

THE OBSERVER

The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

VOLUME 39 : ISSUE 1

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 2004

NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

Class size decreases at SMC

By KELLY MEEHAN
News Writer

At a time when Notre Dame is struggling to find room for all of its admits, its sister school is facing the opposite problem — an enrollment drop of 12.7 percent.

The Saint Mary's class of 2008 is down 51 students from the previous year. But according to Mary Pat Nolan, admissions director, Saint Mary's is not alone in its decreasing numbers.

"Many of the schools that our applicants apply to were also having challenging years and there was a considerable amount of movement among wait-lists," Nolan said. "Choosing a state university, whether regional or flagship, seems to have become an acceptable option for students wanting to stay closer to home or for students wanting to find a lower cost educational option," many of whom would have selected Saint Mary's in the past.

Nolan said Saint Mary's does not usually compete for students with other small private colleges or women's colleges. Nationally only two percent of students consider attending a women's college.

The Admissions office will not know the exact cause of the decrease until it has

see SMC/page 13

ND, SMC freshmen flood campuses

By MEGHAN MARTIN
News Writer

A small gold helmet sits perched atop a shelf in Tim Gritzman's dorm room, both a remnant from childhood and a symbol of the future.

"I've had this thing since I was five," said the Stanford Hall freshman as he picked up the replica of the helmet he will wear as a tight end for the Irish this year.

Although he arrived on campus nearly two weeks ago

to begin fall football practice, Gritzman moved into his dorm room Wednesday, just days before his fellow classmates are scheduled to arrive. And despite the jersey waiting for him in the locker room, Gritzman is eager to experience orientation weekend with the rest of the freshman class.

"I've talked to my roommate about three times, but I'm looking forward to meeting him," Gritzman said. "The

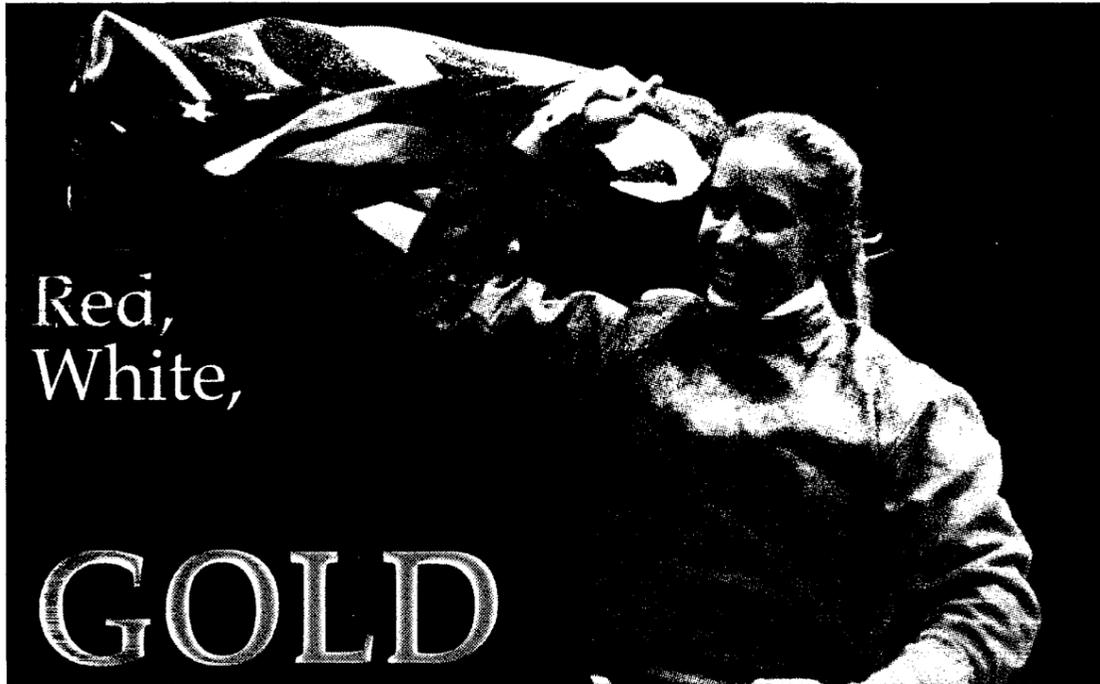
see MOVE-IN/page 13



JOANNA PAXTON/The Observer

Keough Frosh-O staff help freshman Rob Lindley of Thibodaux, La., and his parents move in to the dorm Thursday.

OLYMPICS



Notre Dame freshman Mariel Zagunis waves the American flag after winning the gold medal in the women's individual sabre competition held Tuesday in Athens, Greece. Zagunis is the first American to win a medal in fencing since 1984, and the first to win gold since 1904. For more on Zagunis, SEE SPORTS, page 36.

Crowding squeezes freshmen

By AMANDA MICHAELS
Associate News Editor

Almost 70 freshmen had a dubious welcome this week, as they found themselves cramming their carloads into spaces smaller than the average shoebox-size room.

Due to rising numbers of both seniors staying on campus and accepted female freshman, most women's dorms faced an overcrowding crisis this year.

Subsequently, the Office of Residence Life was forced to convert every available study lounge into an inhabitable space, and

see HOUSING/page 9

Students impact business

By TERESA FRALISH
Associate News Editor

As if the van-fuls of stereos, clothes, hangers and televisions arriving on campus this weekend weren't enough, Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students also flock to area stores to pick up other last-minute college essentials.

"We gear up for this like we gear up for Christmas," said Bob Tharp, assistant manager at the Grape Road Meijer store.

This weekend, about 10,000 students descend on the Notre Dame campus as well as several thousand more at Saint Mary's, Bethel College and Indiana University-South Bend. Naturally, the economic impact on the local busi-

see BUSINESS/page 9



JOANNA PAXTON/The Observer

Shoppers fill carts and checkout lanes with last-minute dorm supplies at the Mishawaka Super Target on Thursday.

New Domers bring more than just stats

Notre Dame Class of 2008

1,991 incoming freshmen

- Mean SAT Score - 1367
- Mean ACT Score - 32

- Average Freshman ranked in the top 5.5% of high school graduating class
- Ethnic minorities - 22%
- Children of alumni - 22%

MIKE HARKINS/Observer Graphic

By CLAIRE HEININGER
News Editor

Notre Dame's 1,991 incoming freshmen may boast the most staggering academic statistics of any class in its history, but the University isn't boasting — yet.

"If you brag too much about the class, it's like a hospital bragging about the health of the patients coming in," Dan Saracino, assistant provost

for admissions, said. "The mark of the school is what they've done when they leave."

And the mark of an incoming class, he continued, lies not in the test scores and the scores of extracurriculars students bring to campus, but in how well this brew of potential and experience will fit into what Saracino likes to call "the story of Notre

see FRESHMEN/page 9

INSIDE COLUMN

Too fast

This weekend you and the rest of the smartest class ever at Notre Dame — at least until the class of 2009 arrives — leave a world of comfort you've known for 18 years. Waiting with open arms is a new home inside the proverbial bubble where you'll spend the next four years.

And that's the problem — four years.

It seems like an eternity as you serenade dorms, meet people who only want to know your name, hometown and dorm and play games that seem like you're back in summer camp.



Matt Lozar

Editor in Chief

It seems like a welcome change after those crowded high school highways, filling out a myriad of scholarship and college applications and praying one of those envelopes in the mail is thick and not thin.

It seems like a world of freedom with no parental supervision, the availability of "libations" for 21-year olds and a speedy Internet connection that allows you to procrastinate by amassing a massive mp3 collection, playing addicting mindless games and endlessly checking your buddies' away messages.

But one day you'll wake up a senior like me and realize those four precious years are down to a lonely one.

That might look like a big jump — and you probably think I'm crazy for mentioning graduation before you've taken a class here — but it happens faster than freshman engineers can switch to the business school (as I can attest).

Okay, it might not happen that quickly. A lot goes on during those three years. There is experiencing that first football season, attending your first SYR (where finding a date is more about Screwing Your Roommate) and braving the first round of lake-effect snow. You fear telling your parents about changing your major (don't worry Mom and Dad, more than half of us change it at least once), whine about pariets and can't stand your roommate. You complain about the lack of gender relations and realize there isn't a whole lot to do in South Bend — on or off campus.

As all that and countless other things transpire, and you get trapped in a fast-paced, jam-packed daily routine, something horrible happens.

You forget what Notre Dame's all about.

At the conclusion of not only a weekend, but also a summer where everyone is giving a piece of advice to make college those so-called "best four years of your life," here's mine — take a step back every once in awhile. Take in the moment and appreciate what's happening.

Whether it's being thrown into the air by your friends for push-ups at football games, staying up until 4 a.m. for no apparent reason or making a fool of yourself at Bookstore Basketball, the world's largest outdoor 5-on-5 tournament.

Whether it's singing in a choir, going to Mass at the Basilica or doing some sort of service.

Whether it's cheering your friend at Bengal Bouts (a student boxing tournament that raises money for the Bangladesh missions), playing an inter-hall sport or starting the weekend on Thursday night.

Whether it's reflecting at the Grotto, jogging around the lakes or walking up God Quad as the sun shines down on the Dome and goose bumps line your arms.

Always remember — this is a special place.

Just don't start realizing that before it's too late.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR INCOMING FRESHMEN?



Henry Scott
Senior Sorin

"Enjoy your time here, it goes by really quickly."



Arthur Lam
Sophomore Fisher

"Enjoy the weather as much as possible."



Patti Phan
Senior Farley

"Don't spend too much time studying because it's not worth it."



Adam Record
Sophomore Fisher

"Meet as many people as you can."



Greg Durm
Senior Zahm

"Hang out at Zahm a lot."



Barbara Greves
North Dining Hall employee

"Just be patient. Let people help you if you are nervous on your first day."

ORIENTATION ACTIVITIES

Notre Dame Orientation Events

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21

1:00 P.M. - OFFICIAL ORIENTATION
Joyce Center

3:15 P.M. - PARENT ORIENTATION
Joyce Center

8:00 P.M. - MEETINGS WITH RECTORS AND HALL STAFF
All Residence Halls

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22

10:00 A.M. - EUCHARISTIC LITURGY
Joyce Center

11:30 A.M. - BOX LUNCH
Joyce Center

12:00 P.M. - "THE SPIRIT OF NOTRE DAME"
Joyce Center

Saint Mary's Orientation Events

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21

12:00 P.M. - PICNIC
Library Green

2:30 P.M. - OPEN HOUSE
Noble Family Dining Hall

4:30 P.M. - ORIENTATION MASS
Angela Athletic Facility

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22

10:45 A.M. - FAREWELL BRUNCH
Noble Family Dining Hall

LOCAL WEATHER	TODAY	TONIGHT	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
	HIGH 71 LOW 52	HIGH 60 LOW 52	HIGH 74 LOW 53	HIGH 80 LOW 60	HIGH 79 LOW 62	HIGH 81 LOW 64

Atlanta 82 / 69 Boston 82 / 64 Chicago 73 / 52 Denver 78 / 54 Houston 91 / 73 Los Angeles 78 / 60 Minneapolis 74 / 58 New York 82 / 67 Philadelphia 84 / 66 Phoenix 101 / 78 Seattle 73 / 61 St. Louis 77 / 53 Tampa 88 / 74 Washington 85 / 67

ND freshmen focus on election

Assigned reading explores U.S. voting trends

By AMANADA MICHAELS
Associate News Editor

In keeping with the election buzz charging the nation, the second annual First Year Academic Convocation, "Election 2004: A Watershed?," asks freshmen to examine the trends of voter apathy in Thomas Patterson's book "The Vanishing Voter."



Patterson

Along with "The Vanishing Voter," the University Committee for the First Year of Studies selected an interview with Robert Putnam regarding the theories in his book, "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital," to prepare students for the mandatory convocation on Sept. 2.

Due to concerns voiced by current sophomores, this workload is a decrease from last year's, when students were asked to read four articles and three Web sites in addition to the "Heart of Islam," which is approximately 300 pages.

The idea of the program is to allow students to explore a pertinent topic through a set of readings culminating in a discussion of the issue, and was deemed a success after its inaugural trial.

At last year's convocation, "The Heart of Islam"

sparked debate on the religious and political conflicts between the United States and the Middle East; now "The Vanishing Voter" is intended to bring the focus to the role of citizenship in democracy and the state of voter participation in the country.

"Last year, the Middle East was certainly in everyone's mind, and everything we did was good background for the things happening today," said Eileen

Kolman, dean of the First Year of Studies. "This fall, the November elections will be a top concern, and we hope to be part of the buzz on campus over them."

Rather than the original three-panel discussion that received some criticism for its length, this year's event will center on an interview with Patterson by Matthew Storin, Associate Vice President for News and Information and a past editor of the Boston Globe.

There will be an extended question and answer session after the interview, and Kolman said that she is encouraging the 400 students who have been posting on the convocation's online discussion board to come with strong inquiries for Patterson.

"We're not planting questions this year, but we certainly don't want silence," she said. "But given the amount of chatter on the Web site, I don't foresee that happening."

The convocation is also being held earlier in the semester than last year's, so the subject matter will be fresher in the students' minds, said Kolman.

More class time will also be devoted to working with the book and topic, specifically in First Year Composition courses, and attending at the convocation will most likely be an assignment for those courses. "Voting Irish" T-shirts will also be distributed to encourage attendance.

Kolman said she hopes the changes in format and subject matter will draw more students to the convocation.

"The election seems to be such an active topic this year nationally, and especially among young people, and the literature seems to indicate that there is probably going to be more voter participation than in 2000," she said. "This is a topic that everyone is getting involved in, and that affects everyone."

Contact Amanda Michaels at amichael@nd.edu

"The election seems to be such an active topic this year nationally, and especially among young people."

Eileen Kolman
dean of First Year of Studies



JOANNA PAXTON/The Observer

International students take a break from orientation after listening to talks about campus security and culture shock.

Notre Dame targets international students

University credits financial aid, recruiting efforts with increased enrollment over the past five years

By TERESA FRALISH
Associate News Editor

As freshmen from all 50 states pack up their boxes and make the trip to South Bend this weekend, they are joined by a similar group of freshmen following much the same routine. But in addition to leaving behind friends and family, these freshmen will change countries and cultures as well.

There are 76 international students, who compose 3.6 percent of this year's freshman class.

As part of its goal to create a more culturally diverse student body, the University has placed special emphasis on recruiting and accepting higher numbers of international students.

"We're doing extensive travel internationally. We've raised the awareness of Notre Dame," said Dan Saracino, director of undergraduate admissions.

While the percentage of these students in freshman classes has doubled overall since 2000, it has hovered around 4 percent for the past three years. Ultimately, the University hopes to see that number rise to 5 percent.

These increases come as a result of financial aid for international students and intensive recruiting efforts in Europe, Asia and Latin America Saracino said. And following the trend of their American peers, these stu-

dents have shown consistent academic improvement.

At most universities, international students must find their own funding. But in fall 2002, Notre Dame first began offering financial aid to international applicants in hopes that it could draw more students from developing countries to the University.

Specifically, the University targeted Latin American countries because of their socioeconomic standing and predominantly Catholic culture.

"Roughly half of the financial assistance goes to that area," Saracino said.

Though proud of the strides made toward increased international enrollment, Saracino said limits for financial aid and competing pressures on available University

money would likely keep the international student percentage at around 4 percent.

"We could be at 6 [or] 7 percent for international students if we had enough financial aid. You can't issue a visa to an international student unless they have enough resources," Saracino said.

Instead, he said the University hopes it can motivate international alumni to contribute resources for incoming freshmen — and provide new generations of students with the same Notre Dame experience they once had.

Contact Teresa Fralish at tfralish@nd.edu

Get Involved in Irish Athletics!

The Sports Information Office

is looking for student assistants for the 2003-04 school year.

Any students interested in becoming active in Irish athletics should come to an **informa-**

tional meeting on Monday,

Aug. 23, at 8:00 p.m. in the Sports Information Office,

(Joyce Center second floor inside Gate 2) or **call Bernie** at

1-7516 for more information.

Transfers find housing at SMC

ND welcomes students despite crowding

By ANGELA SAOUD
Saint Mary's Editor

As if transferring to Notre Dame wasn't complicated enough, it just got a little stranger for 17 women, who found off-campus housing not at Turtle Creek or College Park, but at Saint Mary's.

Though many of the 124 transfer students were able to secure on-campus housing, the crunch forced some to seek lodging elsewhere. To help alleviate the situation, rooms in Regina North Hall were offered as an alternative.

"All the transfer students, most of them being juniors, will be living on the fifth floor of Regina North together," Michelle Russell, director of Residence Life at Saint Mary's said. "There will only be Notre Dame students on this floor."

Students won't get the chance to get too comfortable, however, because the situation is only temporary. As space becomes available at Notre Dame, they will be able to move to their own campus.

Russell said she does not believe students living at one school while attending another will become a trend between the campuses.

"We had an opportunity to help out a difficult situation for Notre Dame students for a semester, and we did," Russell said. "It is not something I would anticipate becoming a regular occurrence. This has happened very recently, and we are still working on some of the details."

Despite the physical separation from their

peers and the University, the women will have plenty of opportunities to get comfortable thanks to the orientation program designed by the Admissions Office.

Transfer orientation co-commissioner Kevin Keller is helping to acclimate students to Notre Dame through a variety of activities. But the weekend dubbed "An Irish Beginning" will not be the end of the road for the students and the counselors who greeted them.

"This year, we're starting a big brothers [and] big sisters program where any transfer student who wants to buddy up with an orientation counselor can," Keller said. "Often times, transfer students don't get to live on campus and that can leave them alienated from the experiences here. This program will hopefully help them get them involved and keep them connected with campus so they can go to an SYR or another campus activity if they want."

Although his job is to help make the students' transition to Notre Dame as smooth as possible, for Keller, it is something bigger that brings him satisfaction.

"I was in their shoes once before, and I want to be able to provide them with the help that I wish I'd had," he said. "These students are in a special category all their own, and being able to help them transition from their old school to ours and show them the true Notre Dame experience is a rare opportunity."

"It's not something I would anticipate becoming a regular occurrence. This has happened very recently, and we are still working on some of the details."

Michelle Russell
Regina hall director

Contact Angela Saoud at
saou0303@saintmarys.edu



Above, Notre Dame transfer Connie Slobach moves into Regina Hall. At right, Todd Torres gives transfer students a tour of campus.

PHOTOS BY
CLAIRE KELLEY &
CHUY BENITEZ

2004 NOTRE DAME SOCCER

IRISH vs. NORTHWESTERN

MONDAY, AUGUST 23 7:00 PM ALUMNI FIELD

RESIDENCE HALL
ATTENDANCE CONTEST
RESIDENCE HALL WITH
THE HIGHEST %
ATTENDANCE
WILL WIN CASH
OR FOOD!

NOTRE DAME STUDENT SEASON FOOTBALL
TICKET LOTTERY DRAWING AT HALFTIME!

ANY STUDENT WITH AN EXACT MATCH OF
THE NUMBER DRAWN WINS THEIR SEASON
TICKET FREE! (MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!)

