly gave Notre Dame an immediate bump at the beginning of the recruiting process.

"Any time you get a new coach in, you're going to get a lot of intrigue by a lot of prospects," Frank said.

Before the season even started, Kelly used the buzz surrounding his arrival to land a number of elite prospects, including four-star defensive end Aaron Lynch, who committed July 30 during his official visit to Notre Dame. That same day, the Irish also landed three-star linebacker Anthony Rabasa and four-star running back Justice Hayes. When the season kicked off, Kelly already had 15 players verbally committed.

"[Notre Dame] had a great run in the summer of getting a lot of elite players committed," Frank said.

After early-season struggles — including losses to Michigan, Michigan State and Stanford — Frank said some players began to waver in their commitment to Notre Dame.

"Those three in a row were tough for anybody to stomach and that kind of started to

show the cracks in the armor," he said.

The Irish still landed a big commitment from four-star defensive end Stephon Tuitt. Wins against Boston College, Pittsburgh and Western Michigan got the Irish back on track and seemed to assuage the minds of potential recruits — at least, until their now-infamous 35-17 loss to Navy in the Meadowlands.

"Notre Dame obviously turned around and played pretty well there for three games, and then Navy happened," Frank said. "I think a lot of the top kids started to have some doubts about where the program was headed."

In the month that followed, both Lynch and offensive lineman Jordan Prestwood switched their commitment to Florida State and Hayes flipped to Michigan. At his National Signing Day press conference Wednesday, Kelly said Lynch's early commitment made it easier for opposing teams to negatively recruit against Notre Dame.

"They knew their competition," Kelly said. "When [Lynch] committed to us, everybody in the country knew who they had to work against. They didn't have to work against Auburn or Florida or Miami, they just had to beat Notre Dame because he committed to Notre Dame."

The Irish bounced back, though, winning their final four games and allowing just three touchdowns in the process.

"Kids focus on wins," Kelly said. "That's definitely part of the equation here. Winning helps in this process."

After the season ended, the Irish secured commitments from four-star quarterback

Everett Golson and made up for the loss of Hayes by snagging three-star running back Cam McDaniel.

"[McDaniel] is a kid who wants to win more than anything," Frank said. "He's the type of guy who's going to push everyone in front of him. He's one of those guys that's going to really surprise a lot of people once he gets there."

Notre Dame's stretch run apparently caught Lynch's eye, as well. At the Army All-American game Jan. 9, he decommitted from Florida State, but said Notre Dame was not under consideration. A week later on Jan. 15, though, he took an official visit to South Bend, recommitted to the Irish and began classes as an early enrollee just a few days later.

"Our staff just kept at it and we got back to why he made this decision to come to Notre Dame in the first place and we're happy he's here," Kelly said.

The same weekend Lynch recommitted, Kelly and his staff were hard at work securing a pledge from five-star linebacker Ishaq Williams. Williams was down to Notre Dame or Penn State, and was set to take an official visit to State College on Jan. 15, but the night before, Irish defensive coordinator Bob Diaco reportedly visited Williams in his Brooklyn home at 4:30 a.m. and not only got him to cancel his trip to Penn State, but got a verbal commitment on the spot. Like Lynch, Williams enrolled early and is already taking classes at Notre Dame.

"When Bob Diaco came and visited him at the last minute, I think that's where [Williams] said, 'These people really, really want me and this is a good thing for my future,'" Frank said.

Kelly said Diaco's early-morning visit was not the only time the staff went to great lengths to land Williams. He said defensive line coach Mike Elston once sat in his car outside Williams' home for 4 1/2 hours waiting for Williams after one of his high school playoff games.

Just as it looked like things were slowing down for Kelly and his staff, they got one last scare from Tuitt. The defensive end had been taking visits to other schools and Jan. 18 switched his commitment to Georgia Tech. Kelly, Diaco, Elston and recruiting coordinator Chuck Martin immediately flew down to Tuitt's home in Monroe, Ga., and, the next day, Tuitt recommitted to the Irish.

"Having [four coaches] there was really, for us, making a statement and making sure that what we were talking about and what he saw when he came to Notre Dame and what his family saw was really the truth of the matter, and sometimes you have to overcommunicate that message," Kelly said. "We had four coaches there to make sure that message was clear."

Now that all 23 letters of intent are signed and received, the drama of the 2011 recruiting cycle has finally come to a close.

RECRUITING TIMELINE

SAM WERNER



3/20/2010	3* OT Brad Carrico commits to Notre Dame
4/5/2010	4* OT Jordan Prestwood commits to Notre Dame
4/16/2010	3* K Kyle Brindza commits to Notre Dame
4/21/2010	3* CB Matthias Farley commits to Notre Dame
4/24/2010	4* OT Conor Hanratty commits to Notre Dame
4/24/2010	3* DE Tony Springmann commits to Notre Dame
4/24/2010	4* LB Jarrett Grace commits to Notre Dame
4/27/2010	4* TE Ben Koyack commits to Notre Dame
4/29/2010	4* OT Matt Hegarty commits to Notre Dame
6/25/2010	4* S Eilar Hardy commits to Notre Dame
6/28/2010	3* OLB Ben Councill commits to Notre Dame
7/30/2010	3* DE Anthony Rabas commits to Notre Dame
7/30/2010	4* DE Aaron Lynch commits to Notre Dame
7/30/2010	4* RB Justice Hayes commits to Notre Dame
7/31/2010	3* CB Jalen Brown commits to Notre Dame
9/4/2010	Notre Dame defeats Purdue 23-12 to open the season
9/12/2010	3* ATH/WR George Atkinson commits to Notre Dame
9/12/2010	3* CB Josh Atkinson commits to Notre Dame
9/15/2010	4* DE Stephon Tuitt commits to Notre Dame
9/28/2010	4* WR DaVaris Daniels commits to Notre Dame
10/12/2010	Prestwood decommits from Notre Dame
10/23/2010	Notre Dame loses to Navy 35-17
10/30/2010	Notre Dame loses to Tulsa 28-27
10/31/2010	Lynch decommits from Notre Dame
11/15/2010	Lynch commits to Florida State
11/15/2010	Prestwood commits to Florida State
11/22/2010	Hayes decommits from Notre Dame, commits to Michigan
11/27/2010	Notre Dame defeats USC for the first time in eight years, 20-16.
11/29/2010	3* RB Cam McDaniel commits to Notre Dame
12/2/2010	4* QB Everett Golson commits to Notre Dame
12/6/2010	3* CB Bennett Okotcha switches commitment from Wisconsin to Notre Dame
12/31/2010	Notre Dame beats Miami 33-17 at the Sun Bowl, ending the season on a four-game winning streak
1/9/2011	Lynch decommits from Florida State
1/11/2011	3* OT Nick Martin switches commitment from Kentucky to Notre Dame
1/14/2011	4* LB Ishaq Williams commits to Notre Dame
1/15/2011	Lynch recommit to Notre Dame
1/17/2011	3* DE Chase Hounshell switches commitment from Florida to Notre Dame
1/18/2011	Tuitt decommits from Notre Dame, commits to Georgia Tech
1/18/2011	Early enrollees Lynch, Golson, Brindza, Williams and Carrico begin classes at Notre Dame
1/19/2011	Tuitt recommit to Notre Dame
1/31/2011	Okotcha decommits from Notre Dame, commits to Oklahoma



Irish defensive coordinator Bob Diaco led Notre Dame's attempts after its top recruits during the past few months.

DAN JACOBS/The Observer

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Five recruits already adapting to college life

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

While most of Notre Dame's 23 recruits will join the Irish this summer, five made the choice to leave high school early and enroll in classes this spring.

Quarterback Everett Golson, kicker Kyle Brindza, linebacker Ishaq Williams and defensive linemen Aaron Lynch and Brad Carrico are taking classes at Notre Dame and will participate in spring football practices, which begin March 23.

"These young men get this opportunity to really understand Notre Dame and the rigors of the classroom, the community, being in the dorms, finding South Dining Hall, understanding all those things before they have to play in the fall," Irish coach Brian Kelly said.

Lynch, a four-star recruit, and Williams, a five-star recruit, both committed just days before the spring semester began on Jan. 18. Williams committed Jan. 14 and Lynch on Jan. 15.

Lynch had originally committed to Notre Dame over the summer, but switched to Florida State for a brief time in January before recommitting to the Irish.

Brindza, who committed to Notre Dame last spring, originally attempted to enroll an entire year early in order to compete for kicking and punting duties on the 2010 team.

However, Notre Dame admissions declined his request.

Enrolling early allows players extra time to work out with the team and learn the Irish playbook, which could translate into opportunities early in the fall season.

This could be especially critical for Lynch and Carrico, who are among six defensive linemen to sign with the Irish in 2011.

"You would think that with the number of guys who can play that position, somebody might break through at that position. But it's so hard," Kelly said. "The guys that are going to be here, the five guys that are here, they've got a shot too, because we've got a chance to evaluate them against ... Zach

Martin, Taylor Dever ... guys that have played quality competition.

"But I would say that there's a lot of defensive players that are going to get a chance to compete."

The extra time will also give Golson, this year's only quarterback recruit, a chance to establish himself next to quarterbacks Tommy Rees and Dayne Crist, Kelly said.

"I think it becomes pretty clear that Tommy Rees and Everett Golson are two different quarterbacks relative to the style," Kelly said. "I think what you'll see is Tommy Rees and most likely Dayne Crist and the other quarterbacks fit into that category. And then on the other side of the ledger you'll have Everett Golson."

Of the five freshmen who enrolled early in 2010, three saw significant playing time this season.

Rees played in nine games and started four after junior quarterback Dayne Crist had season-ending surgery. He led the Irish to consecutive wins over Utah, Army, USC and Miami in the last four weeks of the season.

Wide receiver T.J. Jones earned a starting position in fall camp, and started seven of the 12 games in which he played. He scored a touchdown in each of his first two games, against Purdue and Michigan, becoming the first freshman to accom-



Photo courtesy of An Rong Xu/The New York Post

Four-star recruit Ishaq Williams has already enrolled at Notre Dame and will likely play outside linebacker for the Irish.

plish such a feat. He finished the season with 23 catches for 306 yards and three touchdowns.

Cornerback Lo Wood played in 11 games.

"The football element is big,

but the assimilation into being a Notre Dame student is really what [enrolling early] is about," Kelly said.

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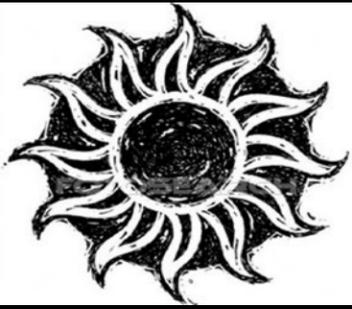
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Sundance launches new films and stars

By COURTNEY COX
Scene Writer

The Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, has been the breeding ground for some of America's quirkiest indie flicks as well as some of the most stunningly realistic portraits of human life. It has launched films like "Precious" and "Little Miss Sunshine" on a trajectory ending in success. It is a beacon of creativity in an industry so often concerned with receiving the highest numbers at the box office. The film festival took place this year from Jan. 20-30.

Like Crazy

Winner of the Grand Jury Prize for U.S. Dramatic Competition, this film has themes that would lead one to believe it is a stereotypical chick flick (first love, long distance romance, youth). Sundance, however, does not award Grand Jury prizes to films that lack creativity and emotional depth. It will tug at the

heartstrings of audiences of all ages and will catapult its stars (Anton Yelchin and Felicity Jones) to bona fide movie stardom. It also features Jennifer Lawrence, who captivated audiences at Sundance in last year's U.S. Dramatic Competition winner, "Winter's Bone."

How To Die In Oregon

This film, winner of the Grand Jury Prize for U.S. Documentary Competition, touches on a subject very few like to think about. It follows the terminally ill of Oregon (the first state to legalize physician assisted suicide) and their desire to die with dignity. Sure to be controversial, this film takes audiences through some of the most important contemplations on life and why some choose to exit early.

My Idiot Brother

Paul Rudd stars in this comedy about getting knocked down and relying on the goodness of one's

family. His sisters pass him around until he eventually gets his life back in order. It promises to be one of the most endearingly funny portrayals of family life and the obligations that surround it. The cast, including Emily Mortimer, Elizabeth Banks, Zooey Deschanel and Rashida Jones, should provide the perfect backdrop to Rudd's inherent charm.

Cedar Rapids

Ed Helms as a salesman? Whoever thought he could pull it off! The actor, famous for his portrayal as Andy Bernard on "The Office," stars in this film about salesmen attending a conference in Cedar Rapids. The characters, including John C. Reilly, seize the conference as an opportunity for personal growth. It may not be the most artistically moving film at Sundance, but it's sure to be a lighthearted and fun film.

Contact Courtney Cox at ccox3@nd.edu

STARS BLEND WARMTH AND STYLE AT SUNDANCE

By COURTNEY COX
Scene Writer

Winter is perhaps one of the most difficult times of the year to display one's sense of style. The bitter cold can force South Bend inhabitants into a fashion rut, but one way to combat this season's lack of sartorial appeal is to seek inspiration from stars at Sundance Film Festival. Celebrities most often seen sauntering down the streets of Los Angeles in dresses and light jackets are forced to bundle up for the Park City, Utah, weather.

Elizabeth Banks

This basic black look is given a cozy update with a warm camel trench and a leopard scarf. Using small animal print accessories, like a scarf, is a fun way to add interest to a wardrobe while providing warmth at the same time. Tread lightly with animal print, however, because it can often veer into the realm of inappropriate or trashy. Smaller is certainly better when it comes to leopard accents.

Kate Bosworth

Kate makes a flowy maxi dress transition into winter by adding a shearling bomber jacket. While a floor length dress is highly impractical in this weather, a cool bomber jacket is not. A shearling bomber jacket is perfect for the winter because it provides extra warmth without adding plenty of bulky layers. It's one of the best investments a shopper can make for winter because it can be worn every day.

Elizabeth Olsen

Considering she's Mary Kate and Ashley's kid sister, it's no surprise that Elizabeth Olsen was one of the most stylish up-and-comers at Sundance this year. Though the sun may not be shining in Utah, Olsen's bright marigold purse is a great accent to any drab winter wardrobe. She also masters the art of wearing a hat with style and the raspberry color is a great accent to her light bag. Olsen's ensemble proves that a few well-chosen pieces can transform an otherwise simple outfit.

Demi Moore

Mrs. Kutcher looks extremely chic and comfortable in layers of slouchy black. The layered look can be difficult to do right. It can overwhelm thin silhouettes and create bulk in undesirable places. Demi manages to do it right, however, by sticking to a monochromatic color palate. It minimizes the effect that oversized clothing tends to have. Slouchy layers are the perfect trend to try during the winter because they protect from the cold while still looking extremely fashionable.

As important as clothing choice is the makeup choices one makes during the winter. The common thread unifying all the celebrities pictured is their fresh face. They define their features and enhance their complexion with light amounts of blush and bronzer. It gives them an appropriate glow without ever appearing orange.

These stars prove that the Sundance Film Festival is more than a showcase for creativity in filmmaking. It is also the perfect place to search for style tips during the harsh winter weather.

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NBA

Drexler expects London team

Associated Press

LONDON — NBA great Clyde Drexler can foresee a league franchise being based in London, maybe even within the next decade.

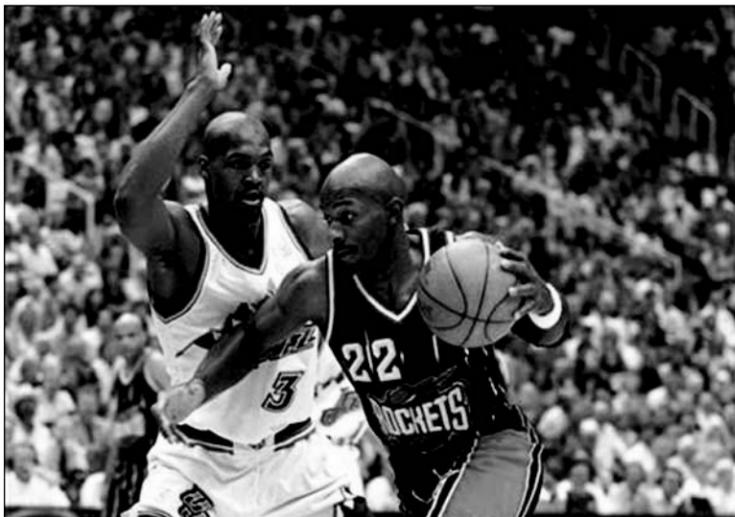
"Clyde the Glide," in the British capital to help promote the first regular-season NBA games to be played in London in March, said Wednesday that basketball has proven itself in Europe and expansion to the continent may just be a matter of time.

"If the demand continues, that could actually happen," Drexler told The Associated Press. "We're probably 10 years or so away, but that is not too farsighted to happen."

The NBA has played preseason games in London for the past four years, packing fans into the O2 Arena. Late last year, the league decided it was time to emulate the NHL and NFL, both of which have played regular-season games in London.

The Toronto Raptors and New Jersey Nets will play a pair of games at the O2 on March 4-5.

"Basketball is a global sport," said Drexler, who spent more than a decade playing for the Portland Trail Blazers. "There's



Former NBA great Clyde Drexler, right, is confident that an NBA team will be in London within the next decade.

a demand around the world, and David Stern our commissioner is trying to facilitate that demand."

And the distance, Drexler said, won't be a problem for anyone.

"Even games coming from Oregon to New York are far, but that never stopped anything," Drexler said. "It's about as far as New York to London. It's all relative. Every team has a private charter. They can go all

over the world."

One way to push the game to the soccer-loving public in Britain is NBA Basketball Week, a series of youth-oriented events that will take place in five cities leading up to the two games.

"Fans from all over will get a chance to see what NBA action is all about," Drexler said. "They'll have a lot of clinics, jam sessions. That'll be happening daily."

NFL

Matthews, Polamalu battle for better hair

Associated Press

DALLAS — Vince Lombardi surely would've loved to have Clay Matthews or Troy Polamalu on those great Packers teams of the 1960s.

Their hair? Uhhh, that might've been a problem.

At a Super Bowl where there's been nearly as much focus on shampoos and conditioners as zone blitzes and passing schemes, one of Lombardi's former players huffed at all the attention going to all that hair, from Polamalu's out-of-control curls to Matthews' stringy locks.

Heck, one might think there's a hair convention in town, not the biggest football game of the year.

"Coach Lombardi didn't like long hair and he didn't like facial hair," said Jerry Kramer, a Hall of Fame lineman for the guy whose name is on the Super Bowl trophy.

"It would've been, 'Comb your hair! Cut your hair!' He wasn't very shy about telling you that. We were all pretty trim and neat. We just didn't have all that hair."

My, how times have changed.

Polamalu and Matthews have such famous manes that each has landed his own shampoo endorsement deal. The Steelers safety pitches for Head & Shoulders when he's not donning his helmet and shoulder pads, while the Packers linebacker recently landed an endorsement deal with Suave.

They aren't the only ones going hairy at this Super Bowl. There's everything from dreadlocks to glorified mullets, with the league's most famous beard thrown in for good measure. Brett Keisel has two Facebook pages dedicated solely to the Santa Claus-like growth on his face, and he plays right along when asked about how he takes care of all that hair.

"There's not much maintenance," Keisel quipped. "I just comb it out every once in a while, brush the birds and squirrels out."

Jerry Johnson winces when he hears that kind of talk. He's the lead instructor at the Aveda Institute of Dallas, where he teaches others how to style hair.

"My goal is never to change people. I want them to be who they want to be," Johnson said Wednesday. "My goal is to sort of polish the rough

edges. He's a good-looking man, with good features. If he wants to wear a full beard like that, let me shape it up for him. Right now, he looks like a homeless person."

Johnson invited Polamalu to come sit in his chair, as well.

"I would love to get hold of that crazy, curly mess," the stylist said. "Nobody has figured out how to give him a haircut for that texture without it getting all big and frizzy."

Matthews and Polamalu, perhaps mindful of the endorsement dollars at stake, have played right along with all the queries about coiffures.

The Packers star even doled out a little good-natured trash talk, without any fear of getting called for clipping.

"Troy may have won defensive player of the year," Matthews said. "But there's no doubt that I've won best hair in the game on the defensive side. So I'm real happy about that. I think it's a unanimous decision."

Polamalu was more diplomatic about his rival, noting that both attended college at Southern Cal.

"There must be something in the water at USC," he said, breaking in a grin nearly as big as his hair. "We'll just call it even for now."

On media day, Polamalu disappointed by showing up with his hair pulled back tightly in a bun, far from the massive 'do he'll display in the game, the tresses spilling out from the back of his helmet in tribute to his Samoan heritage.

When a reporter urged him to turn it loose, Polamalu declined.

"This is my media day hair," he said. "You must only come on Super Bowl days. If you were in Pittsburgh, this is how it is during the week."

Matthews is short on details when asked about Green Bay's plans to stop Ben Roethlisberger and the Steelers' rugged offense. There is no such hesitancy when asked what is more important: shampoo or conditioner?

"You need shampoo, obviously, to keep it clean. You can't have it greasy and nasty out there on game day, especially when you're putting the helmet on," Matthews said. "But the conditioner really seals the deal. If you can use a little conditioner, help lock in the moisture, keep the fly boys down, that's really going to help you out."

TENNIS

Clijsters leads Belgians against U.S.

Associated Press

ANTWERP, Belgium — Her Australian Open trophy in tow, Kim Clijsters is leading a strong Belgian team against an injury-depleted United States in the Fed Cup this weekend.

Belgium would have been an overwhelming favorite to reach the quarterfinals, but the sudden retirement of Justine Henin last week leaves the match more balanced against a U.S. team that has reached the last two finals without the injured Williams sisters.

Clijsters, who beat Li Na for her fourth Grand Slam title last weekend, said Wednesday she still lacked sleep after her long trip home from Melbourne. However, she expects to be ready to play the opening singles Saturday on an indoor hard court.

"I was able to make the switch real fast," Clijsters said.

Her Australian Open cup

will be prominently displayed at the 12,500-capacity Antwerp Sports Palace.

Based on ranking, No. 48 Bethanie Mattek-Sands and No. 61 Melanie Oudin of the U.S. should be no match for No. 2 Clijsters and No. 26 Yanina Wickmayer. But the U.S. record in recent years shows the Americans haven't needed the Williams sisters to advance. They reached the last two finals, losing each to Italy.

Venus Williams is sidelined after injuring her groin at the Australian Open, while Serena has been out with a foot injury since Wimbledon.

The U.S. team also includes Vania King and doubles specialist Liezel Huber.

"It's almost as a family reuniting, these Fed Cup weeks," U.S. captain Mary Joe Fernandez said.

And facing a favorite, often away from home, no longer scares them.

"It is always a challenge when you're an underdog, but it is something our team real-

ly thrives on," Fernandez said. "It brings out the best in our team."

The Belgians have already heeded the warning.

"They perform great when they feel they are part of a team," Clijsters said.

Mattek-Sands already hit her groove early this season, helping the U.S. mixed team win the Hopman Cup.

Clijsters is thriving in just about every situation these days. She made the final in Sydney before winning her first Australian Open crown, which puts her within reach of regaining the No. 1 ranking.

Wickmayer suffered through a nasty cough and cold, losing in the second round in Melbourne.

The Americans will be targeting the Wickmayer match on the opening day. After two singles on Saturday, there's reverse singles and a possible deciding doubles on Sunday.

The U.S. hasn't won the Cup since 2000, a 5-0 win over Spain.

CLASSIFIEDS

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 024 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.

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PERSONAL

I think Bigfoot is blurry, that's the problem.

It's not the photographer's fault. Bigfoot is blurry, and that's extra scary to me.

There's a large, out-of-focus monster roaming the countryside.

Run, he's fuzzy, get out of here.

My apartment is infested with koala bears.

Its the cutest infestation ever. Much better than cockroaches.

I turn the lights on and a bunch of koala bears scatter.

I'm liike, come back!

I want to hold one of you, and feed you a leaf.

Every time I go and shave, I assume there's someone else on the planet shaving. So I say, 'I'm gonna go shave, too.'

I bought a seven-dollar pen because I always lose pens and I got sick of not caring.

I had a stick of CareFree gum, but it didn't work. I felt pretty good while I was blowing that bubble, but as soon as the gum lost its flavor, I was back to pondering my mortality. - Mitch Hedberg

NFL

Belichick wins third coach of year honor

Associated Press

DALLAS — Bill Belichick is closing in on Don Shula.

The New England coach Bill Belichick won The Associated Press 2010 NFL Coach of the Year award on Wednesday, the third time Belichick has earned the honor. Belichick, who also won in 2003 and 2007, now trails only Don Shula, a four-time winner of the award.

For leading the Patriots to a 14-2 record, the best in the league, Belichick received 30 votes from a nationwide panel of 50 media members who regularly cover the NFL. That easily beat Raheem Morris, who led a turnaround in Tampa Bay and got 11½ votes.

Belichick has overseen a transition in New England to a younger team, particularly on defense. Of course, he still has Offensive Player of the Year Tom Brady at quarterback.

"I will say the foundation of the Patriots organization, which starts with Mr. Kraft and Coach Belichick, has not changed since the day I arrived," Brady said. "They have and will always do what is in the best interest of the team, and they will continue to find selfless players that love to work hard, compete and strive to be the best they can possibly be."

Then Belichick makes them even better.

"He really stays on top of us," wide receiver Wes Welker said. "He makes sure that we're not getting overconfident or believing in the noise outside the locker room and understand that every game's tough in the NFL."

Belichick's record with the Patriots is 126-50, plus a 14-5 mark in the postseason, with losses in the last three tries with teams that went a collective 40-8. His career winning percentage of .716 ranks eighth, tied with Hall of Famer Paul Brown, and no other coach has four 14-victory regular seasons.

This might have been Belichick's most impressive work as the Patriots retooled much of the roster, yet had a dominant regular season in

which they won their final eight games.

"When you have so many things that go into a team, so many things that go into what's happened over the last decade, which ones do you point to?" he said. "You can make an argument for a lot of different things. In the end, it's each individual team and that collection of players that particular year and that particular time during the season or whatever it is, that was able to go out there and be successful."

Belichick basically rebuilt the defense, particularly the secondary, where rookie Devin McCourty made the Pro Bowl.

He showed confidence in BenJarvus Green-Ellis as his main running back, and Green-Ellis rushed for 1,008 yards. Belichick claimed Danny Woodhead when the Jets cut him, and Woodhead was a dynamic piece of the offense and special teams.

Then there was the Randy Moss case.

Eager to remove the recalcitrant receiver, Belichick stole a third-round draft pick from Minnesota in early October for Moss, who lasted a month with the Vikings, then was cut.

Meanwhile, Belichick traded with Seattle for Deion Branch, the 2005 Super Bowl MVP with the Patriots. Branch had a rebirth in New England, making the Moss deal look even better.