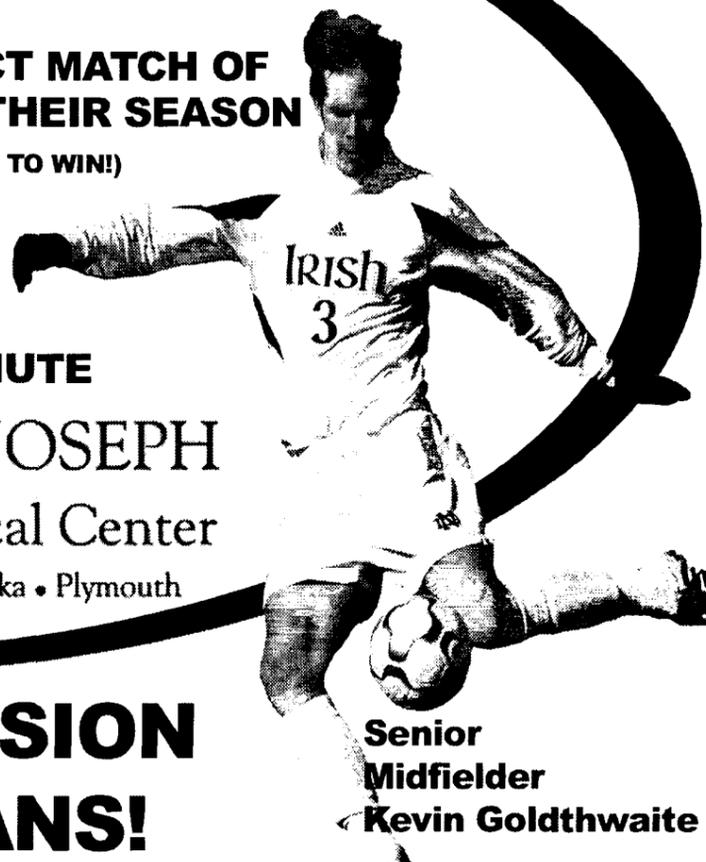
PRE-GAME TAILGATE FOR
ALL FANS!

THE FIRST 600 STUDENTS RECEIVE A 30-MINUTE
PHONE CARD COURTESY OF

SAINT  JOSEPH
Regional Medical Center
South Bend • Mishawaka • Plymouth

ONE STUDENT WILL
WIN 2 TICKETS TO
THE ND vs.
MICHIGAN ST
FB GAME!

FREE ADMISSION
FOR ALL FANS!



Senior
Midfielder
Kevin Goldthwaite

WE'VE BEEN
PUTTING OUT*
EVERY NIGHT
FOR MORE
THAN
35 YEARS.

*WE'RE TALKING ABOUT NEWSPAPERS.
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD OF PARIETALS YET?

Meet editors from News, Sports, Viewpoint, Scene, Photo and Business to find out what you could do for Notre Dame and Saint Mary's daily student newspaper.

Please Join Us for
The Observer Open House

Monday, August 23

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Basement of South Dining Hall

Food will be served.

Frustrating football season prompts fan outcry. Of four players accused of rape, Elam convicted of sexual battery.

The Year

2003 ♦



By **CLAIRE HEININGER**
News Editor

Football frustration

Talk about a sophomore slump. In his second season as Irish head coach, Tyrone Willingham followed a surprising 10-3 campaign and Gator Bowl appearance in 2002-03 with a disappointing 5-7 record last fall, as a trio of embarrassing losses to Michigan, USC and Florida State sealed the team's fate.

Despite battling the toughest schedule in the country — Notre Dame opponents finished with an 86-43 record — and juggling a quarterback controversy that shaped up between junior Carlyle Holiday and freshman Brady Quinn, the Irish players and coaching staff received scarce off-season breathing room from frustrated fans.

In February, more than 400 alumni signed a letter to the Board of Trustees blaming the University's priorities for the football program's sustained woes. Principal letter author Tim Kelley attributed Notre Dame's decade-long disappearance from the national championship hunt to problems in the structure of the athletic department, particularly the influence athletic director Kevin White has over football coaching hires.

The criticism turned uglier in late March and early April, when 1956 Heisman Trophy winner Paul Hornung's racially charged comments about the University's strict admissions requirements fueled a national debate about standards, stereotypes and the impact of academics on recruiting top players.

Through a year of disappointment and finger-pointing, Willingham, White and associate athletic director John Heisler have tried to keep the focus on improving on the field, and students have tried to be patient while the team continues to adjust to the pro-style offense — but a performance outstanding enough to silence the critics remains to be seen.

Sexual assault trials end in one conviction

More than a year and a half after a female Notre Dame student accused then-football players Lorenzo Crawford, Donald Dykes, Abram Elam and Justin Smith of sexual assault in March 2002, only Elam was convicted on criminal charges.

A jury found Elam guilty of sexual battery, a class D felony, but acquitted him of conspiracy to commit rape and criminal deviate conduct on August 30. Elam's sentence — origi-

nally delayed until after a conclusion was reached in the other three trials — will not include jail time, but will require two years of probation and 200 hours of community service, as mandated by St. Joseph County Superior Judge Roland Chamblee in October.

Special prosecutor Maureen Devlin dropped pending lawsuits against Crawford and Smith after another jury acquitted Dykes of rape, conspiracy to commit rape and sexual battery on September 15.

That trial sparked celebration on the part of Dykes' family, but significant backlash from the victim's parents, who remained in the courtroom to argue angrily with jurors and media members. More than six months later, on April 1, the alleged victim and her parents filed a civil lawsuit against both the players and the University, seeking from the four players an unspecified amount of damages for her physical pain, post-traumatic stress and medical bills, and claiming the University had a legal duty to protect her. Filed in St. Joseph County Superior Court without a lawyer and under the names "Jane Doe and Mr. and Mrs. Doe" on court documents, the suit is still pending.

Ten-Year plan

Praising Notre Dame's strong financial base, exceptional faculty and significant potential for growth, the University's ten-year strategic plan was released last fall with a title that reflected its pledge to move confidently into the future.

"Notre Dame 2010: Fulfilling the Promise" emphasizes academic development through the reaffirmation of outstanding undergraduate teaching, as well as a renewed commitment to graduate education and research. Increasing the balance between the University's undergraduate colleges and enriching and expanding the quality of academic programming are identified as key goals for the next decade — as is elevating at least 25 percent of doctoral programs to the national top quartile.

However, the plan reaches beyond the academic sphere, encouraging Notre Dame to apply Catholic values to its policies and to embrace its identity as the premier center of Catholic intellectual life. Significant attention is also devoted to integrating academics into student residential life, including plans for a residence hall environment that encourages students to discuss moral and ethical issues.

Though four new residence hall

complexes are included in the student affairs section of the plan — which also explores experimental options such as coeducational housing and senior apartments or suites — "Fulfilling the Promise" reflects a broader focus than previous construction-based strategic plans. This time, the University also hopes to expand student organizations and improve health services to elevate the overall on-campus experience.

The Board of Trustees officially approved the plan at its spring meeting.

ND administrator chosen as next SMC President

After a nine-month search following the retirement of Saint Mary's President Marilou Eldred, the College's Board of Trustees found its next leader across the street.

Notre Dame vice president and associate provost Carol Mooney was officially selected as the 11th president of the College on Dec. 26, after a Saint Mary's search committee worked in tandem with executive search firm Korn/Ferry International to invite four candidates to campus in November. During their visits, Mooney and the other candidates — Gail Baker, vice president of public relations at the University of Florida; Josefina Baltodano, executive vice president for strategic planning at Alliant International University; and Susan Keys, an administrator at Johns Hopkins University — met with faculty, staff and students to solicit feedback for the committee.

Mooney, a 1972 graduate of Saint Mary's, received high praise from administrators at Notre Dame when they learned of her departure after seven years in the provost's office. She will take office June 1.

Juniper Road

When Notre Dame unveiled its plans to close Juniper Road in January, the proposal was met with applause from the University community but resistance and skepticism from many South Bend residents. But through a series of town meetings designed to hear and incorporate the residents' opinions, Notre Dame expressed the importance of community input as it finalized the plan — closing Juniper in a move toward a safer pedestrian campus.

Equally important in the proposal was maintaining a relatively small campus size, as the University could construct new buildings, such as two new residence halls, in the space the street occupies instead of being forced to expand its boundaries.

The proposal would redirect

September 1
Abram Elam is convicted of sexual battery and acquitted of conspiracy to commit rape and criminal deviate conduct.



September 15
Donald Dykes is acquitted of rape, conspiracy to commit rape and sexual battery.



October 29
The late Joan Kroc leaves \$50 million to the Kroc Institute for peace studies.

January 16
Notre Dame unveils its proposal to close Juniper Road.



February 27
The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops discloses two reports detailing nearly 11,000 child sexual abuse allegations made against priests since 1950. Bishop D'arcy of the Ft. Wayne-South Bend diocese is complimented for his cooperation throughout the scandal.

September 13
The Notre Dame football team loses to Michigan 38-0 — the team's worst loss in 38 years.



October
"Notre Dame 2010: Fulfilling the Promise," the University's new 10-year strategic plan is presented to the Board of Trustees.

December 26
Carol Mooney is named the 11th president of Saint Mary's College.



March 17
A Notre Dame senior falls from a second floor balcony at College Park, prompting police to make six arrests.



New 10-year plan released. Saint Mary's elects new president. Malloy steps down as Notre Dame president.

in Review

♦ 2004

Juniper's traffic — which typically includes 8,100 vehicles a day — to a new four-lane road that would run between Edison and Douglas Roads near Ivy Road. University Architect Doug Marsh explained further details, including modifications to Edison and Douglas Roads in April.

The St. Joseph County Council heard a presentation from Notre Dame on May 11 and could vote to finalize the plan as early as their June 8 meeting. And unlike previous discussions about closing Juniper, the University intends to finance all improvements.

Student Govt. restructuring

The work of the student union this year was primarily occupied with its own restructuring.

In recent years, student government's performance had suffered due to poor communication and an inefficient organizational structure. During student body president Pat Hallahan's report to the Board of Trustees in October, several board members asked that student leaders eliminate inefficiencies in the student union before bringing significant requests to the trustees.

In proposals that began to emerge early in the first semester, student leaders agreed to rework the two major bodies of the student union, policy and programming. Executive Cabinet became the Council of Representatives, reflecting its composition of the top members of all student government bodies. Over the course of the spring semester, the council worked to produce a completely overhauled student body constitution that details the responsibilities of those bodies.

The result was a constitution, approved March 31, that provides for more representation of the student body, as well as improved communication across student government.

The Campus Programming Council will now function with representatives from each residence hall to avoid scheduling conflicts, a problem often experienced by its Student Union Board predecessor.

Student leaders also cut thousands of dollars in spending from the policy side, aiming to create a leaner student union that can more effectively communicate students' concerns to the University's administrators and trustees.

Gay? Fine By Me.

Despite Notre Dame students' reputation for apathy, another reputation — that they live on the most homophobic campus in the United States, according to The Princeton Review — proved alarming enough for the largest show

of dissent toward a University stance in recent memory.

On March 18, approximately 1,700 blaze orange T-shirts with the message "Gay? Fine by Me" were distributed to students and scattered faculty members. Not only did the shirts represent full support and acceptance of homosexual members of the campus community, the show of solidarity also aimed to point out the discrepancy between the students' opinions and the administration's policies.

Two policies in particular were questioned — the University's March 4 refusal to recognize the proposed gay/straight alliance United in Diversity and its sustained rejection of sexual orientation as a category in its official non-discrimination clause.

Though neither policy was changed as a result of the students' efforts — which also included inviting Boston College's director of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Issues to speak on campus and holding a second day to wear the shirts on April 21 — their initiative created a University-wide dialogue about homosexuality, Catholicism and Notre Dame's role to mediate between them.

Taco Bell

Alleged discrimination against homosexuals was not the only University stance that sparked passionate student opposition in 2004. The athletic department's contract with local Taco Bell restaurants also came under fire, albeit from far fewer public demonstrators.

Members of the Progressive Student Alliance began to publicize their dislike of the \$50,000 sponsorship agreement during the National Student Week of Action in early April, delivering letters to University President Father Edward Malloy's office. Demanding that the administration issue a statement against renewing the contract because of alleged unfair wages and labor standards held by the corporation's tomato providers, the letters promised that students would continue to fast until Notre Dame spoke publicly.

After approximately 30 students approached Malloy's office in person April 14, Vice President and General Counsel Carol Kaesebier — who had been in contact with both the PSA and Taco Bell's parent company, Yum! Brands Inc., since the fall — placed several follow-up calls to Taco Bell.

When the University did not receive specific and timely answers, Notre Dame issued a public statement April 27 that postponed renewing the contract and expanding it to \$75,000 by next fall until Taco Bell delivers a satisfactory response.

Monk to move on, Jenkins elected successor

When Father Theodore Hesburgh decided his term as University President was nearing its close, the search for his replacement unfolded before a public audience. Input came from administrators, faculty and even a student committee as the Board of Trustees narrowed the field to five candidates before its much-anticipated decision in November 1986. Even before he was officially named Hesburgh's successor, Malloy was already in the public eye — having been announced as the next president in a controversial Chicago Tribune article twelve days earlier.

But when Malloy made his own choice to step down — announcing at the board's April 30 meeting his intent to retire in July 2005 after he serves his 18th year as president — the change seemed to come out of nowhere. While Malloy informed the Board in October 2003 that he wanted to step down after his current term and said in an April 23 Observer article that he was not seeking to stay on, the search process stayed behind closed doors. A committee met in January, February, March and April, Board Chairman Patrick McCartan confirmed, and chose Father John Jenkins from among several candidates.

The 50-year old Jenkins, a current vice president and associate provost and former religious superior of priests and brothers at Notre Dame, will have 14 months to absorb Malloy's experience as he prepares to become the University's 17th president.

Executive VP saga resolved

The year-long vacancy in the position of executive vice president was finally resolved April 30 when the Board of Trustees elected John Affleck-Graves, whose appointment was immediate.

The hole in the University's third-highest leadership slot had existed since Father Timothy Scully resigned in May 2003. Scully, whose resignation preempted a scheduled Board report clearing him of wrongdoing dating back to a confrontation with a WNDU reporter and cameraman in January of that year, remained a political science professor but left his duties to Malloy.

In a decision delayed to coincide with the appointment of Jenkins — who, following the traditionally close ties between president and executive vice president, offered his formal and informal endorsement for Affleck-Graves — the 53-year old South Africa native became the first layman in University history to hold the position.

Contact Claire Heining at cheining@nd.edu



 <p>March 18 "Gay? Fine by Me." activities held on campus.</p>	<p>March 31 New student union constitution approved.</p>	 <p>April 14 Members of the Progressive Student Alliance approach the Office of the President asking the University not to renew its contract with Taco Bell.</p>	<p>April 21 Students and faculty again don their "Gay? Fine by Me." T-shirts.</p>	<p>April 27 The University announces in a public statement that negotiations have been postponed with Taco Bell.</p>	<p>April 30 The Board of Trustees elects John Affleck-Graves to assume the post of executive vice president after a year-long vacancy in the position.</p> 
<p>March 20 The one-year anniversary of the Iraq War elicits mixed sentiments.</p> 	<p>April 1 Paul Hornung apologizes for his racially controversial March 31st comments about admissions requirements for football players.</p>	<p>April 16 The Library Irish Pub is raided. Twenty-one underage patrons are cited.</p> 	<p>April 23 Notre Dame Security/Police eliminates security monitors in female dorms after the current academic year.</p>	<p>April 30 Father Edward Malloy announces that he will step down as the President of the University. Father John Jenkins is chosen by the Board of Trustees to succeed Malloy on July 1, 2005.</p> 	

Best Wishes

for the 2004-2005 Academic Year

From the Division of Student Affairs

Rev. Mark L. Poorman, C.S.C.

Vice President for Student Affairs
316 Main Building
631-7394

Ms. Ann Firth

Associate VP for Student Affairs
316 Main Building
631-2685

Sr. Mary Louise Gude, C.S.C.

Assistant VP for Student Affairs
316 Main Building
631-5550

Mr. William Kirk

Associate VP for Residence Life
316 Main Building
631-6144

Sr. Jean Lenz, O.S.F.

Assistant VP for Student Affairs
316 Main Building
631-5550

Dr. G. David Moss

Assistant VP for Student Affairs
316 Main Building
631-5550

Ms. Jennifer Monahan

Executive Assistant to the Vice President
316 Main Building
631-5550

ALCOHOL & DRUG EDUCATION

Ms. Gina Firth, Director
311 LaFortune Student Center
631-7970

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Rev. Richard V. Warner, C.S.C., Director
316 Coleman-Morse Center
631-7800

CAREER CENTER

Mr. Lee Svete, Director
248 Flanner Hall
631-5200

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Mr. Bong Miquiabas, Director
204 LaFortune Student Center
631-3825

MULTICULTURAL STUDENT PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Ms. Iris Outlaw, Director
210 LaFortune Student Center
631-6841

RESIDENCE LIFE & HOUSING

Mr. Jeffrey Shoup, Director
305 Main Building
631-5878

SECURITY

Mr. Rex Rakow, Director
101E Security Building
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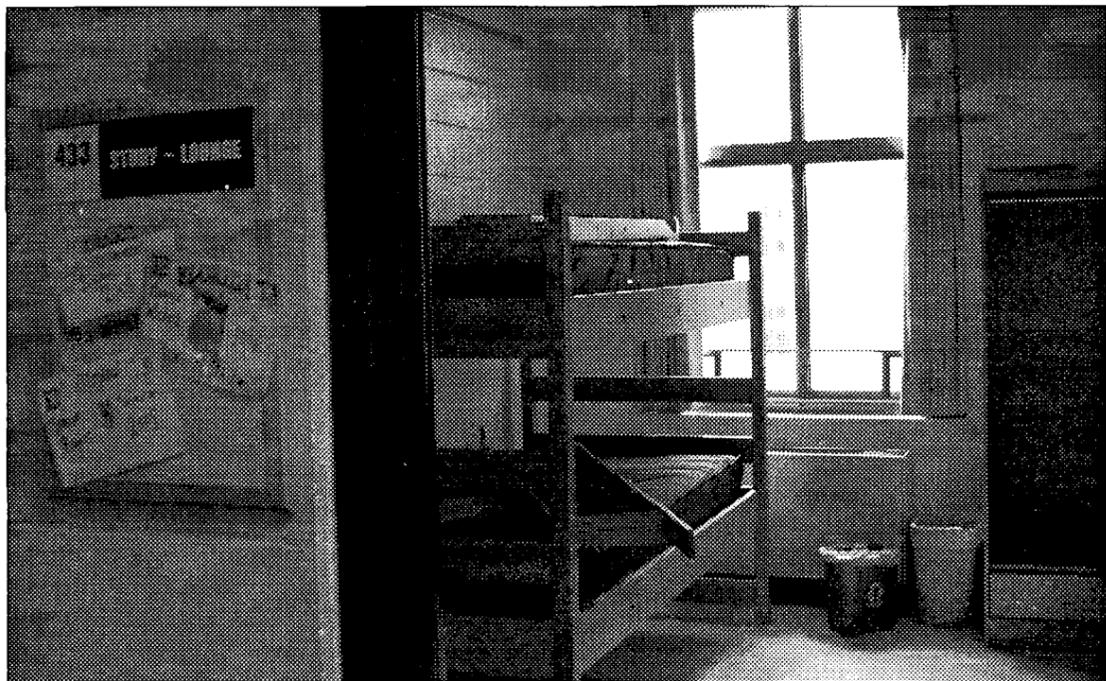
Ms. Ann E. Kleva, Director
217 Student Health Center
631-7497

UNIVERSITY COUNSELING CENTER

Dr. Susan Steibe-Pasalich, Director
322 Student Health Center
631-7336



UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME



CLAIRE KELLY/The Observer

Housing restrictions have forced this McGlenn Hall study lounge to change into a freshman triple. The room crunch has hit women's dorms the hardest, where most lounges have been converted.

Housing

continued from page 1

raise many double occupancy rooms to triples.

"We've had this problem in the past, and it's about the same this year for the men, but it's more pronounced in the women's dorms this year," director of the Office of Residence Life and Housing Jeff Shoup said. "The men still have a few lounges available, but for the women, we've had to use study lounges we've never used before for new student housing, and had to bump many rooms to an occupancy level that they haven't been at for a few years."

Because room sizes vary markedly from hall to hall, ResLife had to go through each lounge individually to

determine whether they could be converted, or if there was space for another set of furniture.

"We wanted it to be a situation where we could easily convert the room back, so you have to make minimal changes while making it a livable space," Shoup said. "It was generally pretty easy, because you add an extra set of furniture, and put a little bit of work into the built-in carrels."

Walsh and Breen-Phillips were the only two women's halls to escape the crunch, explained Shoup, but only because the size and configuration of the rooms made the changes impossible.

The former study lounges are, on average, smaller than normal rooms and lack sinks, so many were set aside for upperclassmen who floated

for a single.

Shoup said freshmen are more likely to end up in increased occupancy rooms, though without their hall staff informing them of their situation, they won't know the difference.

Response from the rectors have been mixed, said Shoup, with some expressing significant concerns about stretching space to the limit, and others accepting the fact there is no other feasible option.

"I'm not any more concerned than I was last year when my study lounges were converted, but we'll deal with it," Welsh Family rector Candace Carson said. "You know what they say, the more the merrier."

Contact Amanda Michaels at amichael@r .edu

Freshmen

continued from page 1

Dame."

"If we effectively tell the story of a faith-filled community, bright students who love community service, who have a certain spirit about them, then the right students will hear the story and want to be part of it," he said, highlighting the 92 percent of incoming freshmen who participated in high school community service — and more importantly, the more than 80 percent who plan to continue volunteering at Notre Dame.

"Too often, when people talk about a class, they just

look at test scores, and it really is a great disservice to students because they're so much more," Saracino said.

Not that the class of 2008 doesn't have plenty of numbers to brag about.

The average freshman enters the University this year having ranked in the top 5.5 percent of his or her high school class, and with a mean SAT score of 1367 and ACT score of 32 in tow. Seventy-three percent of the class also earned Advanced Placement credit.

Amid such impressive statistics, however, is one number that Notre Dame does not find as satisfying. Only 22 percent of the class of 2008 comes from an ethnic minority background, a one

percent increase over the previous class but still nowhere near the University's target.

"If we want to claim we're educating the leaders of tomorrow, or the Catholic leaders of tomorrow, it's not accurate with a 21, 22 percent minority [population]," Saracino said, dismissing the excuses that minority students aren't interested in Notre Dame because it lacks an urban setting, or because of its reputation as "a white school with a black football team."

"If you brag too much about the class, it's like a hospital bragging about the health of the patients coming in."

Dan Saracino
director of admissions

"One of my goals is to blast those stereotypes," he said. "Why don't you let the black students make that decision?"

While Saracino identified another of the University's goals as moving "further and further away from having a photograph" that represents the typical Notre Dame student, a composite picture of the class of 2008 does emerge:

- ◆ Eighty-two percent of enrolled freshmen are Catholic.
- ◆ Twenty-two percent are children of alumni.
- ◆ Seventy-five percent participated in varsity athletics.
- ◆ Twenty-three percent are children of educators.
- ◆ Thirty-five percent ranked in the top five in their class.
- ◆ Fifty-two percent participated in the performing arts.

Contact Claire Heinger at cheinger@nd.edu

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Business

continued from page 1

nesses is one of the year's biggest.

"The impact for our store is incredibly high," said Scott Giese, assistant manager for the Super Target store on University Park Drive. "Our sales peak this week and early next."

Both Meijer and Target said they began to see students in early August through early September.

Tharp said the back-to-college weekend was the store's second biggest impact period after the Christmas season. Meijer typically begins planning for college move-in weekend several weeks before the majority of students arrive in South Bend. The store stocks up on common dorm room items such as hangers, pillows, sheets and notebooks as well as food items such as bottled water and ramen noodles.

"We typically build extra displays," Tharp said. "Eighty percent of everything in [the] center aisles is for back-to-school."

Tharp also said bakery items had been especially popular this year with parents moving students in.

Super Target coordinates its

back-to-school strategy at the corporate level and uses sales from the previous year to plan future marketing strategies Giese said. This year, the store sent about 13,000 back-to-school flyers to the Notre Dame campus.

In addition to offering potential shoppers plenty of dorm essentials, Meijer also plans a variety of special promotions specifically targeted at college students.

"On Saturday we're going to have karaoke," said Trish Swartz, back-to-school coordinator for the Grape Road Meijer. "On Sunday we're going to do our ever-popular goldfish eating contest."

Students seeking convenience also have the option of stopping by the student government-sponsored Fall Mall in the Stepan Center, which offers Notre Dame students a variety of dorm supplies from local stores. Bed, Bath, and Beyond has participated for the last several years, said assistant manager Doug Sibberson.

Since the store opened six years ago, Sibberson said his store has seen a gradual increase in the number of students shopping at Bed, Bath and Beyond.

Contact Teresa Fralish at tfralish@nd.edu

Kickoff 2004

FOOTBALL TICKET DISTRIBUTION

STEP Pick-up Ticket Application

ND On-Campus Undergrad (except Freshmen)
 ND First Year Students
ND Off-Campus Undergrads
 ND Law/MBA/Grad
 Saint Mary's students

In your mailbox
 On August 22 at 6:00 p.m. in the Joyce Center
On Enrollment Monday at the Stadium Box Office
 From your college
 From SMC

Obtain your lottery number on Enrollment Monday, August 23, 9am-5pm, Stadium Box Office



Students will be seated by class. Each student may bring up to SIX applications. You MUST have a lottery number in consecutive numerical order with your group in order to be able to sit with them.

The starting lottery number will be drawn at 8:30 p.m. on Monday, August 23. E-mail and phone announcements will be made following the lottery of the number. The sequence number can also be found at sao.nd.edu after 9:00 p.m. To reflect the smaller class size, Law/MBA/Grad students will have a separate lottery number.

Purchase your season tickets at the Stadium Box Office



Guidelines for Ticket Distribution Schedule:

If your number is within:

- * 400 of the selected number, show up at start time
- * 400-800 of the selected lottery number, show up 20 minutes past start time
- * 800-1200 of the selected lottery number, show up 40 minutes past start time
- * 1200-1600 of the selected lottery number, show up 1 hour past start time
- * 1600-2000 of the selected lottery number, show up 90 minutes past start time
- * If you have no seating preference or no lottery number, show up 3 hours after start time

Check calendar below for start times by class

Bring Ticket Applications and I.D.s. Cash or checks only. Checks must have the student's phone number on them! Each student may bring up to six I.D.s.

monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday
<p>9:00am-5:00pm Lottery sequence numbers available at the Notre Dame Stadium Box Office. <i>You MUST have a lottery sequence number in consecutive numerical order with your group to be able to sit with them.</i> (i.e., if you plan to sit with 10 friends, you must have 10 sequential lottery numbers.)</p> <p>8:30pm Lottery number drawn. Email and phone announcements will be made to notify students.</p>	<p>8:00am SENIOR start time for ticket purchases at the Notre Dame Stadium Box Office.</p>	<p>7:00am JUNIOR start time for ticket purchases at the Notre Dame Stadium Box Office.</p> <p>1:00pm Law/MBA/Grad start time for ticket purchases at the Notre Dame Stadium Box Office.</p>	<p>7:00am SOPHOMORE start time for ticket purchases at the Notre Dame Stadium Box Office.</p> <p>1:00pm FRESHMAN start time for ticket purchases at the Notre Dame Stadium Box Office.</p>



ROTC conducts frosh training on campus

By JEN ROWLING
News Writer

From waking up at dawn for intense training to bonding over pizza parties in the evening, freshman ROTC cadets collaborated on campus for the first time this week.

Comprised of students from Notre Dame, Saint Mary's, Holy Cross, Indiana University-South Bend, Bethel College and Valparaiso, the three ROTC divisions — Air Force, Army and Navy — facilitated individual orientation week schedules.

Thirteen Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students compose this year's freshmen Army ROTC class. While their orientation began with the issuance of cadet uniforms, a pizza party and a game of football, the excitement was soon replaced with physical training at 5:30 a.m. the next morning. Endurance activities, including rock climbing and rope climbing across St. Mary's Lake, challenged the young cadets. A Humvee military vehicle equipped with a missile launcher, machine gun and grenade launcher was also on display for the incoming class. Throughout the week, freshmen learned important skills with gas masks, hand grenades, cam-

ouflage and night vision. "When the freshmen first got here, they were shy, [but] as the week went by they opened up," said Army Second Lieutenant Mike Bielecki. "They do have trouble getting up early — it is a big change from high school sleeping in."

Commander Mike Zenk of the Air Force division said incoming freshmen are required to take a standardized test similar to the SAT. This assessment includes evaluation on pilot and navigation skills.

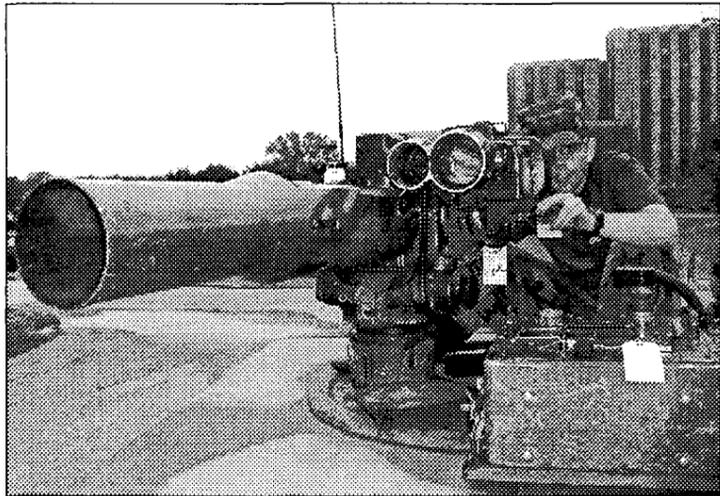
"They seem like a good motivated group of students, I have seen progress in just a few days," Zenk said regarding the incoming Air Force class which includes approximately 30 students from SMC and ND.

Cadets appeared anxious and excited about their new positions in ROTC.

"I want to become an officer, I will probably end up making a career out of it," said Lance Lovejoy of the Army division.

"I am having a blast," said Hayden Piscal of the Army division. "The army will teach me important leadership and discipline skills assisting me in whatever I decide to do with my life."

Contact Jen Rowling at jrowling@nd.edu



Freshmen ROTC cadets test their new skills during training week.

♦
PHOTOS
COURTESY OF
ARMY ROTC

STUDENT COMPUTING SERVICES

EVENTS SCHEDULE AUGUST 2004



INFORMATION FAIR INCOMING FRESHMEN

Attend this Q&A on Saturday, August 21, 4:30p-6:00p in Rooms 116 and 117 DeBartolo Hall. Members of the OIT staff will be on hand to answer questions about student computing at Notre Dame.

INFORMATION FAIR TRANSFER STUDENTS

Scheduled for Saturday, August 21, 1:00p-3:00p in Room 200 Main Building. This event will provide students transferring from another college or university to Notre Dame to learn about campus computing services.

IT SECURITY SESSIONS NEW STUDENTS

Mandatory 30-minute Security Information Sessions will be held for incoming students on Monday, August 23 in Rooms 141 and 155 DeBartolo Hall. Sessions will start every 15 minutes during the period 9:00a-4:45p.

RESNET FAIR NEW STUDENTS

The ResNet Configuration Fair provides computing assistance for all Notre Dame students living in residence halls on campus. Please visit http://oit.nd.edu/start/resnet_fair.shtml to find out when we will be in your dorm.

SOLUTIONS CENTER SALE NEW STUDENTS

Learn about new computer equipment and purchase laptops and accessories at Notre Dame's on-campus store.
THURSDAY August 19 9:00a-6:00p
FRIDAY August 20 9:00a-6:00p
SATURDAY August 21 9:00a-12:00 noon
SUNDAY August 22 1:00p-5:00p

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME <http://oit.nd.edu>
Office of Information Technologies

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Email: oithelp@nd.edu

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Saint Mary's Class of 2008

- 351 incoming freshmen
- Average SAT Verbal: 530-610
- Average SAT Math: 510-630
- Average ACT: 22-27
- Average GPA: 3.38-3.9
- 21% are children of alumni
- 75% come from the midwest
- 34 states and countries are represented

MIKE HARKINS/Observer Graphic

SMC

continued from page 1

analyzed the data from the College Board Admitted Student Questionnaire, which will help the College learn more about perspective students' choices.

But despite weaker numbers, the class of 2008 is academically strong.

"Our new students bring diverse interests, skills and talents. These women are artists, athletes, scholars,

musicians, student leader and community volunteers," Nolan said.

The middle 50 percent SAT range for the class of 2008 was 530 to 610 on verbal and 510 to 630 on math, and a middle 50 percent score of 22 to 27 on the ACT.

The middle 50 percent had a final grade point average of 3.38 to 3.9, with ranking in the top 21 percent of their classes.

Seven women were valedictorians of their high school graduating class and three were salutatorians. About 21

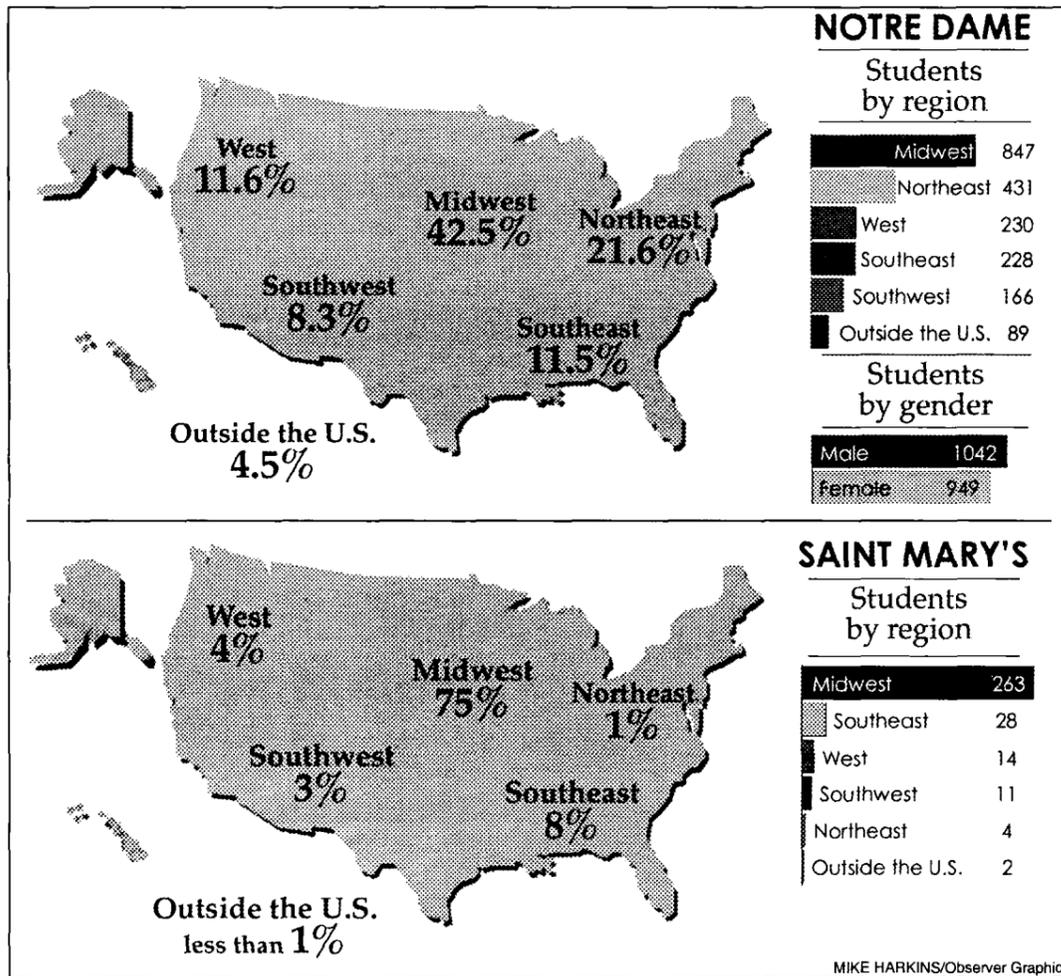
percent of the class of 2008 are children of alumnae.

Although 75 percent of Saint Mary's students come from the Midwest, the incoming freshman class will represent 34 states and two foreign countries — Afghanistan and Bulgaria.

"The Saint Mary's community looks forward to the contributions that the class of 2008 will make at the College and in the world far beyond our campus," said Nolan.

Contact Kelly Meehan at kmecha01@saintmarys.edu

CLASS OF 2008



MIKE HARKINS/Observer Graphic

Move-In

continued from page 1

only freshmen I have interacted with so far are the ones who have moved in recently that I've seen walking around the dorm. It will be nice when everyone gets here."

Breen-Phillips freshman Adrianna Stasiuk, a volleyball player from Park Ridge, Ill., agreed.

"Now that people are starting to arrive, it's getting more and more exciting," she said.

Stasiuk, who has been on campus since Aug. 9 for volleyball practice, said a certain amount of trepidation goes hand-in-hand with anticipation for newly arrived freshmen.

"Being away from home for the first time is always intimidating," she said.

As of Thursday, Notre Dame's Office of Undergraduate Admissions expected 1,991 freshmen to arrive on campus for the 2004-05 academic year. While the majority of incoming students hail from the Midwestern United States, 89 will converge under the Dome from locales abroad.

One such student, Gritzman's Stanford roommate Hudson Sullivan, arrived on campus Wednesday after a seven-hour drive from Toronto.

"I'm a bit nervous," he said, echoing the sentiments of many of his freshman colleagues. "I was so excited, but we were in the car on our way here, and all these questions come up ... and then when I saw the room, I thought, 'This is so small' — it's smaller than my room at home!"

Sullivan, an avid hockey player, already has plans to join his dorm's interhall hockey team. A sports fan, it was the school pride he observed in the Notre Dame student body during his two campus visits that sold him on the university.

"Everything was so intense down here. Everyone gets involved," he said, remembering scenes of students across campus attired from head to toe in Irish gear.

"It was that atmosphere that was really attractive to me," Sullivan said. "I knew those were the kinds of people that I wanted to be around for the next four years."

In dorm rooms across cam-



CLAIRE KELLY/The Observer

A Keough Frosh-O staffer helps unload Thursday.

pus, incoming freshmen will continue to run the gamut of emotions from excitement to apprehension this weekend in variations of the same scene over and over again.

Across U.S. 31 at Saint Mary's College, the feeling among freshmen is very much the same.

"The best thing is watching them walk up to the dorm," said Holy Cross Hall resident assistant Jill Vlasek, who spent most of Thursday morning behind the welcome table inside the dorm's foyer. "You can see everything on their face. You can see all that they're going through."

From 8 a.m. to around 5 p.m. Thursday, Saint Mary's freshmen were greeted by orange-clad welcome staff members waving and blowing bubbles at the College's stone-walled main entrance. They entered their new homes for the first time, meeting hall staff, roommates and the people with whom they will share their lives for the next nine months.

"I'm really excited, because my roommate is phenomenal," said Holy Cross Hall resident Rachael Schermitzler, a freshman from Buffalo Grove, Ill. "Both of us have clicked at once."

The first in her family to attend Saint Mary's, Schermitzler said she is enthusiastic about beginning her year at the College.

"My roommate is a legacy... I'm new and she's old here, and that's a great combination," she said.

McCandless Hall roommates Elizabeth Johnson and Anita Moo, both the first in their families to attend Saint Mary's, were equally enthusiastic about their decision to join the College's 351-strong class of 2008.

"When I checked it out, it was just so pretty," Johnson, a prospective nursing student from Fort Wayne, Ind., said.

Her roommate agreed, adding that only hours into her arrival on campus, she was confident in her answer to the question her Saint Mary's and Notre Dame counterparts will inevitably try to answer themselves. Becoming a Belle, she said, was the right decision for her.

"It's hard to know, but when you're here, you just know," Moo said.

Contact Meghan Martin at mmartin@nd.edu

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want a futon for those afternoon naps? need some carpet for that floor? a few posters for the wall? look no further than SUB's annual...