And making the Patriots a better team — typical of what Belichick has done since getting his second chance to be a head coach. The first was a flop with the Browns, where he went 37-45 in four seasons and alienated nearly everyone in Cleveland.

"When I chose him, people at the league office, people in this town, sent me tapes of him in Cleveland and said, 'You don't want to hire this guy,'" Patriots owner Robert Kraft said. "And, remember, he went 5-11 (in his first year with Patriots) and we gave up a No. 1 draft choice (to the Jets to get him). People thought we were nuts."

"So I think that probably was one of the best decisions I've made in football."

NCAA BASKETBALL

Syracuse ends four-game skid at UConn

Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — Rick Jackson had 13 points and 13 rebounds to lead No. 17 Syracuse to a 66-58 victory over No. 6 Connecticut on Wednesday night and the Orange avoided the first five-game losing streak in coach Jim Boeheim's 35 seasons.

Brandon Triche had 16 points for the Orange (19-4, 6-4 Big East), who had lost four straight game under Boeheim three times before this streak.

Freshman Jeremy Lamb had 22 points to lead the Huskies (17-4, 5-4), who have lost two straight — both at home — since a six-game winning streak.

The game featured the most wins ever in Division I between two coaches. Boeheim came in with 847, seven more than Jim Calhoun, who is also a Hall of Famer.

The 1,687 total bettered the mark of 1,665 set by Texas Tech's Bob Knight and Oklahoma State's Eddie Sutton on Feb. 25, 2006.



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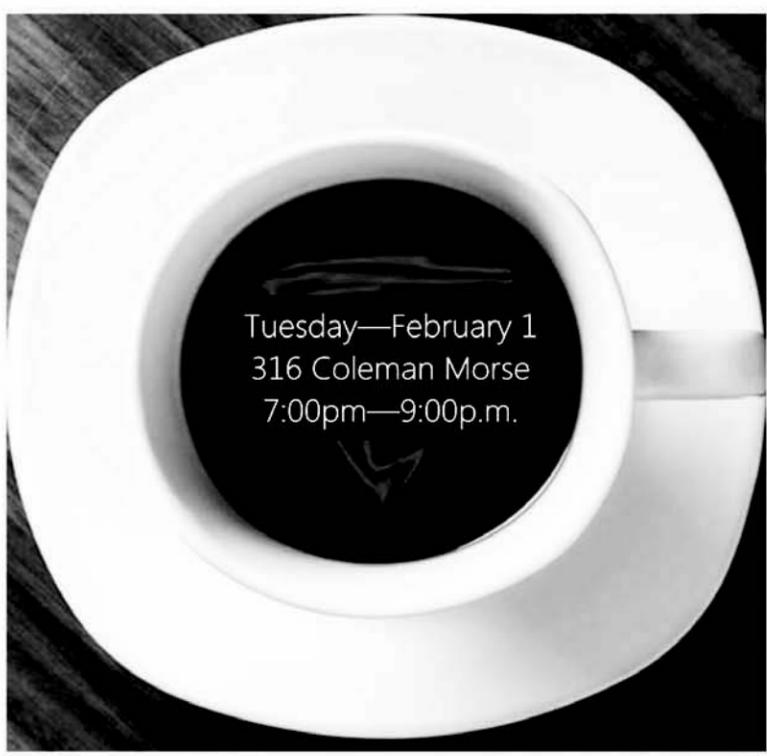
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Please recycle The Observer.

NBA

Sixers down Nets; Cavs lose 22nd straight

Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — Lou Williams scored 26 points and Jrue Holiday had 11 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds for his first career triple-double to lead the Philadelphia 76ers to a 106-92 victory over the New Jersey Nets on Wednesday night.

Jodie Meeks added 10 of his 15 points in a 14-2 third-quarter run that broke the game open and led to the ejection of Nets coach Avery Johnson for arguing a non-call after point guard Devin Harris apparently was fouled by Elton Brand.

Andre Iguodala added 16 points and Brand had 15 and 10 rebounds for the 76ers, who won their fifth in six games and beat the Nets for the third time in as many meetings this season.

Harris, Brook Lopez and Kris Humphries all had 16 points for New Jersey, which lost for only the second time in its last seven home games.

Leading by nine at the half, Philadelphia took command early in the third quarter when Meeks and center Spencer Hawes scored all the points in the big run that turned a seven-point game into a 69-48 laugh.

Meeks started the run with a three-point play and a 3-point-er, and Hawes hit an alley-oop on a pass from Holiday for a 61-46 lead.

After Travis Outlaw scored inside for New Jersey, there were couple of possessions before Johnson got tossed for the first time as the Nets coach.

Harris was trying to dribble near the foul line and was stopped cold by Brand, who seemed to paw him with both hands to the chest.

Replays showed Brand never touched the ball and seconds later Harris was stripped of the ball. Players on both teams stood and waited for a call.

When none was made, Meeks went the other way for a layup.

Johnson simply lost it and went after official Brent

Barnaky and got two quick technical fouls and was ejected.

Johnson walked off the court to chants of "Avery, Avery, Avery" and former Raptors coach and Nets assistant Sam Mitchell ran the team for the rest of the game.

New Jersey was able to cut the lead to single digits a couple of times the rest of the way, but Philadelphia always seemed to make a big play, getting a three-point play and a 3-point field goal from Williams late in the third quarter and a three-point play by Evan Turner also late in the third.

Pacers 117, Cavaliers 112

The Cavaliers' long losing streak is almost history.

Cleveland's slide reached 22 games — one shy of the NBA's single-season record — as Danny Granger scored 23 points and Darren Collison added 22 to lead the Indiana Pacers to a win over the Cavaliers, now winless in 2011 and losers of 32 of 33.

Unless they can win on Friday in Memphis, the Cavs (8-41) will match the league's all-time mark for consecutive futility, a record shared by the 1995-96 expansion Vancouver Grizzlies and 1997-98 Denver Nuggets.

The Cavs had several chances to pull out their first win since Dec. 18, but Anthony Parker missed a runner in the lane with 18.8 seconds left and Granger put it away by making four free throws in the final 17.1 seconds.

Ramon Sessions scored 25 points and Antawn Jamison had 21 for Cleveland.

The Cavs fought until the end, something they rarely did while going 0-for-January. This was better, but still not good enough.

Just like comic Bill Murray's character in the movie, "Groundhog Day," it was more of the same on Groundhog Day for the Cavs.

With the score tied 110-all, Collison drained a 3-pointer

from the left side with 1:08 left, forcing the Cavs to call a timeout. Christian Eyenga then hit a tough jumper to pull Cleveland within one, and when Parker grabbed a miss by Granger, the Cavs seemed to be in business.

But Parker's short shot in the lane rimmed out, and Granger was fouled. He made both free throws to give the Pacers a 115-112 lead. On Cleveland's next possession, Sessions drove in the paint and drew two defenders before dumping the ball underneath to J.J. Hickson, who fumbled it and the Cavs' chance slipped away.

When the horn sounded, Cavs coach Byron Scott dropped his head and a small but boisterous Cleveland crowd headed toward the exits and another cold ride home.

The Pacers improved to 4-0 this season over the Cavs, and Indiana won its second straight under interim coach Frank Vogel, who replaced the fired Jim O'Brien last week.

Before the game, Vogel joked about not being well known outside the Pacers locker room. He went to lunch on Wednesday with center Roy Hibbert and wasn't recognized.

"People don't know who I am," Vogel cracked. "I'm not surprised. A number of folks came up and asked for Roy's autograph. I may as well have been the ballboy. That's fine with me."

Cleveland has been beyond bad of late. Before taking the lead in the third quarter on Sessions' three-point play with 1:15 left, the Cavs had gone more than 217 playing minutes without holding a lead.

The Cavs' struggles and the remnants of the powerful Midwest blizzard combined to keep people away from Quicken Loans Arena in droves.

The 20,000-seat building was only about one-third filled and it didn't take long for those in attendance to lose interest. The Cavs missed their first 10 shots and fell behind



Pacers forward Tyler Hansbrough backs down Cavs forward Joey Graham during Indiana's 117-112 victory over Cleveland Wednesday.

14-2 before finally making their first field goal. But even when Cleveland does something right these days, it seems to backfire.

Cavs swingman Alonzo Gee powered down the lane and delivered a powerful, two-handed dunk that nearly sent some of his teammates on Cleveland's bench onto the floor. But Gee was slapped with a technical for hanging on the rim, and the Pacers responded by going on a 15-3 run to open a 17-point lead.

The Cavs didn't cave, though.

Manny Harris made a 3-pointer with 3.9 seconds left in the quarter to cap an 18-6 run that pulled Cleveland within 59-54 at halftime. They were within two to start the fourth, and for a while, it seemed as if it would finally be the Cavaliers' night.

They're still waiting for it.

Grizzlies 102, Timberwolves 84

Rudy Gay had 22 points, seven assists and seven rebounds, and Zach Randolph added 23 points and 13 boards to lead the Memphis Grizzlies to a victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Wednesday night.

Sam Young scored 18 points and the Grizzlies dominated

the league's best rebounding team on the boards, 47-38, to win their fourth straight game.

Michael Beasley scored 19 points for the Timberwolves and Kevin Love had just 10 points and 10 rebounds, narrowly getting his 34th straight double-double. Love is hoping to make the Western Conference All-Star team, but he was thoroughly outplayed by Randolph, one of his primary competitors for a spot.

The Grizzlies limited Love to four points on 1-for-4 shooting in the first three quarters, opening up a 22-point lead that turned the fourth quarter into garbage time.

The Grizzlies are the best team in the league at forcing turnovers, and they feasted on the mistake-prone Timberwolves all night. They scored 26 points off 17 Minnesota turnovers and improved to a season-best two games over .500 (26-24).

Beating the worst team in the West wouldn't seem to be a big deal, but it actually was a sign of progress for the young and improving Grizzlies. They have had a tendency to play down to their competition this season, losing to Golden State, Washington, Cleveland, Sacramento and New Jersey twice.

But this game was never in doubt.

Memphis ripped off a 10-0 run midway through the first quarter and never trailed the rest of the way.

Gay showed everyone why the Timberwolves tried to sign the restricted free agent this summer. The smooth small forward, who signed a max contract to stay in Memphis, did a little bit of everything, getting to the bucket, knocking down 3-pointers and scoring in transition.

Randolph and Marc Gasol took care of Love down low, muscling him out off the block and rendering him obsolete for most of the game.

The game featured a matchup of two of the NBA's double-double machines in Love and Randolph. They are two of just four players in the NBA to average at least 20 points and 10 rebounds per game, but it was Randolph who had his way with it from the start.

The burly Randolph had eight points and six boards in the first half, and more importantly limited Love to just two points and four boards on the other end.



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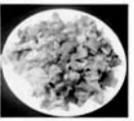


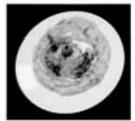
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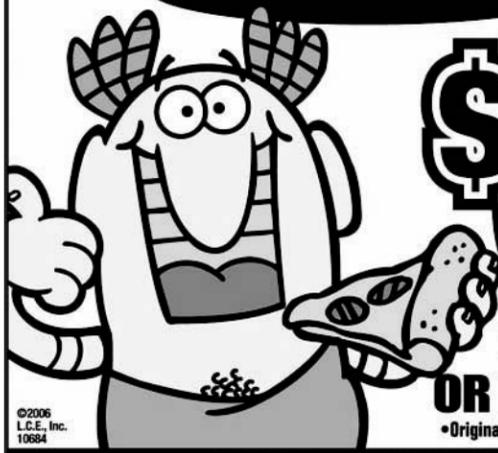
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NCAA BASKETBALL

Indiana takes down second straight ranked team

Associated Press

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Suddenly, beating ranked opponents is becoming a regular thing for Indiana.

Six days after snapping a 19-game losing streak against Top 25 foes, the Hoosiers did it again Wednesday night — and this time the fans didn't even storm the court.

Juniors Tom Pritchard and Verdell Jones each scored 12 points, and the Hoosiers led from start to finish, holding off two second-half comebacks by No. 18 Minnesota for a 60-57 victory.

"Last week's win definitely boosted our confidence. I think we got five straight stops at the end of that game and we got a couple of more like that tonight," Pritchard said. "I think we've grown into being a good team."

The Hoosiers (12-11, 3-7 Big Ten) still have plenty to prove, but they are making strides.

On Wednesday, three of Indiana's projected opening-day starters — Maurice Creek (fractured knee), Guy-Marc Michel (ineligible) and Christian Watford (broken hand) — were dressed in street clothes. A

fourth, Jones, come off the bench with inflammation in his right knee. It was Jones' first game action since Jan. 20.

And yet after watching Minnesota (16-6, 5-5) cut a 16-point lead to one with 3:05 to go, the Hoosiers buckled down and played the way coach Tom Crean expects.

"The accountability in the huddle from player to player was finally real," Crean said. "It was direct, in the sense of 'We've got to finish this out.' In all those huddles at the end, all they were talking about was finishing. When this team plays on edge, and if they can continue to develop belief, they're going to be really good."

Minnesota (16-6, 5-5) can already see the difference.

When these teams last met, Jan. 4 in Minneapolis, it was the Gophers who held on for a 67-63 win.

This time, the Hoosiers never let Minnesota take the lead or even tie the score.

Austin Hollins missed the first chance to tie it when he clanked a free throw with 3:05 to go. Then, in the closing seconds, Blake Hoffarber, Minnesota's best 3-point shooter, had a chance to force overtime with a

3 from the left wing. It hit the front of the rim, Indiana freshman Victor Oladipo grabbed the rebound and cradled the ball in his arms as time ran out.