Fall Mail

Stepan Center - located east of the new security building on the north side of campus

going OFF campus to get your dorm supplies? don't bother! everything you need is conveniently located ON campus!

come see all the great deals from **Sam's Club, Bed Bath and Beyond, Beyond the Wall, and Carpet and Tile Depot!**

August 19th - Noon - 7pm

August 20th - 8am - 7pm

August 21st - 8am - 7pm

August 22nd - Noon - 5pm

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THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

Saturday, August 21, 2004

page 15

THE OBSERVER

The Independent, Daily Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

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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 Editor 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 Lozar.

POST OFFICE INFORMATION

The Observer (USPS 599-2-4000) is published Monday through Friday except during exam and vacation periods. A subscription to The Observer is \$100 for one academic year; \$55 for one semester.

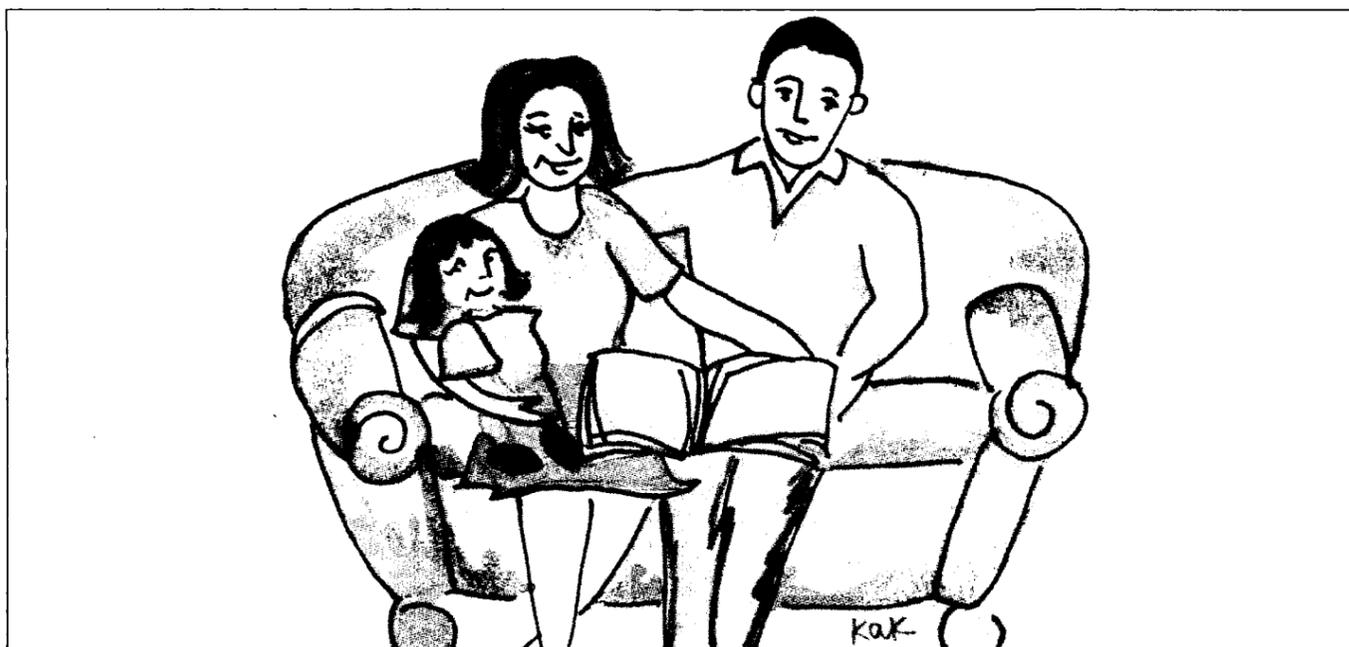
The Observer is published at:
024 South Dining Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556-0779
Periodical postage paid at Notre Dame
and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER:
Send address corrections to:
The Observer
P.O. Box Q
024 South Dining Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556-0779

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Eight weeks changes everything

Eight weeks.

It doesn't seem like a long time, but eight weeks changed my life.

I didn't realize at the time what was happening; I never even anticipated that it would.

In eight weeks I had begrudgingly become accustomed to the idea of showering with flip-flops and adapted my only-child lifestyle to incorporate living with a roommate.

In eight weeks I had cautiously shed my shy demeanor and passed through the doorway into a sweaty 11-x-14 room blaring Bon Jovi's "Livin' On A Prayer" — a scene known only as a freshman dorm party — and eaten my first chocolate-chip cookie ever (sparking a mini-obsession with everything of the chocolate-chip cookie nature).

In eight weeks I had seamlessly perfected the art of pulling all-nighters for my first round of midterms and haphazardly balanced classes, intramural flag football (this a feat in itself, given I am quite possibly the most un-athletic person at Notre Dame) and working at this newspaper.

But in these eight weeks I had not anticipated that as I carefully charted my own course in life, independent from that of my family and home that I left behind, that the world I left behind was changing as well.

Before that Friday morning in mid-August three years ago when my parents and I loaded up the family conversion van with more stuff than could fit in my minuscule dorm room and headed to Notre Dame, everything had been about me and only me. About me getting into college. About me graduating from high school. About me preparing to go to Notre Dame.

Then came eight weeks of me trying to define me.

Eight Fridays after the first one in August I found myself sitting at my own kitchen table during fall break eagerly relaying stories about college life to my parents.

It was then that I saw the look in my father's eyes — a sentiment that could not be detected through an e-mail or phone call.

I knew that my college experience would be bittersweet for my parents — they would be happy to see me experiencing new things, but they would be sad to see me leave and know that I was having these experiences without them there to guide me.

What I did not know was how much my parents' lives had changed as well.

I found that my mother had not cooked a single meal in eight weeks — that is, of course, until the night when I came home to my favorite meal of green bean casserole and chicken and rice with mushrooms.

I discovered that after holding on to me tightly, shuffling me back to the car and pleading with me to come home, my parents had driven the 92 miles back to Chicago in silence with tears in their eyes.

I learned that each time they called my room and I was not there, their worry level rose five notches.

For the next nine days of fall break, my parents tried to talk me out of returning to Notre Dame. My dad tried to lay one of his infamous guilt trips on me, saying, "Now you don't really want to leave, do you? What's better than being at home?"

My mom even tried to bribe me when, as mother and daughter, we baked chocolate chip cookies together for the first time. As the mother, she reasoned, she could tell me what to do. As the daughter, I would have to listen.

As fall break drew to a close, my dad surprised me with a trip to Krispy Kreme (though it's one of my favorite guilty pleasures, he is not the biggest fan). As we drove to my doughnut mecca he told me something I had heard countless times before, but that now had a different impact.

As he told me he loved me, I immediately responded that I loved him too, but he stopped me mid-sentence and said — as most parents do — he loved me more. He said though he loved me, it hurt him to see me leave and he would prefer to keep me a little girl forever, he knew Notre Dame was the place for me.

Eight more weeks later, with my first semester as a college student behind me, I returned home once again.

This time things were just a little different.

Much to my disappointment, I discovered that the dog — a rather large and unruly German Shepherd named Bailey — had essentially replaced me in the Downes household. My mom goes shopping for her and buys her toys. My dad (who learned early on that I was not the most coordinated person in the world) taught her to play catch with a basketball. And both of my parents decided that my room should now be hers.

But there was a much more important discovery that I came face to face with

that Christmas break — my parents and I had a new relationship.

Sure, we were still parents and child, but we were also friends. The arguments, discussions and secrets that riddled my high school years had faded away.

While I had grown and changed that fall, they came to accept that I was growing up and we both realized the dynamics of our relationship had changed forever.

When my mom and I made chocolate chip cookies for Christmas, she did not cry and she did not tell me I had to stay at home. But she did eagerly ask me to explain in detail — just like "one of the girls" — everything that had happened since fall break.

My dad no longer tried to control every aspect of my life — granted, he still likes to have a say in my decisions — and what used to be unbearable one-sided discussions became actual conversations.

I did not realize in August 2001 that what I know now was even possible — that eight weeks would change not just my life, but my parents' as well.

Sure, my parents still struggle with me leaving for school and they still regard me as their little girl.

Just last Sunday, my mom gave me her habitual bear hug and shuffle-shuffle saying, "C'mon just get back in the car, come home with me, you don't need to go back. You are growing up too fast."

Three years later, as I stare with bewildered eyes at my senior year and beyond that my future, I have collected countless unforgettable memories but hold dearest my unexpected new friendship. While I will leave behind the flag football field (probably a great idea), the dorm parties and the all-night study sessions, I will never have to say goodbye to the life-changing — mine and theirs — effects of those eight weeks.

"In eight weeks I had cautiously shed my shy demeanor and passed through the doorway into a sweaty 11-x-14 room blaring Bon Jovi's 'Livin' On a Prayer' — a scene known only as a freshman dorm party — and eaten my first chocolate chip cookie ever."

Meghanne Downes is a senior political science and peace studies double major with a journalism minor. An only child hailing from Chicago, she never had a cookie until the first week of freshman year. Thanks to the end of encouragement and persistence of her roommates, she continues to discover other foods such as tacos, cucumbers, Thai food, peanut butter and jelly and most recently, the pita. Contact Meghanne Downes at mdownes1@nd.edu.

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

Campus leaders welcome Class of 2008

Welcome to Notre Dame. You will find that we have a beautiful campus and a talented faculty. If you take advantage of the many opportunities that we have here, I am confident that you will grow in every way as a thoughtful and reflective person preparing to make your way in the world. We are very proud of our residence tradition on campus and the many activities available for you to use your God given talents in leadership and service.

It is my hope that during your time with us you will make some of the best friends of your life. We welcome students from every State in the Union and from a wide array of foreign countries and cultures. We are enriched by the different experiences and perspectives that you bring to our common life.

I will have the privilege of teaching some of you in my seminar class. Others I will come to know through my residing in Sorin Hall. I hope to have a chance to interact with all of you in some way or another during your time at Notre Dame.

Once again welcome to Notre Dame! I trust that this will be a great year for all of us. All best wishes as you make this important transition and may God bless our life together.



Malloy

Father Edward A. Malloy
President
University of Notre Dame
August 20, 2004

On behalf of the faculty and staff at Saint Mary's College, I extend a warm welcome to the class of 2008 as well as to our transfer students. As a graduate of Saint Mary's and now its 11th president, I care deeply about this special place and about you, our students. By choosing Saint Mary's you are following in the footsteps of generations of remarkable women before you, and like them, your distinct talents will leave your mark on the College.

At Saint Mary's College we will challenge you. We will help you learn the extent of your capabilities and to use them well. I urge you to stretch and to take advantage of the many opportunities open to you here. With a 160 year old tradition of educating women to make a difference in the world, we provide an excellent education in the context of developing the whole person.

As a Catholic College, we cherish intellectual pursuits because they enrich our understanding of God and God's creation, which in turn helps us build and sustain more just and equitable communities. We hope that one result of your Saint Mary's education is that you develop a sense of obligation to the common good and that your life and work will reflect that understanding.

As you and I begin our time here together, I welcome you to Saint Mary's and the greater educational community to which we belong. I hope your time here will be rich with possibilities.



Mooney

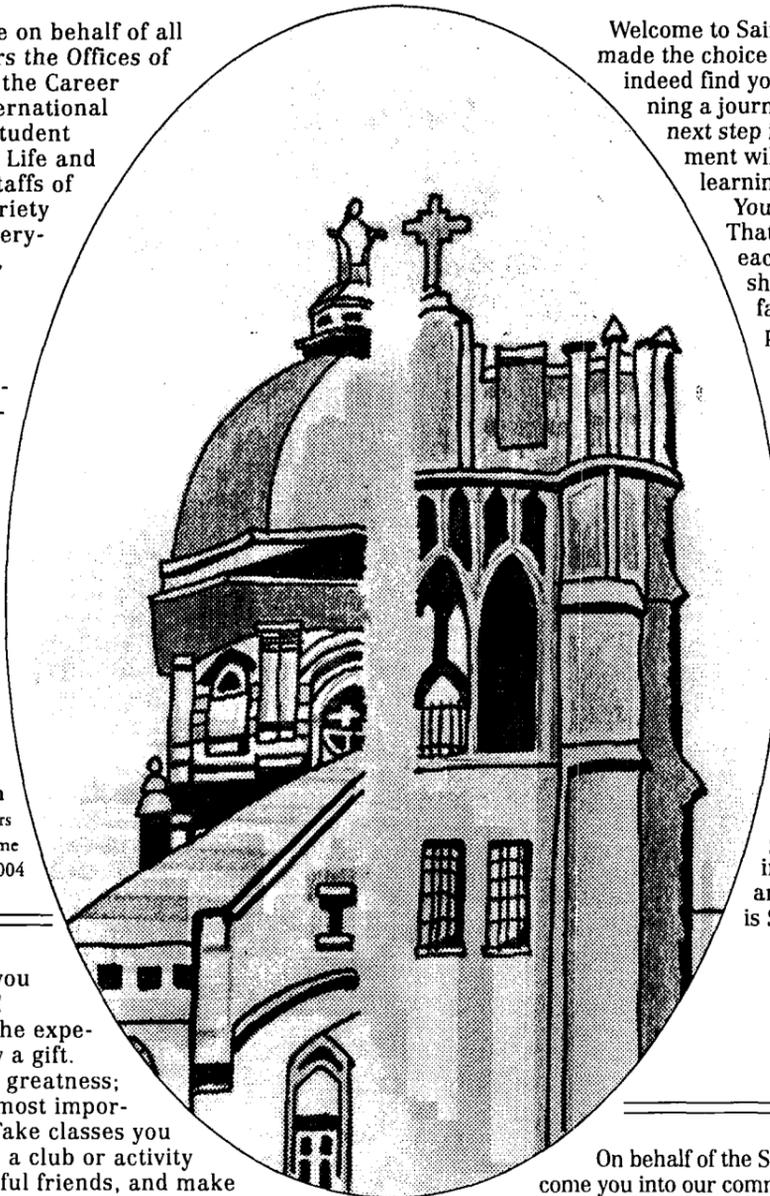
Carol Ann Mooney
President
Saint Mary's College
August 20, 2004

I would like to extend to you a warm welcome on behalf of all of us who work in the Division of Student Affairs the Offices of Alcohol and Drug Education, Campus Ministry, the Career Center, Counseling Center, Health Services, International Student Services and Activities, Multicultural Student Programs and Services, the Office of Residence Life and Housing, Security, Student Activities, and the staffs of your residence halls. Although we provide a variety of services, we share a common desire to do everything we can to help facilitate your intellectual, spiritual and personal growth.

We extend a special welcome to our new students first-year students, transfer students and new graduate and professional students. We welcome back the sophomores, juniors and seniors, as well as the returning graduate and professional students. As a community, we draw our strength from the unique and diverse gifts offered by each of you. We hope that all of you both those who are new and those who are returning will be able to achieve the goals you set for yourselves this year.

I hope that I will have the opportunity to come to know as many of you as possible in the months ahead. Until I am able to greet you in person, please know that you have my very best wishes for a year filled with all God's blessings.

Father Mark Poorman
Vice President for Student Affairs
University of Notre Dame
August 20, 2004



Welcome to Saint Mary's College! We are all so pleased that you made the choice to attend Saint Mary's and know that you will indeed find your home away from home with us. You are beginning a journey that will last far longer than four years. This next step in your intellectual growth and personal development will provide the foundation for you as you establish learning habits that will last a lifetime.

You will be challenged to be a woman of distinction. That distinction will have a different meaning for each of you. You will find your leadership skills sharpened every day through your interaction with faculty, staff, administrators and your student peers. You will explore new academic subjects that will open doors to worlds you never considered.

As a Catholic college we honor and respect the journey each of us makes as we find God's grace in our lives. We will support you as you explore the hard questions of faith and we will celebrate the answers with you as you form them.

In between all these opportunities you will have fun! There are so many activities, clubs, organizations and athletic events to attend. You will have no problem finding ways to exercise your Belles school spirit on campus. And, you will have the opportunity to join your colleagues at the University of Notre Dame and Holy Cross College for their activities too.

Reflect on the knowledge that thousands of women have walked these same paths and halls before you. They like you, are women of faith who came here to develop the talents God had given them so that they could make a difference in the world. You will benefit from their legacy and experience and you will add to the legacy that is Saint Mary's College.

Linda Timm
Vice President for Student Affairs
Saint Mary's College
August 20, 2004

Welcome to the Notre Dame family. Ahead of you lies perhaps the most invigorating, exciting, and indeed forming years of your life. Get excited! The experiences and opportunities awaiting you are truly a gift.

Your years at Notre Dame have a potential for greatness; make the most of your time here. The first and most important thing to remember is to always have fun. Take classes you enjoy, select a major that makes you happy, find a club or activity that excites you, surround yourself with wonderful friends, and make everything you do here something you can value and remember fondly in the years to come.

It is the support of others that helps you accomplish your goals. Never lose sight of the true value and significant roles of your friends, family and classmates in your life. They are the most valuable resources you have; it is they who will help you through the rough times and celebrate the amazing times. Treasure every moment with them.

The next few years will challenge, develop and amaze you to extremes you can barely imagine possible. Never in your life will you find a place so filled with spirit, love, family, wonder and tradition. Embrace these years. The University of Notre Dame is truly an amazing and beautiful place — not only because of the breathtaking landmarks, but because of Her people. You too have been presented the opportunity to explore and embody the Tradition that is Notre Dame. We believe in you and we are all here to help you on your journey.

We wish you the best of luck. God Bless. On behalf of the Notre Dame student body, welcome home.

Adam Istvan
Notre Dame's student body president
Karla Bell
Notre Dame's student body vice president
August 20, 2004

On behalf of the Saint Mary's student body, it is our pleasure to welcome you into our community. During your time at Saint Mary's, you will experience challenges and achievements. You will encounter new ideas, receive new opportunities, and shape new dreams. Yet, more importantly you will grow at college surrounded by those who will inspire you to believe in yourself!

You have arrived at an exciting time in our college's history. With our new president, a new student center and new apartments, your years here will allow each of you to engage in the opportunities they will offer. Furthermore, you will have a role in shaping their future.

Over the next four years, you will have the chance to grow in an environment that will expand your intellectual growth in the classroom. However, college is also a time to expand your horizons and get involved outside of the classroom. The Saint Mary's Student Government Association and numerous campus clubs offer wonderful avenues to explore and pursue. We encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities.

We are looking forward to learning about you and the rest of the Class of 2008. We are confident you will treasure your first four years as a Saint Mary's woman. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can do anything to ease your transition. Congratulations and we wish you the time of your life! Again it is a pleasure to welcome you home.

Sarah Catherine White
Saint Mary's student body president
Mary Pauline Moran
Saint Mary's student body vice president
August 20, 2004

All you need to know

Working in the so-called "real world" in my hometown of Canton, Ohio as a reporter for the Repository newspaper taught me a very important lesson this summer — stay in college. Stay in college as long as possible, even if Notre Dame graduate school is \$45,000.

Anyone who's ever worked 40 hours a week (i.e. your parents) understands this. Just ask them. Sure, they may like their jobs (I loved my internship), but there's just something to be said about staying up with friends until 4 a.m., sleeping through that worthless calculus class or breaking parietals for the first time.

College is just something that can't be duplicated — that's why it really is the best four years you'll probably ever have.

Think about it. What's your job at college? Go to class, don't flunk out and learn as much as you can from being in the classroom and, just as importantly, out of it. Geez, tough job.

Keep that in mind when you're deciding between going out on a Tuesday night or studying for some midterm. It's all about perspective. Grades are important, and Notre Dame is a place where you'll have to earn your As and Bs. But it's just as important to experience college here for much more than the textbooks and lectures. Notre Dame has countless opportunities.

As a freshman I worried about grades a lot. But as I got older, I realized that there's too much at Notre Dame to dwell on whether I get a 3.1 or a 3.3 grade point average. Plus, ask any college graduate with a job, they'll tell you grades don't matter that much. Just get a degree and have a 2.5 or higher. (Suddenly, at the same time, all freshman parents cringe and hate me for saying that. Sorry, but, it's true.)

You won't know anyone or anything when you get to campus. That's OK. Remember, no one else does either. Be yourself, be friendly, and soon enough you'll start meeting people and making friends.

Make sure you give this place a chance. If things don't seem too great at first, don't panic, it should get better. Some people take longer to adjust to college life than others.

Love your dorm — even if it is Keenan. Always go to dances too, especially if you're asked. As a freshman in Zahm House, the RA's gave us this advice and it's definitely something to remember. Who cares if your date isn't that cute? Her friend might be. Plus

dances are just fun, whomever you go with.

Go to the grotto as much as you can. Religious beliefs aside, it's too beautiful not to see every day.

Get involved with something you love. I love college basketball and writing. So some friends and I started a basketball fan club here my freshman year. I also began working for The Observer, which has opened up a lot of doors. Students even started a Texas club and a club for girls named Katie for goodness sake. The possibilities are endless.

There are two things to never, ever do during your four years here. Don't walk on the grass on God Quad (the area in front of the Dome). I don't care that it's a football weekend and everyone else is doing it, just stay on the sidewalk.

And please, for George Gipp's sake, don't walk up or down the staircase of the Main Building before you graduate. Ever. I mean it. Tradition says students should only do that once they've completed their degree at Our Lady's University. If you have already, may God have mercy on you.

Finally, live every day keeping in mind that you're probably the luckiest person in the world to be here. Enjoy the time.

There are thousands of kids that would give up so much just to have the opportunity you do. Not to get too sappy or corny, but it's true.

Notre Dame isn't Harvard or Purdue.

It's different from any other school in the country. Some aspects of the school may seem ridiculous and stupid — parietals, the drinking policy or the entire Frosh-O weekend — but don't let that stuff overshadow all the good things about Notre Dame.

This is a place people respect because of its academic and athletic reputations. Some of you might have already seen the effect the words "Notre Dame" have with other people. Almost every time I tell someone where I go to school, they seem impressed.

There's some advice from a senior who wishes he was a freshman again. Take it for what its worth. Just learn as much as you can from the Notre Dame experience.

And get something out of the classes, too.

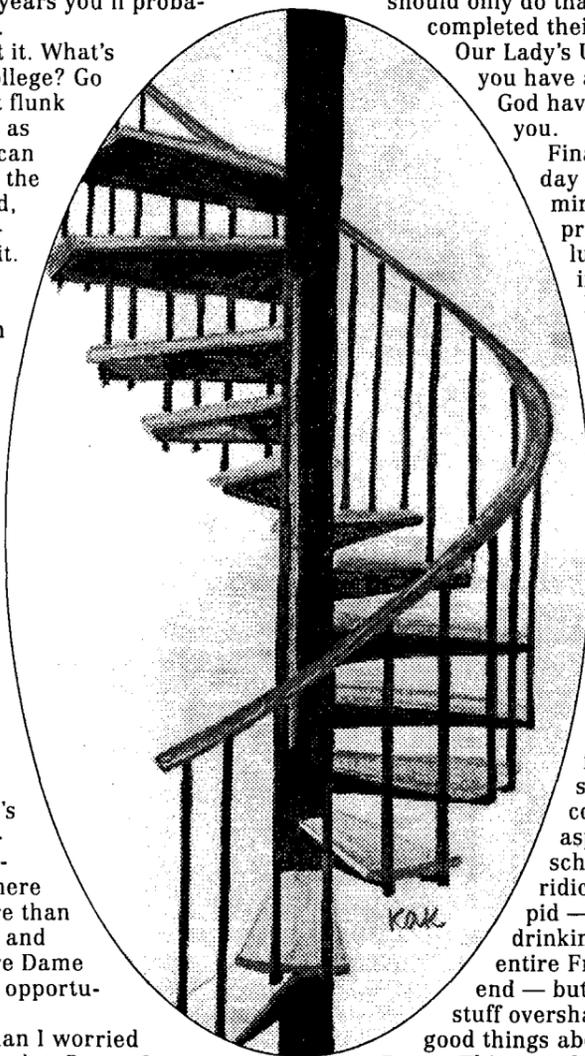
Joe Hettler is a senior marketing major and journalism minor. He's scared to death of graduating in the spring, getting a real job and not living off his parents dollar. He claims to know more about Notre Dame football than anyone on campus and he'll probably glue himself to the benches inside Notre Dame Stadium after the last home game so he doesn't have to leave. Contact Joe Hettler at jhettler@nd.edu.

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



Joe Hettler

Assistant
Managing
Editor



Experience everything

If you are reading this column, you are owed a congratulations and an explanation. First, congratulations on being accepted to (in my opinion of course) one of the greatest colleges this nation has to offer. But now you need to know that your situation is one that will surely be of great adjustment.



Angela Saoud

Saint Mary's
Editor

I could write today about how different college is from high school, how it's going to take a while before you adjust to living away from your parents, how for many of you, it will take all year to adjust to the edible delights of the dining hall. But this is not going to be that kind of column.

The fact of the matter is this: as a student at Saint Mary's, you have an opportunity to take part in a unique college experience. Going to a small, all-female liberal arts college directly across the street from a larger, co-ed university, you have the chance to utilize both campuses for your greatest benefit.

You have essentially two choices in this matter. You can stay at Saint Mary's, meeting friends at only our institution, which is fine. But as easy as it is to pick a comfy spot in your dorm room among your masking-tape-colored walls, it is worth venturing out of them occasionally.

Because if you choose to do so, you can utilize Notre Dame as a resource to expand your horizons. Through Saint Mary's and Notre Dame, there are countless joint activities in which you can get involved. Even if you choose not to get involved in an activity, make an attempt to get over to the campus across the street.

And don't let the fact that you actually have to cross a road get in the way. You'll hear a lot of talk about "the school across the street." But the fact of the matter is, we are part of a community, and every community requires work to be a cohesive network.

Your college experience is going to be what you make of it. And here, you have an opportunity that I've yet to see anywhere else. Take it from me, the easy thing to do is stay in your dorm. It's easy to call your parents and your friends from home and cling to those connections. It is so much harder to leave the dorm, to get out of your comfort zone, to talk to someone you might not normally talk to. But it will be so worth it.

During my freshman year at Saint Mary's, I was content to spend most of my time there. Being from South Bend originally, I had many male friends from high school still living in town, so I told myself there was no need to befriend boys from Notre Dame. And with a boyfriend at Purdue, I figured there was really no reason to get involved across the street because Saint Mary's was providing me with everything I needed at the time.

But during the middle of my sophomore year, with many of the male friends having moved away to go to school, the relationship with my boyfriend hit a road block it never recovered from. Suddenly I found myself struggling to find relationships — any kind of relationships — with the opposite sex. And it was difficult.

Since other Saint Mary's women had taken the time to meet their guy friends early on, they had been able to grow and foster those relationships. I had been left out of the loop, and I had no one to blame but myself.

And that's when The Observer walked into my life. After spring break my sophomore year, I received a mass e-mail inviting all interested writers to attend an informational meeting to write for the paper. I had nothing to lose and a knack for writing, so I gave it a try.

A year later, I was the Saint Mary's Editor. Through my involvement with the paper, I am able to spend a lot of hours weekly across the street, and have made some fabulous friends. And although I wish I had done it sooner, I have in fact done it, and it's better late than never.

You have an amazing four years ahead of you. What you do with it is your own choice. But make sure you don't take a single moment for granted. Before you know it, you'll be gearing up for your senior year. And it will pass in the blink of an eye.

Angela Saoud is a senior English writing major and a secondary education minor who, although she complains about things she has done, wouldn't change a thing about her college career. She is from South Bend, but resents being called a townie. Angela has no idea what job she will do or where she will live after graduation, but she will figure it out when the time comes. Contact Angela Saoud at saou0303@saintmarys.edu.

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

Getting out from

A guide to food, shopping and

Eating Late

Nick's Patio

One of South Bend's 24 hour hotspots for Domers and locals. Show up around 3 in the morning to catch the post-party crowd. Coffee refill limit is two cups at peak hours, but at less busy hours or if you're nice to the waiter they may be unlimited. This is also a great spot for a greasy Saturday or Sunday morning breakfast.

Denny's

If you find yourself needing a Lumberjack Slam breakfast in the middle of the night, think Denny's. If you're worried that late night—or very early morning—pancakes will wreak havoc on your waistline faster than you can say "Freshman Fifteen," then you'll be glad to hear that Denny's has jumped onto the low-carb bandwagon and now offers "Carb-Watch" and "Fit Fare" selections.

Steak 'n Shake

Like Denny's, this Midwest chain is open 24 hours and serves up hamburgers and hand-dipped milkshakes all night long. Their latest campaign, "Side-by-Side" milkshakes that combine your two favorite flavors, could be worth a try when those lines at Reckers reach Disney World lengths after pari- etals on weekends.

Boracho Burrito

Boracho is such a cult favorite for students' post-midnight cuisine that you should get into the habit now of telling the cabbie to take you to this 3 a.m. hotspot for enormous burritos. The restaurant, which was created by recent Notre Dame graduates, is also popular for tailgates, so tell your family to order ahead for a home game.

Weekends

Blockbuster

There are several Blockbuster locations around South Bend and Mishawaka, so you can take advantage of having movies and video games as entertainment if your dorm doesn't have cable TV. Renting DVDs of *The Sopranos* and *Sex and the City* might also be easier than installing that satellite dish outside your third-floor dorm window. DVDs and VHS new releases cost \$2.99 for two days. Older videos cost \$.99 for five days.

Family Video

Family video has locations on U.S. 31 and Main Street. The selection is similar to Blockbuster and prices may be better depending on which movies you want to rent. New releases are \$2.00 for one night and \$2.75 for five nights. Older movies cost \$1 for two nights and \$2 for seven nights.

Movies 14

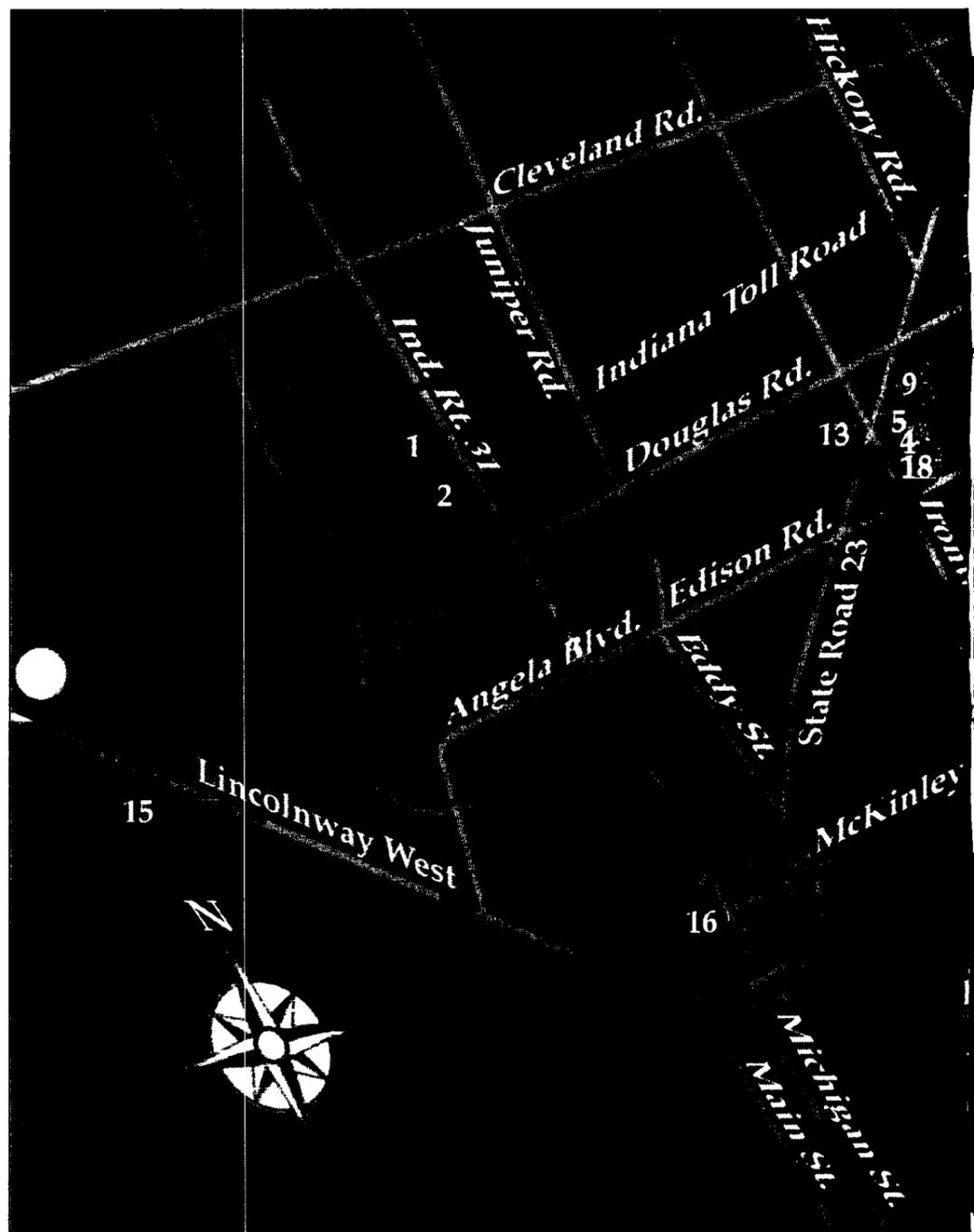
If you prefer to catch new flicks instead of renting old ones, Movies 14 on Edison Road shows popular Hollywood hits. Student discount tickets cost \$5.75. Go before 6:00 p.m. for \$5 tickets.

Strikes and Spares

South Bend's newest entertainment center offers arcade games and regular and cosmic bowling. During the week before 5:00 p.m. bowling costs \$15 per lane per hour for up to six people. Evening bowling costs \$22 per hour, and Saturday bowling costs \$25 per hour. Cosmic bowling on Fridays and Saturdays costs \$30 per hour. Bowlers are charged for the exact amount of time played.

Beacon Bowl

Beacon Bowl charges \$1.89 per person per hour before 5:00 p.m. on weekdays, and \$3.09 for evenings and weekends. The bowling alley is also a popular venue for dorm dances.



Shopping

Meijer

It doesn't get much better than Meijer for groceries, school supplies and almost anything else you need for the dorm. It's open 24 hours and only a short drive away from campus, so stock up here on snack foods, posters, cleaning supplies, notebooks, etc. Walmart and Target superstores nearby offer similar selections, but are less of a regional specialty.

Martin's

For "service and savings," Martin's Supermarket is another grocery store option. Martin's is also close to campus, so there's never a need to feel restricted by the limited selection on campus. It's also cheaper than spending all your Flex points on Ben & Jerry's and Goldfish at the Huddle.

University Park Mall

UP Mall offers a variety of stores including Express, Abercrombie, American Eagle, The Limited, Gap, Banana Republic, Victoria's Secret, Lids, The South Bend Chocolate Factory and several department stores like Marshall Field's and L.S. Ayres. Make friends with a dormmate with a car or take the bus from Library Circle. It takes you directly to the mall to get a quirky SYR gift or a Cinnabon.

Chicago

The possibility of nightlife. The drive to Saint Mary's Inn.

Lake Michigan

Lake Michigan Drive north on U.S. 31 to New Buffalo. Home sign for Warren.

Windsor

Farther away trip to Canada for options like galleries north to get to D.

Cedar Point

Also quite a drive. Cedar Point has roller coasters well into fall. Check signs north on U.S. 31.

under the Dome

and entertainment off campus

1. Bruno's Pizza
2. Denny's
3. Steak & Shake
4. Nick's Patio
5. Boracho Burrito
6. Hanayori of Japan
7. Star of India
8. Family Video
9. Blockbuster Video
10. Movies 14
11. Michiana Regional Airport
12. Meijer
13. Martin's Supermarket
14. University Park Mall
15. Beacon Bowl
16. C.J.'s Pub
17. Strikes and Spares
18. La Esperanza
19. Toyo Grill

Around the Bend

MIKE HARKINS/Observer Graphic

Road Trips

...es in Chicago are endless, including parks, shopping, restaurants, museums, music and ...ive is anywhere from two to three hours on I-80. Enter the toll road from U.S. 31 by the ...and head west to head straight into the city.

... might not quite measure up the coasts, but it's a close second for those missing the water. ...U.S. 31 into Michigan, turn left onto Highway 12, and drive until the highway ends to get to ...ad left into New Buffalo for the closest beach. Turn right and head north until you see a ...Dunes State Park on the right side of the road for sand dunes and camping.

...but just as full of possibility, if not more, is Windsor. Two years until you're legal? Take a ...or gambling and nightlife, even for college freshmen. There are also more cultural attrac- ...ies, monuments and amusement parks, all only four hours away. Take I-80 east to I75 ...etroit, then follow the Windsor exit.

...rive, but well worth it for thrill seekers, is Cedar Point. Located in Sandusky, Ohio, Cedar ...coasters that put other amusement parks to shame, and the park stays open on weekends ...heck for times before heading out, at www.cedarpoint.com. Head east on I-80 and follow ...S. 250.

Information compiled by Christie Bolsen and Maria Smith

New Flavors

Star of India

When you're in the mood for ethnic dishes outside of the dining hall, the Star of India serves up tasty Indian food that is also easy on the wallet. If you are unsure about what to order, go for the fantastic lunch buffet and try everything, especially the desserts, for only \$6.

La Esperanza

If you're tired of Taco Bell chalupas or freezer Mexican food from Hacienda, try heading to La Esperanza. Whether you're looking for a jalapeno omelet or steak fajitas, the restaurant offers more authentic Mexican food at affordable prices.

Toyo Grill

Toyo Grill offers Japanese cuisine, especially sushi, for more adventurous eaters. The restaurant is a little on the expensive side for everyday eating, but is a tasty option for an occasional break from the dining hall. Martin's Supermarket Mikado Steakhouse on U.S. 31 also offer a selection of sushi.

Hanayori of Japan

Head to the Japanese restaurant for a rare chance to see your food cooked in front of you on a hot sheet of metal. The restaurant is a little pricey, but it's worth it to see the chef make an onion volcano or toss your food through the air. If you feel like trying a spicy tuna roll or another seaweed-wrapped delicacy, Hanayori also offers sushi.

CJ's Pub

CJ's is famous for its burgers and is a favorite spot for students to grab a bite off campus. The pub also offers a one pound burger dubbed the Golden Domer, a challenge to finish no matter how big your appetite is.

Transportation

Michiana Regional Airport

The South Shore rail line provides an easy way to get to Chicago for flights or day trips. Tickets for the South Shore cost \$9 each way. If you can't find rides to the airport, ABC Cab Company and Yellow Cab offer the best deal for more than two passengers at \$12 for one and \$2 for each additional passenger. Express Cab also offers \$10 cab fare to the airport for single passengers and \$12 for two.

Taxis

Ace Cab Lines

295-6886

A-B-C Cabs

233-4000

American Cab

259-5554

Checker Cab

288-7777

Yellow Cab

233-9333

City Cab

233-2020

Express Cab

233-6000

Michiana Taxi

233-4040

Shamrock Cab

243-5500

MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Runners strive for more

Failure to qualify for NCAAs in 2003 serves as incentive for this year's team

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Editor

Last year's performance at the Great Lakes Regional Championship may be all the motivation the Irish need to climb back into the elite of collegiate cross country.

In 2003, the 18th-ranked Irish failed to qualify for the NCAA Championship after taking second place at the Big East Championship. They took eighth place at the Great Lakes Regional, and failed to receive an at-large bid.