"You've got to set the tone and we didn't do that," coach Tubby Smith said. "We weren't doing any of the little things. They were outworking us and outshooting us, simple as that."

Indiana has now beaten two ranked teams in the same season for the first time since 2007-08, and the Hoosiers came within one basket of sweeping three straight Top 25 games. They lost 84-83 in overtime Sunday at No. 25 Michigan State.

Their next chance for No. 3, something Indiana hasn't done since 2005-06, could come Tuesday night at rival Purdue.

How much has changed in a week?

After beating then No. 20 Illinois 52-49, students rushed the court and Crean jumped up in the air in the hallway. This time, Crean and his players went into the stands to high-five fans.

"Everybody's on the same page now, and our communication has gone way up," Pritchard said after one of the best games of his three-year



Minnesota center Colton Iverson lays up a shot during the Hoosiers' 60-47 win over the Gophers Wednesday.

career.

The Gophers were playing again without point guard Al Nolen and it showed.

They struggled to get the ball inside, opened the game just 3 of 15 from the field and dug themselves into a 24-10 hole midway through the first half. At halftime, they still trailed 33-21.

That's when Minnesota finally rallied. Hoffarber and Hollins sparked an 11-4 run to get Minnesota to 39-34. Hoffarber finished with 15 points, while Hollins had 13.

The Hoosiers, however, answered with an 11-0 run to make it 50-34 with 9:48 left.

But the Gophers weren't finished.

NBA

Durant's dominance, 43 points lead Thunder over Hornets

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Kevin Durant continued a scoring tear with 43 points and 10 rebounds and led a key fourth-quarter run and the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the New Orleans Hornets 104-93 on Wednesday night.

Durant eclipsed 40 points for the third time in four games, and he leads the NBA with five 40-point games this season.

The league's scoring leader hit two free throws, a jumper and a 3-pointer from the right wing, and then a driving foul-line jumper during a 10-2 run that put the Thunder in control midway through the fourth quarter.

David West had 20 points and 15 rebounds and Chris Paul scored 15 points for New Orleans, which has lost three of four following a 10-game winning streak.

The win put Oklahoma City a half-game ahead of the Hornets for fourth place in the Western Conference and clinched the season series for the Thunder.

The Hornets pulled out a 91-89 win against Oklahoma City just nine days earlier in New Orleans, with Paul coming up with a steal in the final 15 seconds that led to West's winning basket.

This time, Durant ensured there would be no late-game meltdown by the Thunder.

His hot stretch extended Oklahoma City's six-point lead to 98-84 with 5:44 to play, and the Hornets couldn't mount a comeback. Durant scored 47 points at Minnesota and then 40 against Washington in back-to-back victories last week that both went past regulation, and he shot 14 for 19 from the field in his latest scoring outburst.

Jeff Green added 12 points and Serge Ibaka had eight points, 12 rebounds and six blocks as the Thunder bounced back from a

loss to Miami on Sunday. Oklahoma City hasn't lost back-to-back home games since December 2009.

New Orleans' David Andersen scored a season-high 13 points while helping to fill in for the injured Emeka Okafor (left oblique strain). The Hornets also lost Trevor Ariza to a sprained right ankle in the third quarter, when Oklahoma City turned the game around by outscoring New Orleans 32-17.

Durant capped a personal 6-0 run by connecting on a fallaway jumper along the right baseline with 0.2 seconds left in the third quarter to put the Thunder up 81-72.

Daequan Cook stretched the lead to 12 by opening the fourth with a 3-pointer from the right wing after Nick Collison had saved the ball in the opposite corner of the court.

Willie Green and Andersen hit 3-pointers on back-to-back trips to get the Hornets within six, and the Hornets were back within 88-82 after Quincy Pondexter's jumper on the left baseline before Durant put it away.

The Thunder had a string of sellouts snapped but still drew 17,849 fans while crews were using construction equipment and dump trucks to clean snow off downtown streets after a rare blizzard dropped a foot of snow in some areas around the city.

Paul was carried off the floor by two trainers, then limped to the locker room after rolling his left ankle on the top of Ibaka's right shoe as he drove to the basket midway through the first quarter.

The Hornets scored on just one of their next five possessions as Oklahoma City put together an 11-2 run and went up 25-18 after Collison's jumper in the lane.

Andersen scored 10 of New Orleans' first 14 points of the

second quarter to lead a comeback, and his jumper put the Hornets back on top 39-38 just before Paul returned to the lineup. Andersen hadn't scored

more than nine points in a game all season, then did it in a 6-minute span against Oklahoma City.

Paul's 3-pointer from the right

wing started a 7-0 run by the Hornets, and New Orleans led 55-47 before Durant closed the first half with a jumper from the top of the key for the Thunder.



University Resources for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Questioning Students

The Core Council for Gay and Lesbian Students

(Information, education, and resources)

Contact: Sr. Sue Dunn, OP, 1-5550 or Eddie Velazquez at velazqu@nd.edu

Office of Campus Ministry

(Annual retreat for gay/lesbian/questioning students and their friends; pertinent library resources) in 304 Co-Mo; discussion and support

Contact: Fr. Joe Carey, CSC, at 1-7800

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Brey

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squad that has not won a Big East game in over a year, a streak going back 21 games to a 51-50 win over Marquette last January. But looking back to last year's defeat at the hands of winless Rutgers on the road, the Irish are looking to do nothing different from their big 56-51 road win in Pittsburgh Jan. 24.

"Especially going on the road, we want to leave it all on the floor, which was something that gave us the victory," senior guard Ben Hansbrough said.

Hansbrough took control of that game, outscoring Pittsburgh (20-2, 8-1) 13-12 by himself in the final 10 minutes of the game, finishing with 19 points and 7 assists. Brey acknowledged Hansbrough's outstanding play, and wants to continue giving him the ball to take control of the game against the Blue Demons.

"Ben does a great job when we get the ball in his hands and let him make his reads," Brey said. "It's a luxury to have a guard who can just make decisions at the end of the clock like that."

Against Pittsburgh, Notre Dame took advantage of its slow-burn offense, rushing the Panthers into taking shots while holding them to a sea-

son-low 51 points.

"The one thing about burning it like that is that you have to be patient and we have a veteran group that believes in that," Brey said. "It's a very drastic style of play which means less shots and touches but it just shows the belief that this group has in the system."

But DePaul looks to counter the Irish's slow-burn style of play with the speed and versatility of their pair of freshmen leading scorers, power forward Cleveland Melvin and guard Brandon Young. In last Thursday's 71-60 loss to South Florida, Melvin led the team with 17 points and four blocks while Young added 11 points and three assists. The size of the Blue Demons could pose trouble for the Irish as Melvin is paired up with six-foot-eleven junior center Kryz Faber, who had 16 points and six rebounds in Tampa.

Meanwhile, the Irish have lost sophomore Mike Broghammer for the year after he struggled to stay healthy with tendinitis in both knees. The power forward played sparingly in ten games this season, averaging 1.8 points and 1 rebound a game.

The Irish look to continue their three-game win streak while the Blue Demons look to break theirs tonight at Allstate Arena. The game will be televised on ESPN at 9 p.m.

Contact Andrew Gastelum at agastell@nd.edu



SARAH O'CONNOR/The Observer

Irish forward Tyrone Nash goes up for a hook shot over a Marquette defender Jan. 22 in Purcell Pavilion. The Irish take on DePaul today.

Atang

continued from page 20

up to this point in the current indoor season, as well. She won the Notre Dame Invitational, at a distance of 14.94 meters, in addition to placing second in the Bob Eubanks Open (14.26 meters) and third at the Indiana Relays (15.10 meters).

The strong performances she has shown the past two seasons have earned the praise of her coach.

"Rudy has been our best thrower in the shot put the last couple of years," Irish coach Tim Connelly said. "She should be a Big East scorer [again]."

While Connelly and the rest of the Irish have benefitted from Atang's presence, they almost never had the opportunity. The Irish did not pursue Atang out of high school, and she nearly went to school elsewhere, before deciding to attend Notre Dame on a hunch.

"I was actually getting recruited by Rice University, and Notre Dame wasn't recruiting me," Atang said. "But last minute, for some reason, I just decided to come to Notre

Dame."

Atang, a double major in science pre-professional studies and anthropology, eventually worked her way onto the squad. Within a few years, she emerged into one of the premier throwers in the conference.

But Atang had to break through a potential set back this offseason. She needed to have surgery on her ankle after doctors discovered her tibia had extra bone growth. Her expected recovery time was a minimum of eight weeks. She was working out again within four.

Currently, Atang believes she is nearly fully recovered.

"I think pretty much now I'm back to normal, surprisingly," she said. "I don't really have any problems with it."

Now, in her final year and with the surgery behind her, Atang has big expectations for herself this season.

"I expect obviously to score again," she said. "And one of my biggest goals is to hit 50 feet (15.24 meters), which I'm very, very close to. It'd be great if I go well beyond that."

Contact Sam Gans at sgans@nd.edu

Grossman

continued from page 20

Grossman said whenever diving coach Caiming Xie attempts to give instruction, it quickly becomes a highlight of practice.

"Our coach is Chinese and sometimes hard to understand, so some of the funniest stories of are times when there were funny miscommunications between him and our team," she said. "Sometimes we just have no idea what he is talking about."

Even in the pool, the team is sure to have a good time.

"It is also funny when there are some good smacks during practice," Grossman said.

"Especially when you are learning a new dive, it is likely that you will get lost in the dive and end up landing on your stomach which is of course painful but also funny."

Casey said that having such a strong chemistry ultimately increases the team's confidence in one another.

"We love to joke around, but we are also very motivating when we need to be serious in a practice or meet," she said. "We gained a lot of momentum on training trip by getting behind each other and knowing everyone's times in practice which really helped build chemistry in the pool. With this strong team chemistry our team gained confidence. When we are closer as a team, we are more confident." Grossman said confidence in

team members is a huge advantage heading into Big East championships.

"In meets it is key that you do not let nerves hold you back from going for a dive. You have to be confident that because you have practiced a dive hundreds of times, you can nail it when it counts," Grossman said. "Though a very individual sport, it is still important that teammates do well because all the points are added together for the team score. Going into the Big East championships, it is important to have confidence in teammates because every point counts. It is going to be a close meet, but we can win if everyone performs their best."

Contact Megan Golden at mgolde1@saintmarys.edu

Pfarr

continued from page 20

He said they have done everything to achieve their goals.

"Our team goals are to dominate NCAAs, maintain a demanding training schedule and continue to represent Notre Dame as a tier one competitive sport both on and off the strip," Pfarr said.

Pfarr said Notre Dame has become the standard of collegiate fencing and few schools can really threaten the Irish.

"There are very few schools that can compete with Notre Dame," Pfarr said.

He also said being the top dog does have its drawbacks. The team knows their opponents will be very motivated and give their best effort.

"You treat every bout like it is separate from the others. Each opponent is different

and of course they want to win," Pfarr said. "The only thing you can do is prepare yourself before the match both mentally and physically so you are able to overcome any diversity you face on the strip."

The fencing team will next be in action this weekend at the Northwestern Duals in Evanston, Ill.

Contact Joe Wirth at jwirth@nd.edu

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Coyne

continued from page 20

Coyne and her staff changed their approach to recruiting to achieve a diverse roster.

"In 2005, we went 3-12, the next year we went to the final four," Coyne said. "In between that time, my practice and recruiting philosophy changed."

This turn-around from club team to successful varsity sport included the program's first ever Big East championship in 2009, and continues as the 2011 Inside Lacrosse preseason media poll ranked Notre Dame 10th. Coyne recognizes the importance of such national exposure to recruiting.

"I think a part of you wants to be recognized, we always want to be one of the best in the country," she said. "Kids playing lacrosse in junior high see that (preseason ranking) and they know about Notre Dame."

With such success comes a higher standard, a fact Coyne

said her staff is doing a better job communicating to high school seniors.

"We've been doing a good job letting them know, so when they get here they know what the expectations are," she said of freshmen new to the program. "From a lacrosse standpoint, we are getting top players."

A group of seven, six of whom have been regular contributors since their freshman year, the senior class is highlighted by team captains Shaylyn Blaney and Jackie Doherty.

"Both are exceptional players," Coyne said of her senior captains. "More than that, though, those two represent the senior class's commitment to the program."

The rest of Notre Dame's roster has also shown similar commitment to Irish lacrosse, Coyne said.

"We have a really good retention rate," she said.

Contact Cory Bernard at cbernard@nd.edu

NHL

Franzen scores five as Wings roll

OTTAWA — Johan Franzen scored five goals and the Detroit Red Wings sent Ottawa to its eighth straight loss by beating the Senators 7-5 on Wednesday night.

The Senators (17-27-8) have lost 14 of 15 and haven't won a home game since beating Pittsburgh on Dec. 26.

Kris Draper and Niklas Kronwall also scored, and Jimmy Howard made 29 saves for the Red Wings. It was Detroit's first visit to Ottawa since October 2008.

Milan Michalek scored twice for Ottawa, and Peter Regin had a goal and two assists. Chris Campoli and Alex Kovalev also scored for the Senators.

Robin Lehner was pulled midway through the second period after allowing four goals on 19 shots in his first home start.

Brian Elliott allowed two goals on 19 shots in relief.

The Senators took a 1-0 lead on Kovalev's power-play goal, but Franzen scored twice in 48 seconds to put Detroit ahead.

Ottawa retook the lead when Regin and Campoli both scored their second goals of the season.