"Last year, they were up and down," women's cross country coach Tim Connelly said of the team coached by Joe Piante, who was in Athens as of press time. "If they ran the same way at

regionals as they did at the Big East, they would have qualified

Instead, the Irish find themselves looking to avenge what turned out to be a disappointing season. But they will have to do it without four-year contributor Todd Mobley.

"He's really the big loss," Connelly said of the 2003 graduate.

Mobley was named an Academic All-American in June after posting a 3.83 grade point average, but his accolades were not limited to academics. Mobley posted four top 30 finishes in 2003, including two in the top 10. He also earned All-American honors for the second time in his career, finishing 27th overall at the NCAA Championship.

Connelly said seniors Eric Morrison and Sean O'Donnell, juniors Kaleb VanOrt and Tim Moore and sophomore Kurt Benninger will help replace Mobley.

Moore finished sixth at the Big East Championship in 2003, and has earned All-Big

East honors his last two seasons. VanOrt earned All-Big East honors last season for the first time, finishing 12th. O'Donnell and Benninger finished 20th and 21st, respectively. At the Great Lakes Regional, Moore finished 15th overall and Benninger finished 38th. O'Donnell rounded out the scoring with a 41st place finish. This group will be key for the 2004 season.

"These are the guys that will really be expected to carry the load," Connelly said.

And the load will be significant, as the Irish expect to compete with the best teams in the country.

"The big focus is on the Big East, regionals and nationals," Connelly said. "That's the main focus."

But the most important thing for this year's Irish team to be successful is consistency.

"More than anything, they need to be more consistent in the way they compete," he said. "Consistency of effort is really important."

Also hoping to make an impact is the brother of Luke Watson, one of the most successful runners in Irish history. Jake Watson may contribute early, Connelly said.

"He's a very good cross country runner," Connelly said of Jake. "We have some freshmen that could help."

Connelly said the team has been training as individuals this summer, some running as much as 85 to 90 miles each week. And that is what needs to be done so the Irish don't repeat last year's disappointment.

"We have a pretty strong tradition in cross country here," he said. "Last year was a big disappointment. They expect more of themselves."

This year's team hopes to be one of the 31 teams that go to the NCAA Championship. Connelly acknowledged that they have "by far the toughest region," but he thinks the Irish can do it.

"We've got a group that's capable of being in the top 30," he said.

The Irish kick off the season Sept. 10 with the Valparaiso Invitational. However, Connelly said the top runners probably will not run until Oct. 1 at the Notre Dame Invitational.

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvanhoeg@nd.edu.

ND WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Irish return majority of team this season



CHUY BENITEZ/The Observer

Kerry Meagher, left, and Maggie Nelson run in the National Catholic Championship at Notre Dame last September.

Notre Dame hopes to improve on last year's 10th-place showing at NCAAs

By BOBBY GRIFFIN
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame women performed well last season, taking home a Big East Championship, and finishing 10th in the NCAA championships. The team will look to improve upon last year's success this fall.

The Irish return many of last year's starters, which should be a key factor in their success.

Senior Lauren King and junior Molly Huddle will be the main components. King is coming off a year in which she earned Academic All-American honors, for only the third time in Notre Dame history. King has also been an All-American three times.

Huddle captured the Great Lakes Regional Cross Country Runner of the Year. Huddle also finished 7th at the United States Olympic trials.

Irish coach Tim Connelly also stressed that runners outside of King and Huddle will have an impact on this year's team. Kerry Meager, Stephanie Media and Loryn King, who is coming off of knee surgery, will all be key runners for this year's squad.

The Irish will open their season Sept. 9th, when they travel the Valparaiso Invitational.

Connelly, who earned Great Lakes Region Coach of the

Year last season, expects a lot from his team coming into the season. With the growing strength of the program and the subsequent attention it is garnering, Connelly is looking forward to great things.

Connelly said that while 10th place at the NCAA Championships was good, it was a bit of a disappointment. This year, the coach is setting his sights a bit higher.

"We return most of our team from last year that finished 10th in the NCAAs," Connelly said. "The expectations are to be a minimum top 10 team if not better."

Connelly also said he is excited about the talented group of freshmen, especially Sonni

Olding. He hopes she can contribute right away.

In high school, Olding was ranked No. 1 in the nation in the two-mile run with a time of 10:25.82.

Connelly said progress and development will be more focused on the track for the younger runners.

"We've got some kids that, with time, are going to contribute," Connelly said.

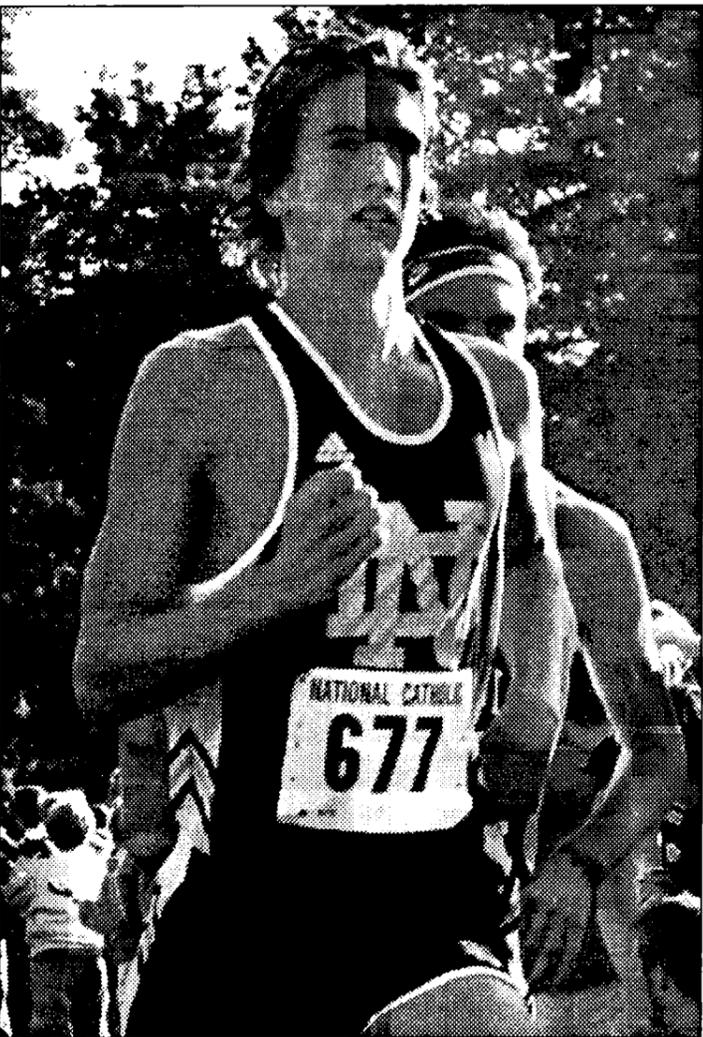
Following the Valparaiso Invitational, the Irish will compete in the National Catholic Invitational and the Notre Dame Invitational before the Pre-National Championships, the Big East Championships, the Great Lakes Regional, and the NCAA Championships.

If all goes well, last year's 10th place finish will only be a stepping-stone for the talented group of 2004.

Contact Bobby Griffin at rgriffi3@nd.edu.

"The expectations are to be a minimum top 10 team, if not better."

Tim Connelly
Irish coach



CHUY BENITEZ/The Observer

Kaleb VanOrt runs in the National Catholic Tournament last September at the Burke Memorial Golf Course. The junior is one of several runners returning for the team this year.

CLASSIFIEDS

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Welcome freshmen

ND VOLLEYBALL

Irish ready to avenge last year

Team hopes for better performance after last year's early exit from the NCAA Tourney

By ANN LOUGHERY
Sports Writer

For the freshmen, the numbers alone can be intimidating.

Last year, the volleyball team finished the season with a 23-7 overall record and a No. 24 ranking. The Irish also earned their 12th consecutive bid to the NCAA tournament.

Their success last season placed them at No. 25 in this year's preseason USA Today poll. They were also picked to win the Big East Championship. Senior hitter Emily Loomis and juniors Lauren Brewster and Lauren Kelbley were named to the preseason All-Big East team. All three were honorable mention all-American selections in 2003.

Needless to say, expectations are high for the team this season.

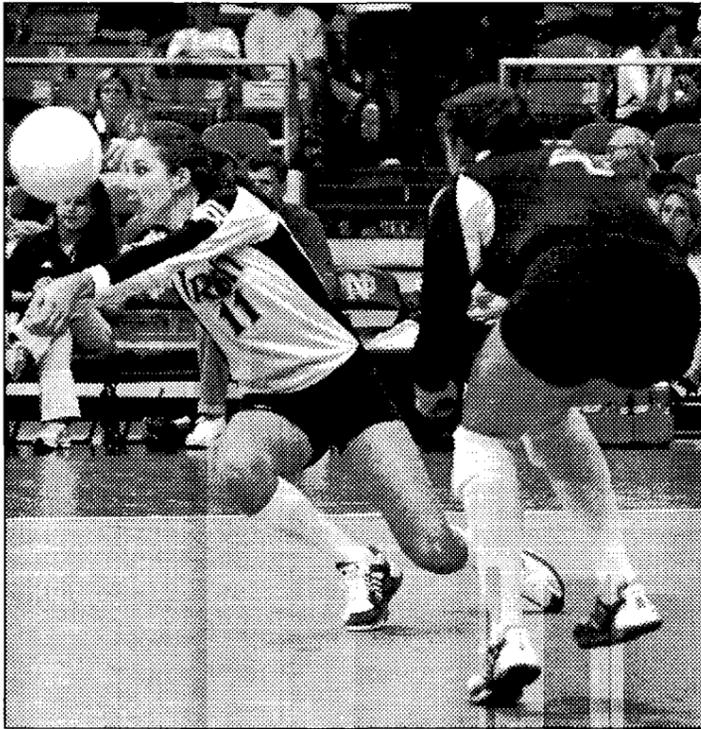
But that hasn't intimidated this year's freshman.

"They're all really talented and doing a great job at practice,"

junior Lauren Brewster said. "They're really soaking everything in and applying it."

Brewster led the nation in 2003 in blocks. She was named honorable mention all-America and first-team all-Big East as well.

This year, five new players will step onto the court to compete for the Irish — four freshmen and a sophomore. Coach Debbie Brown praises the team's veterans — three of which are returning hon-



TIM KACMAR/The Observer

Danielle Herndon digs the ball as Meg Henican looks on during a game last year against Seton Hall.

orable mention All-Americans — for facilitating the newcomers' transition and for providing a competitive atmosphere at practice.

"The more scrimmaging we do, the better [the newcomers] look. We're teaching them the systems in practice for the most part."

Helping the freshmen gain experience is of utmost importance, Brown said, especially since the Irish will face

Loyola University Chicago Sept. 1. This year's team features strong blocking, solid ball control and defense. However, backcourt defense is one area that Brown says needs improvement, and the Irish must replace setter Kristen Kinder, named first team All-Big East and honorable mention All-American.

"We'll get things done

before we play Loyola. People ask me 'So do you think you're ready for Loyola?'" Brown said. "I tell them that we're not ready now, but we definitely will be."

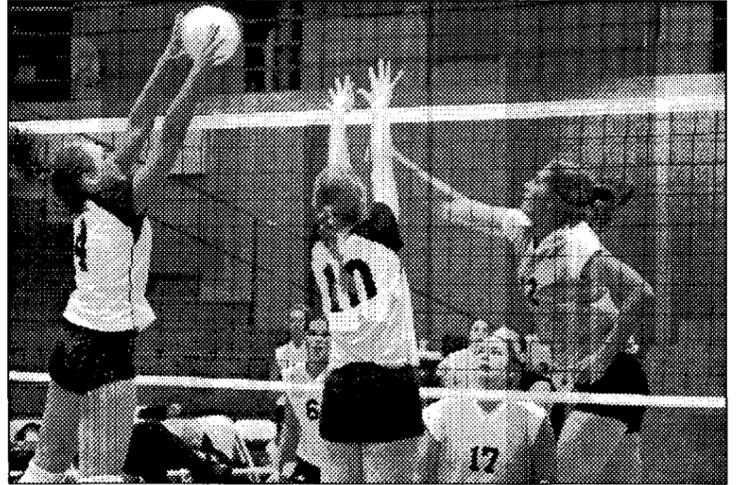
Brown added the hours the team puts in now should prepare them for the rigorous schedule they face this season. Following the Loyola match, the Irish face No. 2 Nebraska and seven other ranked teams, three of which are recent national champions. Twelve of their opponents made the NCAA Tournament last year, as did the Irish. There they lost in the first round to No. 19 Louisville, a disappointing finish for a good team.

"We're hoping to finish strong this year — stronger than we did last year — and I think we'll have a lot of opportunities to prove ourselves," Brown said.

Contact Ann Loughery at alougher@nd.edu.

SMC VOLLEYBALL

Replacing Playko biggest test for Belles this season



ERIN KORRECK/The Observer

Elise Rupright and Stacey Stark make a block in a game last year against Manchester College. Both girls will be seniors this year.

Saint Mary's will lose sophomore offensive leader as she elects to study abroad in Austria

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Associate Sports Editor

When the Belles hit the court to start the 2004 season, they will be short one star player.

Sophomore Kristen Playko, who led the team with 496 kills and 54 service aces last year, will not be returning to the team in 2004, instead choosing to study abroad in Austria.

"When we first signed Kristen, I knew there was a possibility that she might study abroad," Belles coach Julie Schroeder-Biek said. "I fully support her in this decision — these girls are students first and athletes second."

"I fully support [Playko] in this decision — these girls are students first and athletes second."

Julie Schroeder-Biek
Belles coach

"She still has a great love for the game, and was torn about studying abroad, but this doesn't mean her intensity is any less."

While the Belles losing a key piece in Playko, they will also gain one in junior Michelle Turley.

Turley, who transferred from Division-I Marist College last year, was injured in the first scrimmage of the 2003 season and missed the entire year.

She is now healthy, and will step into a team that has more depth and experience than last year's Belles, according to Schroeder-Biek.

"I really like our team this year. It hurts losing Kristen, but we're also gaining Michelle."

Saint Mary's finished 2003 with a 16-13 record (5-10 in the MIAA), which improved tremendously from its record of 7-21 in 2002.

The Belles hope to repeat the success of last season, when they increased their win total in conference games from one in 2002 to five in 2003.

"Last year we had a really good group of girls who

played together like a team," Schroeder-Biek said. "It was nice to move up in our conference and to double our wins from the year before."

After starting the 2003 season 0-2, the Belles won four straight matches and advanced to the final of the Wooster (Ohio) Invitational before losing in the final match to Marietta.

A key win for the Belles came in the last regular season game of the season, when Saint Mary's defeated Albion in four sets.

Albion had defeated the Belles in the first game of the season.

The win against Albion was enough to move the Belles into sixth-place in the eight-team MIAA conference.

No. 6 Saint Mary's faced No. 3 seed Hope in the first round of the MIAA Tournament and fell in straight sets, 28-30, 18-30, 28-30, spelling an end to the 2003 season.

Alison Shevik is the only player from that 2003

team that graduated, but Schroeder-Biek said that the team would have a hard time replacing her contributions.

"Alison was a great leader," she said. "Even though we're only losing one senior, she was a big part of our team's success last year and will be missed."

In addition to the players returning, Schroeder-Biek has also added some talented freshmen to the mix this year.

Elizabeth Stohl and Stephanie Bauer both join the team as setters, which should help sophomore Lauren Temple — who served as the team's only setter in 2003.

"Lauren did a great job for us last year, being the only setter on the team," Schroeder-Biek said. "But it's really nice to have several setters this year with talent. It's nice for me to have choices."

The Belles open their season Sept. 1 at home against the University of Chicago.

Contact Justin Schuver at jschuver@nd.edu.

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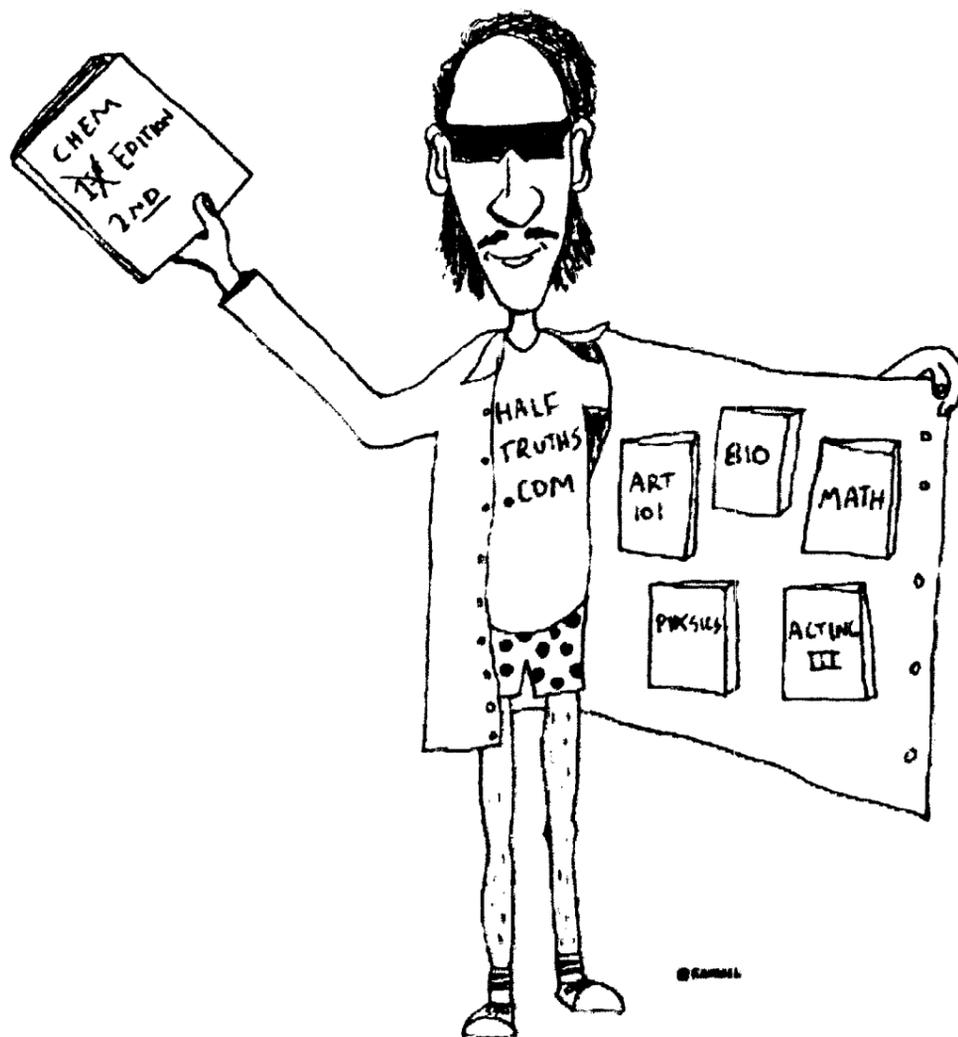
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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Three new players make the Irish deep and dangerous



TIM KACMAR/The Observer

Dennis Latimore shoots during practice. He is joining the Irish as a transfer this season.

By **PAT LEONARD**
Associate Sports Editor

Mike Brey was not allowed to observe his team in scrimmages this summer, but he knows the team has improved.

Guards Chris Quinn and Chris Thomas told him so.

"I can't watch the summer pick-up games, so those guys are my eyes," Brey said. "[But] when you think of our current roster, you have to get excited."

His eyes see potential major improvement for the program's 100th anniversary season in the form of three newcomers to complete a possible nine-man deep rotation.

Quinn and Thomas told their coach that the additions of red-shirt freshman Omari Israel, senior transfer Dennis Latimore and true freshman Rob Kurz have made the Irish a better team despite the loss of Tom Timmermans and defensive ace Torrian Jones.

Moreover, the elders of the team think all three should play, even the young Kurz.

"Talking to the older guys, when they say, 'He can help us right away coach,' that's 90 percent of what I need to hear," Brey said. "If Chris Thomas and Chris

Quinn say [Kurz is] ready to play, he's ready to play.

Kurz, a 6-foot-9, 215-pound small forward, averaged 18.5 points, 12 rebounds and 4 assists in his senior season at Penn Charter just outside of Philadelphia last winter.

He attended Germantown Academy for the first two years of high school and then transferred to Penn Charter and played three seasons. An extra year could help the freshman with in-game maturity.

"In Rob Kurz, our lone incoming freshman, you're talking about a guy who has good size but a really good feel for the game at 6-9," Brey said. "He steps out and shoots the ball. He plays older. He plays more experienced and more poised than his classification says he should."

Brey compares Kurz's style of play to that of senior forward Jordan Cornette, a tall and athletic player who can jump for rebounds with big men and play outside the three-point line.

Cornette, Thomas, Quinn and center Torin Francis will captain the Irish this season. Other key contributors in the 100th anniversary season will be sophomore shooting guard Colin Falls and power forward Rick Cornett, who underwent surgery on a stress fracture in his left foot July 23 but is expected to return in time for the first official practice Oct. 16.

As is the case with Kurz, returning players from last season will split minutes with two other additions to the roster.

Omari Israel, a 6-foot-8, 232-pound, recovered from knee surgery during his red-shirt 2003 season that stemmed from a torn ACL surgery in February of 2003.

The Irish sat him out, feeling comfortable with players like Jones and Cornette in the lineup. But Brey now compares a healthy Israel to one of the Big East's most durable players.

"I'd compare [Israel] to [Pittsburgh guard] Jaron Brown," he said.

Brown averaged 11.7 points, 5.4 rebounds and 2.8 assists per game last season for a 31-5 Pittsburgh team, playing 34.4 minutes per game. Brown shot just 21.5 percent from three-point range but compensated for a lack of outside shooting threat with a 48.8 overall field goal percentage and 65 steals on the defensive end.

"Omari gives us the big three man," Brey said. "He has good size and really can handle the basketball. He's more of a slasher and a driver, and when he is that third perimeter guy it's tough to guard and block out because of his size."

Brey does not only liken Israel to Brown on the offensive end, either.

"He has the ability to be a lock-down defender," Brey said. "He has to get the mentality to defend much like a Torrian Jones could. [Jones] did it physically but dove into it and embraced another aspect of his game."

While Israel could contribute on both ends, a complete player the

Irish also welcome with open arms is Latimore, a 6-foot-8, 235-pound transfer from Arizona.

"We expect [Latimore] to be a key part of things," Brey said. "He is very skilled and talented around the bucket, very smooth. The challenge with him will be playing hard every play. But as far as the physical gifts, he had a great summer."

Latimore averaged 24 points as the Kansas 3A Player of the Year for Halstead high school his senior year. He then played less of an offensive role in two seasons at Arizona, primarily because the teams were loaded with talent. Latimore averaged 3.2 points and 3.1 rebounds for the Wildcats in 2002, playing just 12 minutes per game.

His role this season, will be increased. Latimore and junior center Torin Francis will team up in an imposing frontcourt that Thomas and Quinn will look to often.

"Dennis is in the best shape of his life," Brey said. "And he is very focused."

So, too, are Brey's eyes, though they take the form of his two top guards.

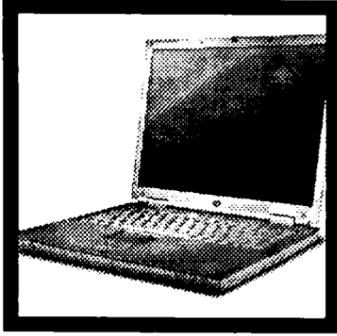
Notes

♦ Chris Thomas underwent knee surgery at the end of last season and did not go full speed in practice until he was cleared by doctors last week. Thomas has not complained about the knee so far.

Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu

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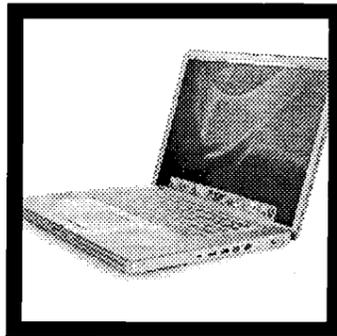
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MEN'S SOCCER

Irish hope for bigger and better things

After graduating seven letterwinners, coach Bobby Clark looks to veterans to take the spotlight

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Associate Sports Editor

One goal for Michigan meant the end of a goal for Notre Dame.

With the Irish poised for a historic season and perhaps even a national championship at the end of 2003, Michigan's Mike White put a dagger in the hearts of the Irish faithful with a penalty kick that eluded goalie Chris Sawyer and gave Michigan a 4-3 victory in the decisive shutout after a 1-1 regulation tie in the Sweet 16 round of the NCAA Championships at Alumni Field.

"It's never nice when you go out of the NCAAs," coach Bobby Clark said. "But you have to learn to take what you get. You're especially sad for the seniors because it was their last chance at it, but you hope that the other lads can maybe use [that loss] as inspiration for this year."

The Irish have grown into a dominant program under the tutelage of Clark, who came to Notre Dame in 2000 in hopes of putting the Irish on the college soccer map.

Last year might have been the culmination of that goal, as the

Irish had an impressive season despite the loss to Michigan in the Sweet 16.

At one point in the year, Notre Dame was ranked No. 3 in the nation, and the team pulled off three straight shutouts to win the Big East Championship and earn home-field advantage through the NCAAs.

The biggest goal for the 2004 Irish squad will be keeping up that momentum from last year's successful campaign. Notre Dame must replace seven letterwinners from last year, including two MLS draft picks in Justin Detter and Kevin Richards.

Five of those seven seniors — Detter, Richards, Greg Martin, Chad Riley and Devon Prescod — were also All-Big East selections. Out of the 38 goals the Irish scored in 2003, those five seniors scored 35.

"That's a lot to replace," Clark said. "But you're not going to look to the freshmen to replace those players, you're going to look at the guys who are older to step up and provide that immediate impact."

The Irish have a trio of seniors who should provide leadership both on and off the field in goalie captain Chris Sawyer and defensemen Kevin Goldthwaite and Jack Stewart. Sawyer and Stewart were both named to the preseason watch list for the Hermann Trophy, awarded each year to the best player in college soccer.

"That is a great honor for those guys, but all it really says is

that they played well last year," Clark said. "The real test is whether they can repeat that performance this year."

"I really feel that Goldthwaite could have been on that list as well, and it shows you the real talent we have this season."

With Sawyer, a three-time All-Big East selection and All-American in 2003, between the pipes and a defense led by Goldthwaite, Stewart and sophomore Greg Dalby, the Irish could be one of the top defensive teams in the country.

Clark brought in another talented freshman class, with the Irish adding seven players from five states and England.

"It's too early to say that this is going to be a great class," Clark said. "But at the same time there's definitely a lot of potential. This looks to be a very good class."

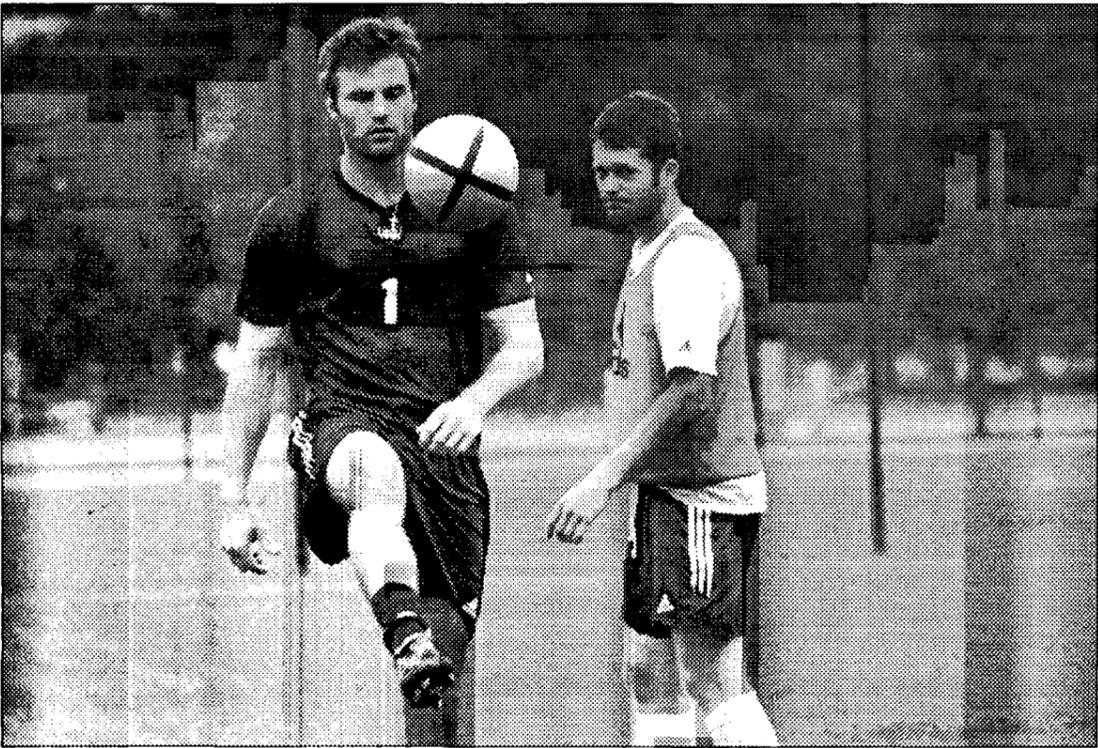
The Irish open their season with an exhibition game Monday at Alumni Field against Northwestern. Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m., with proceeds from donations going towards Grassroots Soccer, an organization for kids ages 10 to 17 that is dedicated to AIDS awareness and soccer instruction in Africa.

Clark is asking each fan at the game Monday to donate \$1 to the cause, in hopes of matching the \$2,000 the team raised at its summer camp.

Contact Justin Schuver at jschuver@nd.edu



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer
Junior defenseman Dale Rellas perfects his footwork at Wednesday's practice. The Irish hope to surpass the success they achieved last season, when they earned a spot in the Sweet 16.



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer
Senior goalkeeper Chris Sawyer juggles the ball at practice as junior midfielder John Stephans looks on. Sawyer is a three-time All-Big East selection and was an All-American in 2003.

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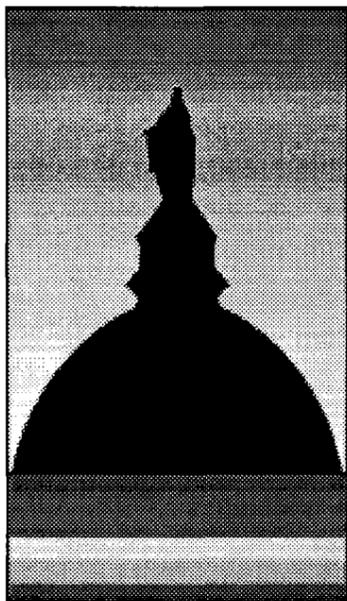
Audition Times:
Sun. Aug. 22: 3-6 pm, 7-10 pm
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ALL ARE WELCOME

You are strongly encouraged to sign up for the earliest possible audition time. There will be no auditions held on Tuesday, August 26!

The audition consists of a simple hymn or a prepared piece, interval recognition, vocalizing to check range, and a short sight-singing example.

Auditions will be held in 124 Crowley Hall
Please call 1-5242 if you have any questions.



**THE STANDING
COMMITTEE ON
GAY AND LESBIAN
STUDENT NEEDS**

The Standing Committee on Gay and Lesbian Student Needs welcomes the class of 2008.

What is the Standing Committee on Gay and Lesbian Student Needs?

We members of the Standing Committee are administrators, gay and lesbian students, and faculty who are a resource in identifying the ongoing needs of our gay, lesbian, and bisexual students. By implementing campus-wide educational programming on gay, lesbian, and bisexual issues, the Committee strives to eliminate homophobia and make Notre Dame a place that accepts and prizes the uniqueness of all its students. For more information, consult our web page www.nd.edu/~scglsn.

Current members:

- ▶ *Sr. Mary Louise Gude, CSC Asst. VP for Student Affairs (Standing Committee Chair)*
- ▶ *Joanna Basile Junior, English and Gender Studies Major*
- ▶ *Fr. David Burrell, CSC Professor, Philosophy and Theology*
- ▶ *Robby Davidson Senior, Political Science Major*
- ▶ *Mayra Gomez Senior, Political Science Major*
- ▶ *Ed Mack Rector, O'Neill Hall*
- ▶ *Andy Magee Junior, Organ Perf. and Computer Science Major*
- ▶ *Fr. Richard Warner, CSC Director, Campus Ministry*
- ▶ *David (Day) Zimlich Senior, Anthropology Major*

RECEPTION for Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual First-Year Students

WHO: *Gay, lesbian, bisexual, and questioning first-year students at Notre Dame*

WHAT: *Drop-in Reception*

WHEN: *Monday, August 23^d, 1:30-3:30 p.m.*

WHERE: *316 Coleman-Morse (3^d Floor Lounge)*

WHY: *Come meet members of the Standing Committee on Gay and Lesbian Student Needs and find out more about resources available to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and questioning students on the Notre Dame campus.*

For more information, please visit our web site www.nd.edu/~scglsn. Check under "Current Events."

SMC SOCCER

Returning players will lead Belles this fall

Team has high hopes for title after losing just three players

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Editor

Their starting defense is returning, they have a new coach and they lost just three seniors. In Jen Concannon's opinion, there is no reason this team shouldn't compete for the MIAA title.

"This year, we're looking at top one or two in conference," the senior said. "We're just that much better. We should have done it last year."

Last season, the Belles finished fourth in conference with a 6-4-4 record in the MIAA and a 10-5-4 record overall.

Concannon led the team in 11 goals and seven assists. She was named first team All-MIAA, along with junior Carrie Orr. This duo will be joined by senior Katie Taylor on

defense, who was named second team All-MIAA last year, and Carolyn Logan who was named

to the second team. Logan recorded nine goals as a freshman.

The 2004 Belles will also be under new leadership. Caryn Mackenzie enters her first year at Saint Mary's after coaching girls soccer at John A. High School in South Bend since 1993. She brings her long-time assistant Ramzi Bualuan, who is also the director of undergraduate studies in computer science and engineering at Notre Dame.

"I couldn't be more jammed about coaching these women," Mackenzie said. "We're cautiously optimistic."

Mackenzie coached against Concannon when she played at Marian High School in South Bend.

"It's weird, but I like it," Concannon said of playing for,

"We're really excited. We have the chance to be something very good."

Jen Concannon
Belles co-captain

instead of against Mackenzie. "I've always thought she's done great things with her teams. I respect Caryn a lot."

Concannon said her team is excited to play under Mackenzie, who also coached at Notre Dame soccer camps. They started working with her in the spring, and the

first day of fall practice was Wednesday.

"We have a very talented group of upperclassmen," Mackenzie said. "I look forward to their influence on the underclassmen."

Mackenzie said there is not a finalized roster, so it is unclear which freshmen, if any, will make an impact. The coach is looking forward to meshing the girls into a team.

"We want to have a good team morale," Concannon said. "Caryn will point us in the right direction, but it's a team effort to go out and do it."

The Belles open their season Sept. 7 at home with the University of St. Francis.

Concannon said the late-starting season should prove advantageous.

"We have plenty of time to get in shape," she said.

"As far as it goes for me, it's great," Mackenzie said. "I get a better handle on the talent."

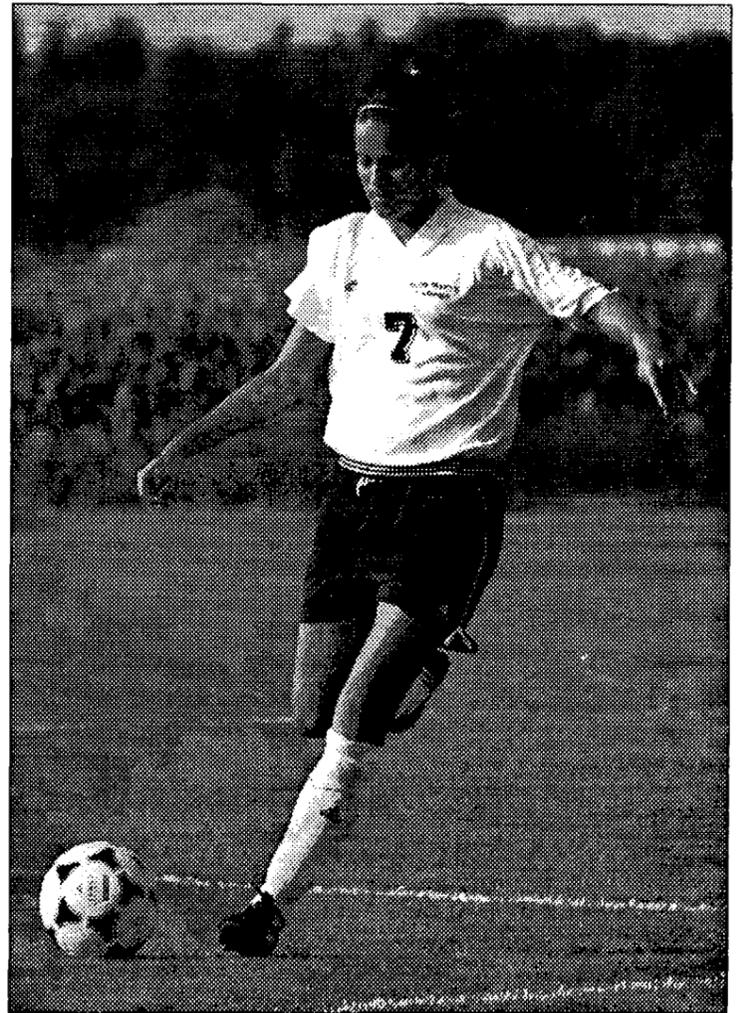
Concannon hopes to guide this experienced Belles team, as she is a co-captain, along with fellow seniors Jen Herdman and Katie Taylor.

"We're really excited," Concannon said. "We have the chance to be something very good."

"We're cautiously optimistic."

Caryn Mackenzie
Belles coach

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvanhoeg@nd.edu



Belles senior Katie Taylor kicks the ball last season during a game. She will lead a Belles team that lost only three seniors.

STEPHANIE GRAMMENS/The Observer

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Wherever Life Takes You

INTRAMURALS

Yet another reason to love Notre Dame

"Everyone plays intramural sports [at Notre Dame]." - The Princeton Review

Everyone knows about the football Saturdays, the green shirts and most of all the student sections. But what happens to the 75 percent of the student population who played sports in high school? After all, not everyone can run out of the tunnel...or can they?



Heather Van Hoegarden

Sports Editor

At Notre Dame, anything is possible in the world of intramurals.

The dorm league games may not earn the recognition of Notre Dame's 24 Division-I sports. Participants won't be contributing to a 24th national championship for the Irish. The dorm leagues might not be as prolific as the Big East and dorm teams won't be renewing any contracts with NBC, but that doesn't mean intramurals aren't important. To students here, winning an intramural

championship is a great achievement. Full-contact intramural football. This is where it begins. The only non-service academy university in the country with such a program, Notre Dame is home to a dorm league each fall. Men from each hall suit up just as they did under the Friday night lights for their high school team.

But this time, it is different. More is at stake. A chance to play in the championship game at Notre Dame Stadium, the House that Rockne built, awaits those good enough. There may not be 80,000 screaming fans, but these athletes become a part of Notre Dame football, even if it's just because they played on the same field as the likes of Joe Montana and Jerome Bettis. They run out of the tunnel, and it becomes their Stadium too. But they aren't the only ones.

Meanwhile, the women are busy competing for a shot in the Stadium as well, with their own interhall flag football league. It is the one chance they get to set foot on the legendary field.