After a slow start to the second period the Red Wings scored twice in a span of 13 seconds to go back in front. Lehner made two great saves, but couldn't stop Draper on the third attempt as he beat the rookie over the shoulder.

On the ensuing play, the Red Wings took control and continued to pressure Ottawa deep in its end before Nicklas Lidstrom found Kronwall at the blue line. Kronwall drilled a shot through traffic and beat Lehner through the legs.

That marked the end of Lehner's night. The home fans didn't appreciate the goaltending change as Elliott, who has lost his last 11 starts, was soundly booed.

Franzen completed his hat trick with a power-play goal 30 seconds into the third, beating the Elliott to the short side.

The Senators tied it 5-5 just 29 seconds later when Michalek scored his second of the night.

Back-to-back penalties gave the Red Wings a two-man advantage for 68 seconds, and they made the most of it as Franzen scored his fourth of the game to make it 6-5.

The Senators appeared to tie it again with just under eight minutes remaining, but the goal was disallowed on the ice. The call was then confirmed by video review.

NCAA BASKETBALL

Gay nails jumper to push Aztecs to win over Colorado St.

Associated Press

FORT COLLINS, Colo. — D.J. Gay sank a jumper with 1.8 seconds left to lift seventh-ranked San Diego State past Colorado State 56-54 Wednesday night.

Gay, who has a reputation for coming through in the clutch,

then hauled in the long inbound pass as the buzzer sounded and his teammates mobbed him.

Travis Franklin's driving layup for Colorado State had tied it with 10.1 seconds remaining.

James Rahon scored 15 points

and Kawhi Leonard posted his 32nd career double-double with 12 points and 15 boards for the Aztecs (22-1, 7-1 Mountain West), who got quite a scare from the Rams (15-7, 5-3).

Colorado State might have pulled off the upset had they not been so off-the-mark from

the free throw line, where they were just 14-of-22.

Andy Ogide scored 18 points and pulled down a dozen rebounds for the Rams, who haven't beaten a top-25 opponent since upsetting 25th-ranked Air Force in the 2004 Mountain West Conference

postseason tournament.

Ogide's two free throws tied it at 52 with 4:21 remaining following back-to-back baskets by Franklin. Billy White's short jumper put San Diego State back on top 54-52 two minutes later after a series of stops by both teams.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Title thoughts

Irish travel to DePaul for Big East matchup

By ANDREW GASTELUM
Sports Writer

In the midst of the biggest blizzard of the year, No. 8 Notre Dame has taken the nation by storm, especially after ending No. 2 Pittsburgh's 20-game home winning streak with a 56-51 victory.

But it's not yet time for celebration. The second-place Irish (17-4, 6-3 Big East) have their eyes set on winning the Big East title and that comes with winning more games on the road, starting tonight with DePaul after a nine-day break. "This break came at a really nice time for a veteran team who have been logging a lot of minutes," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "It's good to rest and then get back out there for a big stretch."

Waiting for them is a struggling, DePaul (6-14, 0-8)

see BREY/page 18



Guard Ben Hansbrough splits two Marquette defenders during an 80-75 victory over the Golden Eagles Jan. 22 in Purcell Pavilion. The Irish travel to DePaul tonight.

SARAH O'CONNOR/The Observer

FENCING

Pfarr stays involved with Irish

By JOE WIRTH
Sports Writer

Due to other commitments, including ROTC and academics, senior Chris Pfarr has not fought in a match for the Irish this season. But even though he has been less involved in this year's team on the strip, he still leads and supports off of it.

"My individual goal is to graduate. I am taking 23 credits and doing everything I can to stay afloat and have fun senior year," Pfarr said. "I live with four other fencers and try to support them when they need it. With this up coming weekend I will be there to support my team and watch them kick [expletive]."

He said that the team has high expectations every year and this year is no different.

see PFARR/page 17

ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Team chemistry, confidence keep swimmers balanced

By MEGAN GOLDEN
Sports Writer

While the 20-plus hours spent in the pool each week have enhanced individuals' performances, it is song, food and laughter that highlight team bonding and strengthen this Irish team's chemistry and confidence in one another.

During practice the team is either listening to music on the underwater radios in Rolfs Aquatic Center or singing to

their iPods, which play on speakers above the water.

"Our team is usually singing and dancing to all the songs," senior swimmer Samantha Maxwell said. "This year our team constantly sings 'If I Could Turn Back Time' by Cher and 'It's All Coming Back to Me Now' by Celine Deion. We also occasionally sing 'Chicken Fried' by Zac Brown Band and 'Voices' by Chris Young."

Christmas break provided the team with an opportunity for some karaoke.

"Over training trip in Hawaii our team decided to go out to a restaurant and sing karaoke," Maxwell said. "After some pretty hilarious performances our team got a standing ovation from the restaurant."

Senior swimming captain Katie Casey pointed out the best karaoke performance.

"We were obviously crowd favorites," she said. "[Senior] Lauren Parisi and [senior] Delia Cronin's version of 'Proud Mary' was the highlight."

Senior diving captain Heidi

Grossman added that as long as there is food at a team gathering, the team members will be present.

"We have team dinners most nights after practice, but we will also occasionally all get together at one of the seniors' off-campus houses to order pizza and watch a movie," Grossman said. "Last semester, we frequently got together to have football game watches. Everyone would bring something to one of the seniors' houses and we would all hang

out and watch the game."

When the team is not eating or singing, they can usually be found laughing or joking with one another.

"This year we have had lots of funny experiences as a team. Usually bus rides get pretty funny, especially with Delia Cronin serenading the team from the back row," Maxwell said. "[But] most of the time it is just girls getting caught in the moment, joking around."

see GROSSMAN/page 17

ND WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Coyne builds solid program

By CORY BERNARD
Sports Writer

It turns out the football team isn't the only Irish squad that casts a national recruiting net. Irish coach Tracy Coyne has recruited effectively over the past several years, successfully stocking the cupboards in each class.

Boasting players from 12 states and England, Coyne gives some credit for this success on the recruiting trail to the spread of lacrosse to all parts of the country

"With each class, we have an even mix numbers-wise, and we have a good geographic mix as well, which I like," she said. "It's indicative of how lacrosse is spreading."

see COYNE/page 18



Senior Ansley Stewart fires a shot against Syracuse Apr. 11 in Arlotta Stadium. The Irish start their season Feb. 11 at California.

THOMAS LA/The Observer

ND TRACK AND FIELD

Atang looks for strong Big East appearance

By SAM GANS
Sports Writer

The track and field career of Irish senior shotputter Rudy Atang did not begin quite as she anticipated.

Atang attended her first practice in fifth grade, and was planning on participating in the track portion of the sport. After a few instructions given from the coaching staff, however, she quickly changed her mind.

"I actually wanted to be a runner, but then the coaches [told] all the runners [to] go run a mile and a half," Atang said. "I decided, 'no, I don't want to run a mile and a half,

so I'll go over with the throwers.'"

Luckily, for her and the Irish, she stuck with that choice.

Last season, Atang was one of the top throwers in the Big East. She placed ninth in the shot put in the conference's indoor championships, with a distance of 14.19 meters. She then improved her mark in the Big East's outdoor championships, with a throw of 15.02 meters, her best of the season. It was good enough for her to finish seventh, as well as score team points for Notre Dame with her top-eight finish.

Atang has continued to excel

see ATANG/page 17

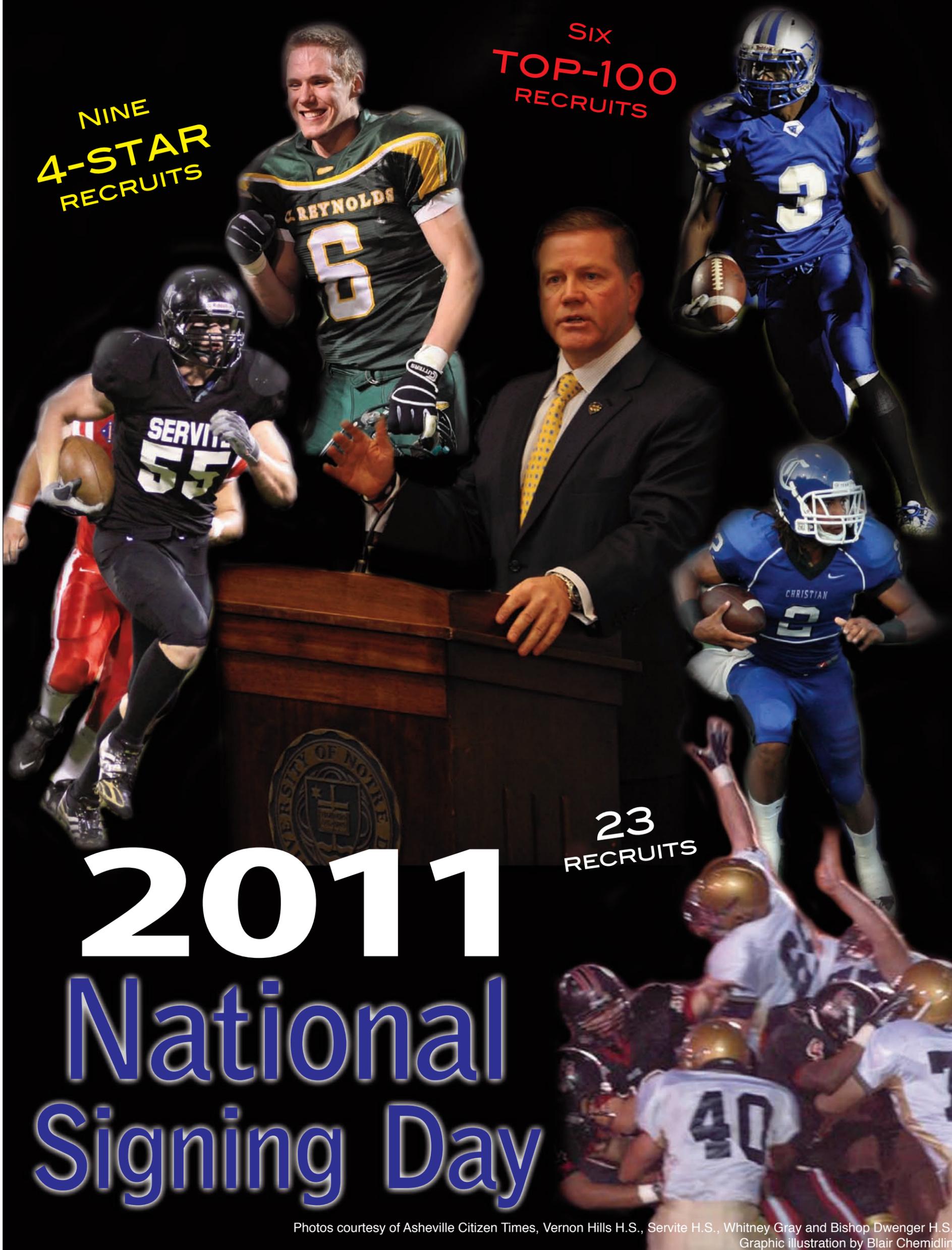
IRISH INSIDER

Thursday, February 3, 2011

THE
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NINE
4-STAR
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SIX
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23
RECRUITS

2011 National Signing Day

Photos courtesy of Asheville Citizen Times, Vernon Hills H.S., Servite H.S., Whitney Gray and Bishop Dwenger H.S.
Graphic illustration by Blair Chemidlin

COMMENTARY

NSD may actually hold an influence

I traditionally ridicule National Signing Day. Watching football players barely three years younger than me play with baseball caps — or even a sweated bulldog this year — seems inherently pointless.

Yet this past season I confronted a very difficult realization:

Freshmen really do affect the direction of a program.

My biggest quarrel with this day of teenage glorification has always focused on the vast inaccuracy of most recruiting rankings and projections. A 22-year-old's physical and mental characteristics often bear no resemblance to his appearance four years prior.

Yet today's descriptions of Everett Golson and George Atkinson, of Ishaq Williams and Aaron Lynch will still be very much accurate in September. And, as hard as this is for me to admit, freshmen matter.

A year ago, few Notre Dame fans were overjoyed at Tommy Rees' early enrollment. TJ Jones slid beneath most people's radar as well. Yet it is nearly impossible to imagine this past season, or even the Sun Bowl victory, without those two contributors.

Freshmen matter.

Thus, Wednesday's recruiting haul, 23 recruits full, brings great promise for Notre Dame fans for the next four years, beginning in seven short months.

Last February, Irish coach Brian Kelly only had weeks to piece together his first Notre Dame recruiting class. Given the circumstances, Kelly and his staff did pretty well, but they all knew there was room for improvement.

With a full year under their belt, the Irish coaches showed how much room for improvement there was.

Kelly received 18 faxes with signatures on them Wednesday. Combine those with the five recruits who have already enrolled in classes this semester, and the class of 23 recruits includes: six of ESPN's final top-100 recruits, headlined by No. 15 Aaron Lynch, a four-star defensive end. ESPN rates the Irish class as No. 12 in the country, but those rankings are often skewed by over-signing and sketchy handlings by other programs — another set of reasons I have always despised this college football holiday.

But Kelly and his staff did not resort to any of those illegitimate tactics in racking up this talented class. Instead, defensive coordinator Bob Diaco boarded a red-eye flight to Brooklyn, N.Y., to arrive at Ishaq Williams' doorstep at 4:30 a.m. Upon Diaco's arrival, Williams — the seventh-ranked defensive

end in the country — cancelled a planned official visit to Penn State and committed to Notre Dame. Four days later Williams took his first classes on campus, opting to enroll for the current semester and gain a few extra months under Diaco's tutelage.

Williams and Lynch are only the head-liners of a group of defensive linemen that will most likely define this recruiting class. Lynch, who did waffle back-and-forth concerning Notre Dame before eventually joining Williams as an early enrollee, will likely line-up opposite Stephon Tuitt, hailing from Georgia, at many points in his career.

Tuitt briefly decommitted from Notre Dame to turn his eyes toward Georgia Tech in January. Some schools would have shrugged their shoulders and signed three more defensive ends. Some schools would have bad-mouthed Tech to Tuitt. Notre Dame did neither. Instead, Kelly, Diaco and a few other coaches boarded a plane the next day on a trip to the Peach State to remind Tuitt why he ever looked to the Golden Dome in the first place. Their success led to his Tech commitment only lasting a brief period.

Tony Springmann, Chase Hounshell and Brad Carrico complete the grouping of defensive linemen, though at least one of them — most likely Williams — will eventually move to an outside linebacker position, a la junior Darius Fleming.

Irish fans have not seen a position-in-need so quickly stocked with depth since the early days of Lou Holtz. Yet those six linemen simply show the true strengths of Kelly's recruiting. In Diaco's 3-4 defense, only three defensive linemen are on the field at a time, yet he and Kelly managed to convince six of these players to come in at the same time. Whatever the Notre Dame coaching staff is selling these days, these recruits bought.

As did dual-threat, four-star quarterback Everett Golson, who switched his commitment to the Irish from North Carolina in December, both Josh and George Atkinson — heralded twins from Oregon — and four-star wide receiver DaVaris Daniels, who so badly wanted to come to Notre Dame he essentially put his recruiting process on hold while he raised his grades and test scores.

Next season these freshmen will have a chance to positively or negatively affect the Irish season. Given the descriptions of them today, it seems they will affect that season positively.

Hence, maybe National Signing Day isn't all that bad, at least when it benefits Notre Dame.

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

Contact Douglas Farmer at dfarmer1@nd.edu



Douglas Farmer

Sports Editor

Kelly hopes recruits improve 'D'



Irish coach Brian Kelly provided the media with reviews of each of the 23 recruits that signed National Letters of Intent to play for Notre Dame Wednesday.

By ERIC PRISTER
Associate Sports Editor

Irish coach Brian Kelly said he and his coaching staff went into the recruiting season with a plan — improve on the defensive line. By adding six players listed at that position, including two ranked in the top-5 defensive linemen by most experts, Notre Dame followed through on that plan.

"I really would like to say that the plan came together," Kelly said. "We had a plan, and that's clear. I think I spoke at this press conference last year and said 'listen, in 2011, our focus is the edge of our defense, it's defensive linemen, it's speed, it's length.' And we hit that. We had a plan and it's nice when a plan comes together like it did with this recruiting class. And now the next step is what we believe we're really good at, and that's developing these young men."

Kelly said recruiting defensive players is key for any team, simply because of the nature of the game.

"You can't fake it on defense," he said. "You can fake it a little on offense. Defensively, you have to win the one-on-one matchups. Sometimes you can not block the defensive end and option him. Sometimes you can do things with misdirection. But on defense, it's about players making plays, and you can't hide there. So the recruiting efforts start with the defensive line, and they work out from there. You can't fake it on defense — you have to be able to recruit the players."

The recruiting process was difficult for the Irish coaches, both emotionally and physically. Fourteen states are represented in Notre Dame's recruiting class of 2011, more than any other class in the country.

"If you take a look at the major BCS programs, their recruiting five or six states, and that's a lot," Kelly said. "Just look at the nation and how they recruit compared to the 14 different

states. I think Stanford is the only other school that even comes close to recruiting that many states.

"In just two months time I put up over 15,000 miles in terms of air travel and 55 hours in the air. It just requires a lot of time. And you can't just have six guys recruiting. You can't have six really good position coaches and three professional recruiters. All nine at Notre Dame have to recruit, and I think that you'll see that all nine of our coaches played a very important part of putting this class together."

The Irish coaching staff traveled the country following recruits, but they had one clear message to present — come to Notre Dame if you want to be at Notre Dame.

"I think you really have to be able to sell the message of Notre Dame," Kelly said. "It's really clear. Number one, you would come to Notre Dame for a degree, and what that does for you. That's number one, so the player has to have a connection there. If they have no value of a degree from Notre Dame, move to the next guy. Number two, he's coming to play for Notre Dame, and to win championships at Notre Dame. That has to be clear, that he's coming here, and he's going to be part of a team at the University of Notre Dame. And three, that he wants to be developed — physically, socially, spiritually, in his skill. Those are the three things that we stayed with as our bullet points, and we did not waver from those three things. We didn't promise playing time. We didn't promise 10 national championships. We didn't promise anything. We told them, 'This is what we're about, and this is what you'll get if you come to Notre Dame.'"

Committing to Notre Dame also requires some flexibility. Kelly and his coaching staff separate players into three different categories rather than traditional positions — 'Skill,' which includes quarterbacks, running backs, wide receivers and defensive backs, 'Big Skill,' which

includes fullbacks, tight ends and linebackers, and 'Power,' which includes offensive and defensive linemen. Kelly said that most players are not turned off by the potential that they will end up at a new position, as long as communication stays consistent.

"Once we're able to communicate what we're doing and how we're doing it instead of listening to someone else who knows more sometimes about our system than we do — which is absolutely ridiculous — as long as we get an opportunity to show you what our plans are for you and continue that message, we're fine. Most of these young men, they want to be in the best position to help the team win. And obviously each of these young men that we have on this roster, they have dreams too, about getting a degree and playing in the NFL, and that's fine. I want those kind of guys. So I think it's less about 'no, I'm only this.' And when we do get that, that sends up a bit of a red flag for us. And that doesn't mean we're going to drop him, but it sends up a bit of a red flag."

Because high school positions are not as important for the Irish coaching staff, they have more flexibility to attract players of the same position. Kelly said that an overabundance at a single position, defensive line for instance, is not a problem.

"I just want the very best players," he said. "That will all sort itself out very early in the process. I don't think it'll be two or three years down the road. I think it sorts itself out very quickly. I know that we've got a great understanding of our players, even in this one year, more than anything else, we know where our guys will best fit our program. So I'm very confident that in a very short period of time, a lot of this will take care of itself. If your assets are on the defensive line, that's a good place to start, and that's where we'll start."

Contact Eric Prister at epriester@nd.edu

Groundhog's Day Class a new standard at Notre Dame

With a class consisting of seven Top-150 recruits according to ESPN, the Irish signed an impressive class filled with talent, and more importantly, one that addressed specific needs moving forward. Irish coach Brian Kelly's goal was to strengthen the edge of his defense, and six defensive end recruits, including Top-150 signings Aaron Lynch, Ishaq Williams and Stephon Tuitt, does just that.

Williams will likely move to outside linebacker, as will four-star recruit Ben Councill. Lynch and Tuitt lead the group who will continue playing with their hand on the ground, but will face competition from fellow four-star defensive lineman Anthony Rabasa.

On the opposite side of the ball, the Irish signed four offensive linemen, including

four-star-rated Matthew Hegarty. In the future, they will likely be blocking for dual-threat quarterback Everett Golson, whom looks to fit nicely into Kelly's spread offense.

Notre Dame also signed solid targets for Golson, including four-star wide receiver DaVaris Daniels and four-star tight end Ben Koyack. Daniels could fit in nicely in the slot while Koyack has the body and ball skills to join Notre Dame's line of NFL caliber tight ends.

Other significant recruits include three-star athlete George Atkinson and his brother Josh, a defensive back, three-star running back Cam McDaniel, six-foot-six Troy Niklas, who could play offensive line, defensive line or tight end, and kicker Kyle Brindza, who the Irish had pegged as the top kicker in the 2011 recruiting class.

GEORGE ATKINSON WR, ★★★, 190 pounds, 6'2" Granada High School Livermore, Calif.

Listed as an athlete by most recruiting services, George Atkinson III scored 17 touchdowns in his senior season, and could be a weapon offensively for the Irish at either running back or wide receiver.

His explosiveness is most evident when looking at his best single-game performance of his senior season, when he ran for 206 yards and three touchdowns on five carries in a game against Castro Valley High School. Atkinson's performance earned him not only a bid in the U.S. Army All-American Game but also a spot as captain of the West team.

His speed is one of his best assets, as he competed in the 100-meter dash in high school with a personal best of 10.66 seconds.



Photo Courtesy of Jeffrey Bennett/Patch.com

JOSH ATKINSON CB, ★★★, 185 pounds, 6'0" Granada High School Livermore, Calif.

Joining his twin brother George (above) in the 2011 recruiting class for the Irish, Josh Atkinson played on both sides of the ball in high school, but is listed by the Notre Dame coaching staff as a defensive back. He recorded 20 tackles and broke up 11 passes on defense during his senior year. Aided by his size and physicality, Atkinson sheds blocks well and can knock receivers off their routes.

Though he does not have the pure speed of his brother, Atkinson has good recovery speed, an important asset for a defensive back. He and George both competed for Team USA in the Team USA vs. The World all-star game Wednesday. Atkinson has the size to play safety at the college level, or could see early playing time as a nickel back.



Photo Courtesy of Jeffrey Bennett/Patch.com

KYLE BRINDZA K, ★★★, 219 pounds, 6'1" Plymouth High School Canton, Mich.

Kyle Brindza will have an uphill climb at the kicking position as he competes as a freshman. With senior David Ruffer and sophomore Nick Tausch coming back next season, the Irish are returning the owners of the two longest consecutive field goals converted streaks in Notre Dame history. With Brindza's track record, that should not faze him in the slightest.

The Michigan native was one of the most heavily recruited kickers in the nation in the class of 2011 and features a very strong foot, as he consistently made long field goals and sent kickoffs through the end zone. Although he is unlikely to see game action in 2011 for the Irish, he should be a key contributor in the future.

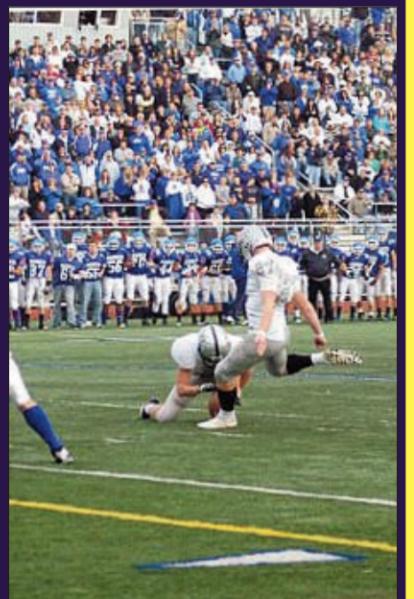


Photo Courtesy of Plymouth High School

JALEN BROWN CB, ★★★, 180 pounds, 6'1" Irving McArthur High School Irving, Texas

Jalen Brown will be a familiar sight in the Irish secondary for years to come. Recruited by assistant coach Kerry Cooks, Brown utilizes his long arms to break up pass plays in man coverage.

Even though his high school defense required him to play off the receiver, Brown's quickness and instincts enabled him to jump passes on a regular basis; once he spends a year under seniors Gary Gray and Robert Blanton learning the defensive scheme, Brown has the potential to develop into a lockdown corner.

In addition, he plays with evident toughness and loves to dish out a big hit. His physical style of play will be an asset in run defense as well as against the pass, especially screen passes.



Photo Courtesy of Irving MacArthur High School

BRAD CARRICO DE, ★★★, 287 pounds, 6'5" Dublin Coffman High School Dublin, Ohio

The first commitment of Notre Dame's recruiting class of 2011, Brad Carrico started his high school career as a quarterback.

He made the switch to defensive line after his sophomore season, and in his first year at the new position. Carrico recorded 74 tackles, eight for loss, along with nine sacks. His performance as a senior then earned him a bid to play in the Offense-Defense All-American Bowl in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

With his good size which has the potential to fill out even more with weight training, Carrico could possibly be a better fit on the offensive line, a position with more scarcity than the jam-packed defensive line crew in this year's recruiting class.



Photo Courtesy of Dublin Coffman High School

BEN COUNCELL LB, ★★★★★, 220 pounds, 6'5" A.C. Reynolds High School Asheville, N.C.

An outside linebacker from Asheville, N.C., Councill recorded 141 tackles, 22 for loss, in his senior season, just his third season playing football. He also recovered two fumbles, blocked two kicks and scored two touchdowns. In his junior season, Councill showed a flair for the dramatic as he blocked a field goal to seal a state championship for his team.

Also a track star at A.C. Reynolds High School, he runs the 40-yard dash in 4.41, the quickest of Notre Dame's linebacker recruits.

The four-star recruit played in the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas and was named the Division 4-A State defensive player of the year and first team All-Western North Carolina.



Photo Courtesy of A.C. Reynolds High School

DaVARIS DANIELS WR, ★★★★★, 190 pounds, 6'3" Vernon Hills High School Vernon Hills, Ill.

DaVaris Daniels stated his desire to attend Notre Dame very early in the recruiting process but waited until Sept. 28 to verbally commit to Irish coach Brian Kelly and his staff.

The Vernon Hills standout contributed in nearly every facet his senior season, tallying 16 offensive touchdowns, two special teams scores and one more trip to the end zone from the defensive side of the ball.

His season ended in the Illinois Class 5A quarterfinals.

Irish fans will hope Daniels has the same successes as his father, Washington Redskins defensive end Phillip Daniels. The elder Daniels is now in his 15th year in the NFL, having tallied 62 sacks in his career.



Photo Courtesy of Vernon Hills High School



Photo Courtesy of Whitney Gray

MATTHIAS FARLEY
 CB, ★★★, 194 pounds, 6'0"
 Charlotte Christian High School
 Charlotte, N.C.

Having only played two years of organized football coming into Notre Dame, Farley is the epitome of raw talent. With a 40-yard dash of 4.5 seconds and versatility on both sides of the ball Farley can only improve in a college system.

Out of Charlotte Christian High School in North Carolina, the all-state phenom tallied 1,500 yards receiving and 22 touchdowns while being used as a slot receiver, wideout and at, times, tailback. As a defensive back, Farley recorded 49 tackles this past season, after previously committing to Notre Dame in April as Kelly's fourth recruit to join team. With the ability to play multiple positions, look for Farley to be all over the field, from special teams to receiver to safety, where his ball-hawking abilities are sure to shine.

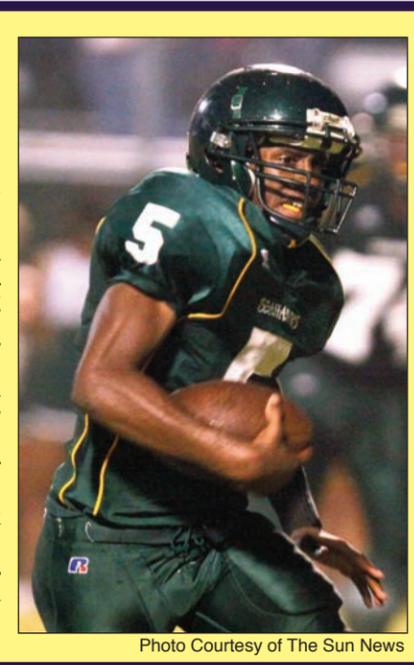


Photo Courtesy of The Sun News

EVERETT GOLSON
 QB, ★★★★★, 175 pounds, 6'0"
 Myrtle Beach High School
 Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Originally committed to North Carolina, dual-threat quarterback Everett Golson switched over to Notre Dame on Dec. 2. He has enrolled early and will compete for the wide-open quarterback race at spring practice. Nonetheless, it will be difficult for Golson to crack the starting lineup as a freshman, as all of his competitors for the starting job have the advantage of been in Brian Kelly's spread offense for a year already.

Golson is built more like a wide receiver than a quarterback, and some analysts question his ability to start at quarterback in college because of his height. However, Golson has some very strong traits as a passer, including his arm strength, which could lead to him being the Irish signal-caller in the future.



Photo Courtesy of Colerain High School

JARRETT GRACE
 WR, ★★★, 235 pounds, 6'3"
 Colerain High School
 Cincinnati, Ohio

Athletic and tough, Jarrett Grace will join the Irish roster as a linebacker, and has the potential to play both inside and outside.

He recorded 95 tackles during his junior year and 69 tackles in his senior season, and was an all-Ohio first team selection.

Grace has the size to contribute early, but behind the likes of Manti Te'o and Carlo Calabrese, his best opportunity for early playing time will likely be on special teams.

He pursues ball carriers well, keeps moving throughout the play, and his technique will be an asset for him.

He has the size to be a good run stopper, but also the speed and quickness to cover tight ends and running backs.



Photo Courtesy of New Canaan High School

CONNOR HANRATTY
 OG, ★★★, 300 pounds, 6'4"
 New Canaan High School
 New Canaan, CT

It looks like being Irish runs in the family as Connor's father, Terry, was an All-American quarterback for Notre Dame in the 1960's. But rather than hurling touchdowns like his father, Hanratty will be protecting the quarterback in Kelly's offense.

The lineman learned from legendary coach Lou Marinelli at New Canaan High in Connecticut (where he won two state championships) and will probably make the switch from tackle to guard, enabling him to use his agility to serve as the critical pulling guard.

He possesses solid pass protection skills and footwork, fitting the mold of a spread-style lineman but does need work on his run blocking and downfield blocking.

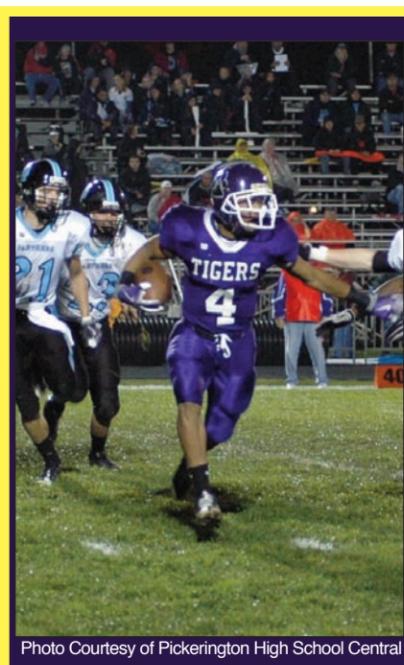


Photo Courtesy of Pickerington High School Central

EILAR HARDY
 S, ★★★, 172 pounds, 6'0"
 Pickerington High School Central
 Pickerington, Ohio

With cornerback Darrin Walls departing the defensive backfield and seniors-to-be Gary Gray and Robert Blanton entering the final years of their time at Notre Dame, recruiting impact players to play defensive back was a key focus of this recruiting cycle.

Hardy should help shore up the depth chart and see the field early in his career. He is versatile enough to play cornerback or safety at the college level.

Hardy is a physical player who makes solid tackles, especially in the run game — a much-needed capability in Bob Diaco's defensive scheme. He will need to add muscle to play effectively in college but is renowned for his fluidity and quickness that allow him to play either as a free-ranging safety or a cover corner.



Photo Courtesy of Irish Sports Daily

MATTHEW HEGARTY
 OL, ★★★★★, 280 pounds, 6'5"
 Aztec High School
 Aztec, N.M.

Hegarty, a four-star offensive line recruit, had offers from nearly every elite program in the country, including Oregon, Auburn, Stanford and USC, but committed to Notre Dame in April and didn't waver.

He is the No. 36-ranked prospect in the country by ESPN and was named a 2010 Army All-American and to the 2010 USA Football Junior National Team. Both honors were largely based on his large number of pancake blocks, 81, compared to his lack of sacks given up this past season.

Hegarty was also an All-State first team All-Academic for his 3.8 GPA at Aztec High School in Aztec, N.M. He is very versatile and could move inside to the guard position or stay at tackle, which he played in high school.

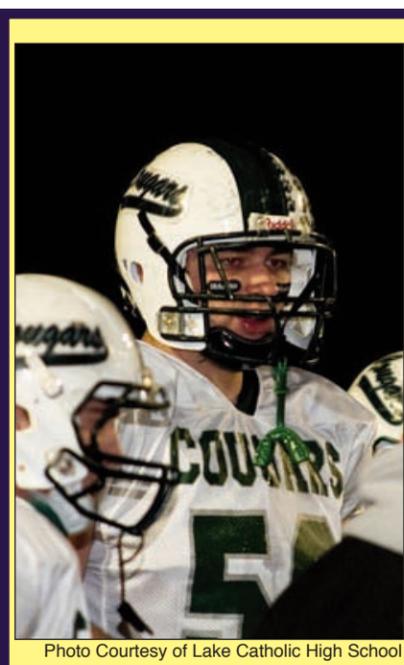


Photo Courtesy of Lake Catholic High School

CHASE HOUNSHELL
 DE, ★★★, 255 pounds, 6'5"
 Lake Catholic High School
 Kirtland, Ohio

Though Chase Hounshell plays on both the offensive and defensive lines in high school, he was primarily recruited by Ed Warriner as one of the many defensive linemen in the 2011 class. Suited to play defensive end in the 3-4 scheme and tackle in the 4-3, Hounshell's versatility may be his best asset. Quick and powerful for his size, Hounshell will find himself fighting to see the field as an underclassman with the other standout defensive ends in this class.

His experience on the offensive line may not be wasted; a return to the offensive line would not be particularly surprising to relieve the glut of supremely talented defensive ends. On the other hand, Hounshell could very well become an integral part of a Notre Dame's defensive front in the coming years.



Photo Courtesy of Irish Sports Daily

BEN KOYACK
 TE, ★★★★★, 242 pounds, 6'5"
 Oil City High School
 Oil City, Pa.

Notre Dame has a long history of excellent pass-catching tight ends, and Ben Koyack could be next in line. After catching six touchdowns in seven games during his junior season, Koyack was sidelined for the rest of 2009. He came back strong for his senior campaign, catching 62 passes for 1031 yards and 11 touchdowns and was named to Pennsylvania's AAA all-state team.

While Koyack has shown the ability to block to the level his position demands, his strength is his pass-catching ability. His size and ball skills make him a dangerous threat vertically, and he can go up and get passes because of his size and good on-field awareness. Koyack will join the Irish behind junior Tyler Eifert and fifth-year senior Mike Ragone.

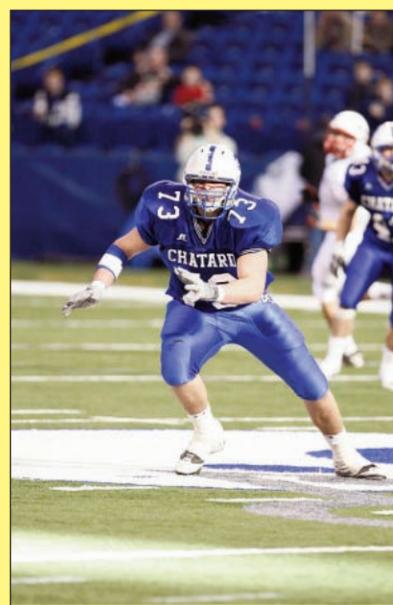


AARON LYNCH
DE, ★★★★★, 240 pounds, 6'6"
Island Coast High School
Cape Coral Fla.

After a slightly rocky recruiting process, Aaron Lynch signed with the Irish as one of the top defensive ends in the country. Lynch originally committed to the Irish early in the process, then switched to Florida State before returning to Notre Dame.

His 31 solo tackles and 10-and-a-half sacks earned him a bid to the U.S. Army All-American Bowl. He excelled early in the week in one-on-one drills, and his high-level performance carried over into the actual game, where he recorded two-and-a-half-sacks.

Lynch enters the Irish roster behind veteran starters Ethan Johnson and Kapron Lewis-Moore, but his pure athletic ability gives him a chance to make his presence felt early in his career.



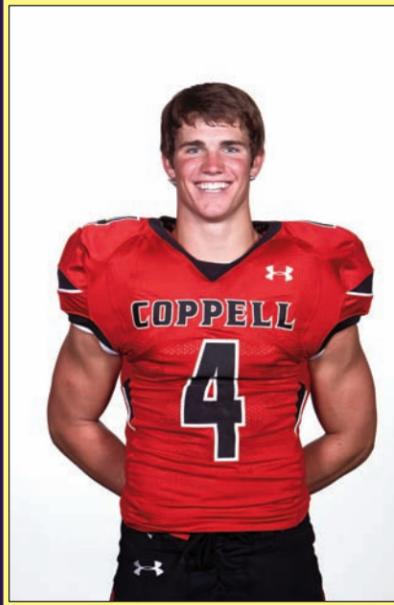
NICK MARTIN
OL, ★★★, 270 pounds, 6'4"
Bishop Chatard High School
Indianapolis, Ind.

Offensive lineman Nick Martin, a two-way standout at Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis, originally committed to Kentucky, where his father played in the 1980s, but in due time instead opted to join his older brother, Irish sophomore Zack Martin, after Notre Dame offered him a scholarship in December. He committed to the Irish on Jan. 11.

Martin started on offense and defense for Bishop Chatard in his senior season and helped the Trojans win the Indiana Class 3A state championship. It was Bishop Chatard's first state title since 2007.

Martin will likely compete for a vacant spot on Notre Dame's offensive line following the departure of fifth-year guard Chris Stewart.

Photo Courtesy of Bishop Chatard High School



CAM McDANIEL
RB, ★★★, 192 pounds, 5'10"
Coppel High School
Coppel Texas

If all prospects were evaluated on their productivity in high school, McDaniel might be among the nation's top prospects. The versatile back rushed for 1,956 yards and 32 touchdowns in his senior season at Coppel against a difficult schedule.

At Notre Dame, he will likely be utilized in a number of ways in Brian Kelly's offense. McDaniel can be expected to contribute in the kick return game as well as running the ball out wide and catching the ball out of the backfield.

Though he lacks elite timed speed, McDaniel's elusiveness helped him post big numbers in high school and will come in handy at the college level. His mix of intangibles will be a nice addition to the Irish backfield.

Photo Courtesy of Coppel High School



TROY NIKLAS
OL, ★★★, 240 pounds, 6'7"
Servite High School
Fullerton, Calif.

Troy Niklas was the last member of this recruiting class to commit, as he waited until National Signing Day to publicly choose Notre Dame over USC.

Niklas starred as a two-way player at Servite High School near Anaheim, Calif., although he was recruited by Notre Dame to be a defensive lineman.

He has good speed but will need to bulk up quickly to be a candidate for playing time at such a deep position in his freshman season.

He joins Stephon Tuitt, Aaron Lynch, Brad Carrico, Chase Hounshell and Tony Springmann in the top defensive line haul in the country. He is unlikely to see meaningful game action in 2011 because of the depth the Irish now carry at that position.

Photo Courtesy of Servite High School



ANTHONY RABASA
LB, ★★★★★, 233 pounds, 6'3"
Columbus High School
Miami, Fla.

A speed-rushing type of player, Anthony Rabasa played defensive end in high school, but will likely join the Notre Dame roster as a linebacker. Rabasa was heavily recruited in Florida, targeted by Miami, Florida and Florida State, but verbally committed to the Irish in July.

He has a body type with room to expand, which should help him round out his game stopping the run. Rabasa recorded 10 sacks during his junior year, and utilizes his speed and field awareness to get to the quarterback, which should make the transfer to linebacker easier.

Rabasa joins the Notre Dame roster behind more-veteran Darius Fleming and returning letter-winners Prince Shembo and Steve Filer.

Photo Courtesy of Irish Sports Daily



TONY SPRINGMANN
DE, ★★★, 275 pounds, 6'6"
Bishop Dwenger High School
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Only traveling two hours from his hometown Fort Wayne, Ind., Tony Springmann already knows two players on the Irish roster — coming from the same high school as sophomore tight end Tyler Eifert and junior receiver John Goodman. He was recruited nationally on both sides of the ball. For Notre Dame he is expected to play on the defensive line, at least initially.

Springmann's top attribute as a defensive end is his speed. He will need to add bulk before he can be expected to compete at the highest level, but not to the point where it slows him down too much and takes away what he does best.

He will compete with a very deep freshman defensive line class, along with returning contributors, for playing time in 2011, although it is unlikely he will play in his freshman campaign.

Photo Courtesy of Bishop Dwenger High School



STEPHON TUITT
DE, ★★★★★, 270 pounds, 6'5"
Monroe Area High School
Monroe, Ga.

Stephon Tuitt committed to Notre Dame in September before decommitting, committing to Georgia Tech, and recommitting to the Irish in a matter of days in mid-January.

Tuitt, arguably the top prospect in the Class of 2011, landed in the top-100 lists of nearly every recruit service. For example, Rivals.com rates him as a five-star prospect and the second best defensive lineman in the country.

His size and impressive speed for a defensive lineman could propel him into the mix of things in his freshman season. Although the Irish return both starters at defensive end, Tuitt should see some meaningful time at the position in 2011. It is only a matter of time before he emerges as a starter and key contributor on the Irish squad.

Photo Courtesy of Walton Tribune



ISHAQ WILLIAMS
OLB, ★★★★★, 242 pounds, 6'5"
Lincoln High School
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Williams played defensive end in high school but has been recruited as an outside linebacker. In his senior year at Lincoln High School in Brooklyn, he recorded 40 tackles, eight sacks and four fumble recoveries.

The four-star recruit was the first of 90 high school players to be named to the Army All-American Bowl and has earned many other honors as well, including being named the 2010 Gatorade New York player of the year and New York Coaches state and city player of the year.

The No. 26 recruit in the ESPNU 150, Williams selected Notre Dame over dozens of offers, including those from Oregon, Ohio State, Florida and USC. He chose to enroll early and is now taking classes at Notre Dame.

Photo Courtesy of Irish Sports Daily

ND survives chaotic period

By SAM WERNER
Sports Writer

As up and down as Notre Dame's season was on the football field, it may have fluctuated even more on the recruiting trail.

There were commitments, decommitments and, rarest of all, recommitments leading up to National Signing Day Wednesday, when the Irish signed 23 new players to join the team next fall.

Mike Frank, who covers recruiting for the ESPN-affiliated website Irish Sports Daily, said the arrival of Irish coach Brian Kelly gave Notre Dame an immediate bump at the beginning of the recruiting process.

"Any time you get a new coach in, you're going to get a lot of intrigue by a lot of prospects," Frank said.

Before the season even started, Kelly used the buzz surrounding his arrival to land a number of elite prospects, including four-star defensive end Aaron Lynch, who committed July 30 during his official visit to Notre Dame. That same day, the Irish also landed three-star linebacker Anthony Rabasa and four-star running back Justice Hayes. When the season kicked off, Kelly already had 15 players verbally committed.

"[Notre Dame] had a great run in the summer of getting a lot of elite players committed," Frank said.

After early-season struggles — including losses to Michigan, Michigan State and Stanford — Frank said some players began to waver in their commitment to Notre Dame.

"Those three in a row were tough for anybody to stomach and that kind of started to

show the cracks in the armor," he said.

The Irish still landed a big commitment from four-star defensive end Stephon Tuitt. Wins against Boston College, Pittsburgh and Western Michigan got the Irish back on track and seemed to assuage the minds of potential recruits — at least, until their now-infamous 35-17 loss to Navy in the Meadowlands.

"Notre Dame obviously turned around and played pretty well there for three games, and then Navy happened," Frank said. "I think a lot of the top kids started to have some doubts about where the program was headed."

In the month that followed, both Lynch and offensive lineman Jordan Prestwood switched their commitment to Florida State and Hayes flipped to Michigan. At his National Signing Day press conference Wednesday, Kelly said Lynch's early commitment made it easier for opposing teams to negatively recruit against Notre Dame.

"They knew their competition," Kelly said. "When [Lynch] committed to us, everybody in the country knew who they had to work against. They didn't have to work against Auburn or Florida or Miami, they just had to beat Notre Dame because he committed to Notre Dame."

The Irish bounced back, though, winning their final four games and allowing just three touchdowns in the process.

"Kids focus on wins," Kelly said. "That's definitely part of the equation here. Winning helps in this process."

After the season ended, the Irish secured commitments from four-star quarterback

Everett Golson and made up for the loss of Hayes by snagging three-star running back Cam McDaniel.

"[McDaniel] is a kid who wants to win more than anything," Frank said. "He's the type of guy who's going to push everyone in front of him. He's one of those guys that's going to really surprise a lot of people once he gets there."

Notre Dame's stretch run apparently caught Lynch's eye, as well. At the Army All-American game Jan. 9, he decommitted from Florida State, but said Notre Dame was not under consideration. A week later on Jan. 15, though, he took an official visit to South Bend, recommitted to the Irish and began classes as an early enrollee just a few days later.

"Our staff just kept at it and we got back to why he made this decision to come to Notre Dame in the first place and we're happy he's here," Kelly said.

The same weekend Lynch recommitted, Kelly and his staff were hard at work securing a pledge from five-star linebacker Ishaq Williams. Williams was down to Notre Dame or Penn State, and was set to take an official visit to State College on Jan. 15, but the night before, Irish defensive coordinator Bob Diaco reportedly visited Williams in his Brooklyn home at 4:30 a.m. and not only got him to cancel his trip to Penn State, but got a verbal commitment on the spot. Like Lynch, Williams enrolled early and is already taking classes at Notre Dame.

"When Bob Diaco came and visited him at the last minute, I think that's where [Williams] said, 'These people really, really want me and this is a good thing for my future,'" Frank said.

Kelly said Diaco's early-morning visit was not the only time the staff went to great lengths to land Williams. He said defensive line coach Mike Elston once sat in his car outside Williams' home for 4 1/2 hours waiting for Williams after one of his high school playoff games.

Just as it looked like things were slowing down for Kelly and his staff, they got one last scare from Tuitt. The defensive end had been taking visits to other schools and Jan. 18 switched his commitment to Georgia Tech. Kelly, Diaco, Elston and recruiting coordinator Chuck Martin immediately flew down to Tuitt's home in Monroe, Ga., and, the next day, Tuitt recommitted to the Irish.

"Having [four coaches] there was really, for us, making a statement and making sure that what we were talking about and what he saw when he came to Notre Dame and what his family saw was really the truth of the matter, and sometimes you have to overcommunicate that message," Kelly said. "We had four coaches there to make sure that message was clear."

Now that all 23 letters of intent are signed and received, the drama of the 2011 recruiting cycle has finally come to a close.

RECRUITING TIMELINE

SAM WERNER



3/20/2010	3* OT Brad Carrico commits to Notre Dame
4/5/2010	4* OT Jordan Prestwood commits to Notre Dame
4/16/2010	3* K Kyle Brindza commits to Notre Dame
4/21/2010	3* CB Matthias Farley commits to Notre Dame
4/24/2010	4* OT Conor Hanratty commits to Notre Dame
4/24/2010	3* DE Tony Springmann commits to Notre Dame
4/24/2010	4* LB Jarrett Grace commits to Notre Dame
4/27/2010	4* TE Ben Koyack commits to Notre Dame
4/29/2010	4* OT Matt Hegarty commits to Notre Dame
6/25/2010	4* S Eilar Hardy commits to Notre Dame
6/28/2010	3* OLB Ben Councill commits to Notre Dame
7/30/2010	3* DE Anthony Rabas commits to Notre Dame
7/30/2010	4* DE Aaron Lynch commits to Notre Dame
7/30/2010	4* RB Justice Hayes commits to Notre Dame
7/31/2010	3* CB Jalen Brown commits to Notre Dame
9/4/2010	Notre Dame defeats Purdue 23-12 to open the season
9/12/2010	3* ATH/WR George Atkinson commits to Notre Dame
9/12/2010	3* CB Josh Atkinson commits to Notre Dame
9/15/2010	4* DE Stephon Tuitt commits to Notre Dame
9/28/2010	4* WR DaVaris Daniels commits to Notre Dame
10/12/2010	Prestwood decommits from Notre Dame
10/23/2010	Notre Dame loses to Navy 35-17
10/30/2010	Notre Dame loses to Tulsa 28-27
10/31/2010	Lynch decommits from Notre Dame
11/15/2010	Lynch commits to Florida State
11/15/2010	Prestwood commits to Florida State
11/22/2010	Hayes decommits from Notre Dame, commits to Michigan
11/27/2010	Notre Dame defeats USC for the first time in eight years, 20-16.
11/29/2010	3* RB Cam McDaniel commits to Notre Dame
12/2/2010	4* QB Everett Golson commits to Notre Dame
12/6/2010	3* CB Bennett Okotcha switches commitment from Wisconsin to Notre Dame
12/31/2010	Notre Dame beats Miami 33-17 at the Sun Bowl, ending the season on a four-game winning streak
1/9/2011	Lynch decommits from Florida State
1/11/2011	3* OT Nick Martin switches commitment from Kentucky to Notre Dame
1/14/2011	4* LB Ishaq Williams commits to Notre Dame
1/15/2011	Lynch recommit to Notre Dame
1/17/2011	3* DE Chase Hounshell switches commitment from Florida to Notre Dame
1/18/2011	Tuitt decommits from Notre Dame, commits to Georgia Tech
1/18/2011	Early enrollees Lynch, Golson, Brindza, Williams and Carrico begin classes at Notre Dame
1/19/2011	Tuitt recommit to Notre Dame
1/31/2011	Okotcha decommits from Notre Dame, commits to Oklahoma



Irish defensive coordinator Bob Diaco led Notre Dame's attempts after its top recruits during the past few months.

DAN JACOBS/The Observer

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swerner@nd.edu

Five recruits already adapting to college life

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

While most of Notre Dame's 23 recruits will join the Irish this summer, five made the choice to leave high school early and enroll in classes this spring.

Quarterback Everett Golson, kicker Kyle Brindza, linebacker Ishaq Williams and defensive linemen Aaron Lynch and Brad Carrico are taking classes at Notre Dame and will participate in spring football practices, which begin March 23.

"These young men get this opportunity to really understand Notre Dame and the rigors of the classroom, the community, being in the dorms, finding South Dining Hall, understanding all those things before they have to play in the fall," Irish coach Brian Kelly said.

Lynch, a four-star recruit, and Williams, a five-star recruit, both committed just days before the spring semester began on Jan. 18. Williams committed Jan. 14 and Lynch on Jan. 15.

Lynch had originally committed to Notre Dame over the summer, but switched to Florida State for a brief time in January before recommitting to the Irish.

Brindza, who committed to Notre Dame last spring, originally attempted to enroll an entire year early in order to compete for kicking and punting duties on the 2010 team.

However, Notre Dame admissions declined his request.

Enrolling early allows players extra time to work out with the team and learn the Irish playbook, which could translate into opportunities early in the fall season.

This could be especially critical for Lynch and Carrico, who are among six defensive linemen to sign with the Irish in 2011.

"You would think that with the number of guys who can play that position, somebody might break through at that position. But it's so hard," Kelly said. "The guys that are going to be here, the five guys that are here, they've got a shot too, because we've got a chance to evaluate them against ... Zach

Martin, Taylor Dever ... guys that have played quality competition.

"But I would say that there's a lot of defensive players that are going to get a chance to compete."

The extra time will also give Golson, this year's only quarterback recruit, a chance to establish himself next to quarterbacks Tommy Rees and Dayne Crist, Kelly said.

"I think it becomes pretty clear that Tommy Rees and Everett Golson are two different quarterbacks relative to the style," Kelly said. "I think what you'll see is Tommy Rees and most likely Dayne Crist and the other quarterbacks fit into that category. And then on the other side of the ledger you'll have Everett Golson."

Of the five freshmen who enrolled early in 2010, three saw significant playing time this season.

Rees played in nine games and started four after junior quarterback Dayne Crist had season-ending surgery. He led the Irish to consecutive wins over Utah, Army, USC and Miami in the last four weeks of the season.

Wide receiver T.J. Jones earned a starting position in fall camp, and started seven of the 12 games in which he played. He scored a touchdown in each of his first two games, against Purdue and Michigan, becoming the first freshman to accom-



Photo courtesy of An Rong Xu/The New York Post

Four-star recruit Ishaq Williams has already enrolled at Notre Dame and will likely play outside linebacker for the Irish.

plish such a feat. He finished the season with 23 catches for 306 yards and three touchdowns.

Cornerback Lo Wood played in 11 games.

"The football element is big,

but the assimilation into being a Notre Dame student is really what [enrolling early] is about," Kelly said.

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