But don't worry, Notre Dame isn't just about football. There is basketball, volleyball, even

horseshoes. And if those don't suit your fancy, you can play racquetball or even bowl. And of course, don't forget broomball and badminton. This variety of over 20 sports each year could be the reason that 80 percent of students participate in intramurals.

Or it could be that the championship of both the men and women's basketball leagues is played in the Joyce Center. And when these athletes play here, they can think of the great players who made the JACC their home — Matt Carroll, Troy Murphy, Ryan Humphrey and many others.

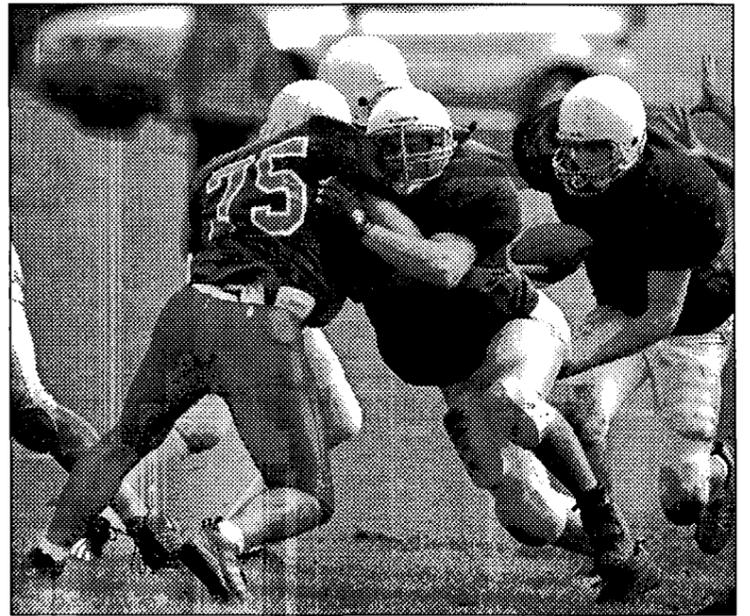
Or they could remember what has happened on the same court. Just this year, the Irish women upset then-No. 4 Connecticut Jan. 13, giving the Huskies just their fourth loss in three seasons. And the Irish men did the same a month later, defeating then-No. 5 Connecticut Feb. 9. And don't forget about 2001, when now-Olympian Ruth Riley led the Irish to a National Championship season.

All of these games occurred on the same court as an intramural game. Ridiculous, don't you think? There should really be some kind of rule against that.

But at Notre Dame, there isn't. Ivy Field, home to the Irish softball team, becomes home to the Pasquerilla West softball team, the Welsh Family softball team and every other women's dorm team, for that matter, in the fall. Each fastpitch softball intramural game is played on the varsity field, from the first game to the championship game.

Maybe that's why Notre Dame was ranked No. 1 by the Princeton Review this year in the category of "Everyone plays intramural sports." And Notre Dame was also the top dog in "Students pack the stadiums."

So you wonder how do they do it? One night it's a bitter rivalry of Siegfried versus Knott and the next it's a Big East matchup of Notre Dame versus Connecticut. But that is what



CHIP MARKS/The Observer

Non-scholarship athletes have the opportunity to compete at high levels, like these residents of Dillon and Keough Hall.

makes this place special. Both of those games are important. Both will have fans, and both will have stars. After all, it is the same game.

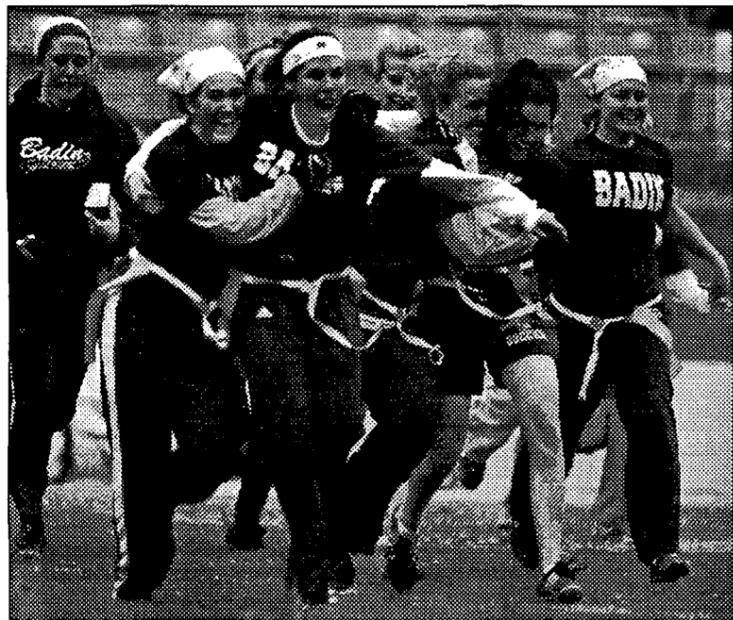
But then you say, intramural athletes don't receive recognition like varsity athletes. Wait, they have that covered. The annual "RecSpys," modeled after ESPN's ESPYs, honor athletes of the year, a team of the year, fans of the year and a game of the year. There's even a dinner reception for the winners and nominees.

So just when you thought your athletic career was over, coming to Notre Dame as a "former" athlete isn't so bad. Really, it's just a way for you to have a fresh start. And besides, how many people can say they competed on the varsity field or arena at one of the greatest sports schools in the country?

It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, so don't pass it up.

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

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvanhoeg@nd.edu.

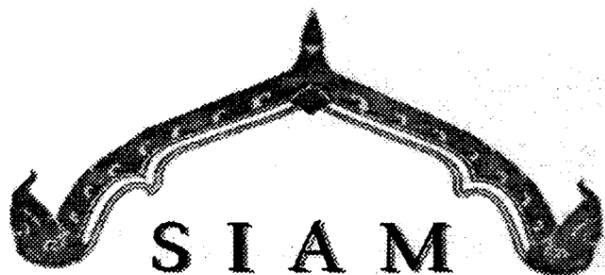


CHIP MARKS/The Observer

Badin Hall football players charge the field after capturing the 2003 Women's Interhall championship inside Notre Dame Stadium.

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CHECKING OUT THE TEAMS

Football

Tyrone Willingham and his coaching staff had to answer to a slew of criticism from the Notre Dame faithful after a 5-7 season, a season that included blowout losses to Michigan (38-0) Florida State (37-0) and Southern Cal (45-14). The Irish began to somewhat right the ship with late wins against an easier schedule of Navy, Brigham Young and Stanford, but a 38-12 debacle at lowly Syracuse closed out the 2003 season on a sour note.

Willingham enters his third season as head coach — a traditional make-or-break season for Irish coaches to win before criticism demands a change in

the program.

Knute Rockne (9-0), Frank Leahy (9-1), Ara Parseghian (9-0-1), Dan Devine (11-1-0) and Lou Holtz (12-0-0) all had successful third seasons. All but Rockne won the national title that year.

On the other hand, Hunk Anderson (3-5-1), Terry Brennan (2-8), Joe Kuharich (5-5) and Bob Davie (5-7) all had sub-par third tries and coached no more than two more seasons before leaving.

Fall practice is tentatively scheduled to culminate with a scrimmage in Notre Dame Stadium Aug. 27.

Players to Watch

Sophomore quarterback Brady Quinn started his first game Sept. 27, 2003 against Purdue and threw 59 passes for 297 yards, one touchdown and four interceptions. Though Quinn jumped into the West Coast offense mid-season and took his shots, the young quarterback learned and is poised to lead a potentially dangerous offense.

Rhema McKnight, Maurice Stovall, Jeff Samardzija and converted receiver Carlyle Holiday man a deep receiving corps.

Men's Basketball

In coach Mike Brey's fourth year at Notre Dame, his team ran into major injuries for the first time. The Irish finished with a 19-13 record overall, 9-7 mark in the Big East and lost in the NIT quarterfinals to Oregon at the Joyce Center. The Irish missed the NCAA Tournament for the first time with Brey at the helm.

Senior guard Chris Thomas battled a knee injury throughout the season, but never missed a game. Thomas had surgery in April and was scheduled to begin full workouts Aug. 10.

Junior forward Torin Francis left the Pittsburgh game Feb. 7 with back spasms and attempted to play two days later in Notre Dame's upset of eventual national champion Connecticut. But Francis never recovered from his injury during the season and was shut down for the rest of the year.

Fellow junior forward Rick Cornett battled a foot injury early in the season and had surgery to relieve a stress fracture in July. Cornett should be ready to participate when team workouts start Oct. 16.

Players to Watch

The obvious player to watch is Thomas, who admitted in the offseason he shot the ball too much and will focus more on being a leader on the floor. Thomas and Francis are on the preseason Wooden watch list.

Transfer forward Dennis Latimore, who sat out the 2003-04 season per NCAA regulations, joins the Irish lineup this season.

Many are saying he played extremely well in practices and had battles with Francis.

ND Women's Basketball

After reaching the Sweet 16 for the sixth time in eight years last season, Notre Dame returns all but three players, including All-American forward Jacqueline Batteast.

The Irish should be a force in the Big East again this season after finishing second to eventual national champion Connecticut. Batteast is joined by senior forwards Teresa Borton and Katy Flecky, junior forward Courtney LaVere and reigning Big East Most Improved Player junior guard Megan

Duffy. Batteast is poised for another outstanding season after averaging 16 points and 8.6 rebounds per game.

Joining the Irish are freshmen guards Charel Allen and Tulyah Gaines and 6-foot-5 post Melissa D'Amico. Allen averaged 26.1 points, 10.5 rebounds, 5 assists and 6.4 steals per game in high school. These freshmen will add depth to the Irish, and may even make an impact early.

The Irish will tip off with the Preseason WNIT, hosting Illinois State in the opening round.

Players to Watch

Duffy will once again be looked upon to lead this team. Last season, she averaged 9.9 points, 3.9 assists and had a 1.36 assist-turnover ratio. Duffy will need help from Batteast, who is a candidate for numerous preseason player of the year awards.

LaVere and Borton will be looked upon on the front lines for leadership, and Crystal Erwin will provide depth for the Irish. Sophomore Breona Gray will be looked upon for defensive purposes.

ND Women's Soccer

The Irish are always looking to improve, but after a dominant 20-3-1 regular season in 2003, the team focuses on repeating the regular season performance and carrying that intensity into the postseason.

Michigan put an abrupt end to the Irish season in the second round of the NCAA tournament with a 2-0 victory, and disappointment surrounded the 6-0-0 Big East Mid-Atlantic Division champs.

Another division title could be well within sixth-year head

coach Randy Waldrum's grasp with the return of eight starters and loss of just four letter winners. Seniors Mary Boland, Gudrun Gunnarsdottir and Melissa Tancredi will captain the squad.

The Irish open the season with four straight home games, hosting Baylor in the opener at Alumni Field Aug. 27.

The first league game will occur at Connecticut on Sept. 17, and the much-anticipated rematch against Michigan will conclude the season on Oct. 28.

Players to Watch

The Irish lose only Vanessa Pruzinsky on defense, and defenders Candace Chapman, Tancredi, Christie Shaner and Gunnarsdottir return to anchor a solid unit in front of goaltender Erika Bohn. Chapman looks to make an impact after missing the entire 2003 season due to a knee injury.

On offense, graduation removes Amy Warner and Amanda Guertin from the lineup, and Katie Thorlakson will take charge up front. Jen Buczkowski and swing player Kim Lorenzen will control the midfield.

Fencing

Losing only one member from its third-place NCAA Championship team, the Irish look to make a run at their second national title in three years. Coach Janusz Bednarski had six freshmen on that team, so his 2004-05 squad will have more college experience.

One major story to watch is senior foilist Alicja Kryczalo who will be going for her fourth national title in as many years. Kryczalo faced teammate and classmate Andrea Ament in the final for the second time in three years.

Olympic gold medalist Mariel

Zagunis will join defending national champion Valerie Providenz to form possibly the best women's sabre squad in the country.

Senior epeeist Michal Sobieraj finished third in 2003 and second in 2002.

Bednarski will have to solidify his men's squad if he wants to win a national title since the Irish only qualified five (of a maximum of six) for the NCAA Championships and only had two All-Americans on the men's team (compared to five on the women's team).

Players to Watch

After winning a gold medal, Zagunis will be expected to produce nothing short of an impressive run at the NCAA Championships. She will have to challenge Providenz for the national title.

Fifth-year senior and 2002 national champion Kerry Walton, along with Kryczalo, Ament and Sobieraj each look to become a four-time All-American. The Irish have had 12 four-time All-Americans in school history.

Hockey

The Irish had the best season in team history during the 2003-04 year, advancing to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in the program's 36-year existence. Although their time at the NCAAs was short — the Irish lost to Minnesota 5-2 in the first round — Notre Dame put itself on the national radar screen in college hockey.

Notre Dame reached the NCAAs by virtue of an impressive regular season that included victories over Boston College, Wisconsin and Maine — who were all ranked in the top five at the time. The Irish also swept perennial powerhouse Michigan at the Joyce

Center for the first time since the 1981-82 season.

The Irish might have difficulty repeating their success from last year, after losing four key players to graduation in forwards Rob Globke and Aaron Gill and defensemen Brett Lebda and Neil Komadoski.

Globke and Gill were the team's leading scorers, while Lebda and Komadoski formed a defensive unit that was one of the best in the CCHA. Sophomore forwards Jason Paige, Josh Seba and Michael Bartlett will need to provide an offensive boost to make up for the loss of the two senior forwards.

Players to Watch

Goalies Morgan Cey and David Brown will be the most important parts of an Irish team that might have difficulty scoring goals. If Cey and Brown are on their games, they have the potential to be the best goaltending tandem in the nation.

Forwards Mike Walsh and Cory McLean were the third and fourth-leading scorers on the team last year, and will have to step up their games to make up for the loss of Globke and Gill to graduation.

CHECKING OUT THE TEAMS

ND Volleyball

After losing in the first round of the NCAA Tournament last year, the Irish look to improve on that performance. With the loss of setter Kristen Kinder, Notre Dame will have to find someone to step up in her place. However, they return four of seven starters from a team that went 23-7 last year. In the Big East's preseason poll, the Irish were picked to finish first for the 10th year in a row. Senior Emily Loomis and juniors Lauren Brewster and Lauren Kelbley were named to the preseason All-Big East team. All three were honorable mention All-American selections by the American Volleyball Coaches Association in 2003. The Irish took second in the Big East Championship last year and earned their 12th consecutive bid to the NCAA Tournament. This year's team is ranked No. 25 to start a season that includes 12 NCAA Tournament teams from a year ago.

Men's Soccer

The Irish had a disappointing finish to what was otherwise an impressive 2003 season, losing to Michigan in overtime in the Sweet 16 round of the NCAA Tournament. With a team that included five key seniors, the Irish were poised to make a serious run at a national title, but came up short. They might have difficulty repeating that feat this year, as Notre Dame will have to replace seven total seniors including the five players who were responsible for 35 of the team's 38 goals last year. Among key returnees is senior goalie Chris Sawyer, who achieved All-American honors last year and has been a three-time All-Big East selection over his Irish career. Senior defensemen Jack Stewart and Kevin Goldthwaite should help Notre Dame have one of the better defensive teams in the Big East.

- | | |
|----------------|------------|
| Boston College | Rutgers |
| Connecticut | Seton Hall |
| Georgetown | St. John's |
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SMC Cross Country

This fall, the Belles hope their returning runners will use their experience to guide the team to a high finish in the MIAA. Saint Mary's finished 30th last season at the NCAA Division III Regional Meet at Hanover College, led by Sara Otto who finished 84th. Otto returns this year along with Elizabeth Commers and Katie White. These three runners led the Belles at the regional meet, as Commers finished 146th and White took 170th, respectively. Also placing at the regional were Erin Nolan (182nd place) and Becky Feauto (198th). These runners will be the leaders of a team that will strive to improve its regional performance, as just 34 teams entered the regional. The Belles will also look to improve on last year's sixth-place finish at the MIAA Championship. However, they lose captain Jackie Bauters to graduation. Bauters finished 206th at the regional.

Men's Cross Country

With the loss of All-American Todd Mobley, the Irish have some big shoes to fill after a disappointing finish in 2003. The Irish failed to qualify for the NCAA Championship after finishing eighth at the Great Lakes Region and taking second in the Big East. Leading the attempt to be more consistent will be Eric Morrison, Sean O'Donnell, Kaleb VanOrt, Tim Moore and Kurt Benninger. Moore finished sixth at the Big East Championship in 2003, good for his second All-Big East honors. Meanwhile, VanOrt, a junior, is on the rise after earning All-Big East honors for the first time in 2003, finishing 12th. Incoming freshman Jake Watson, brother of one of the most successful runners in Irish history, Luke Watson, may contribute early. The Irish open the season Sept. 10 at the Valparaiso Invitational.

Women's Cross Country

The Irish took 10th at the NCAA Championship last fall, and recent press has highlighted the strength of an Irish program that could challenge to improve on last season's finish. Junior Lauren King, who hails from Toronto, Ontario, will be one of the featured runners this season along with Molly Huddle, Megan Johnson and Stephanie Madia. King was named to the 2004 College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Academic All-America second team Thursday and will lead a team that won three of its eight scheduled meets last fall. Last season, King became the first Irish women's cross-country runner to win three All-America honors at the NCAA championship. The team first competes at the Valparaiso Invitational to open its season on Sept. 10.

Men's Golf

The Irish came just four strokes short of qualifying for the NCAA Championship as they finished in 12th place at the NCAA Central Regional in West Lafayette, Ind. Narrowly missing the tournament put a sour finish to what was otherwise a successful season. Notre Dame won the Big East Championship, defeating defending-champion Virginia Tech by five strokes. Junior Tommy Balderston finished in third place at the tournament, earning an All-Big East Conference team selection as a result. All five golfers who participated in the NCAA Regional return to the team this season, as the team heads into 2004 with a realistic chance to repeat as Big East champions. Freshmen Greg Rogers and Mike King add additional depth to the team this year.

ND Women's Golf

The Irish 2003-04 team wrote their own chapter in Notre Dame sports history as they advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the first time ever. Noriko Nakazaki earned third place at the Big East tournament, partially because of her score of 70 in the second round — the lowest score for a round in Big East Championship history. Katie Brophy and Karen Lotta took fourth and seventh place, respectively, and all three golfers were named to the All-Big East team. Nakazaki, who will be a sophomore this year, also did well at the NCAA Central Regionals, placing 36th overall. The Irish, as a team, finished in 17th place. Lotta is the team's only senior, and with both Brophy and Nakazaki returning to the team in addition to new freshmen Alejandra Diaz-Calderon and Jane Lee, the Irish could equal or surpass their success from last season.

SMC Golf

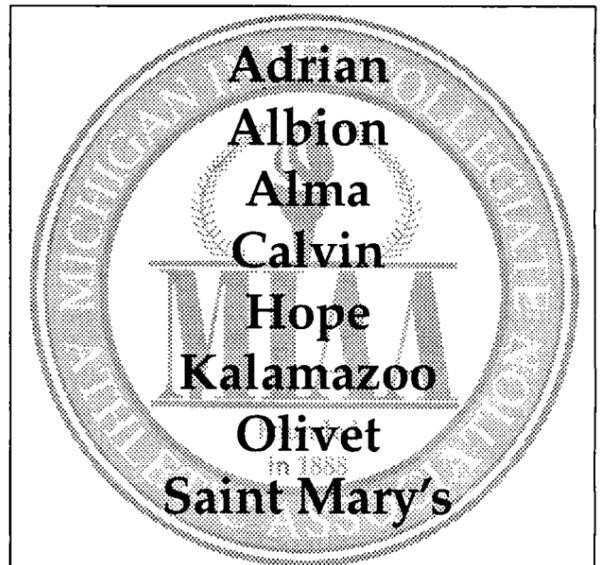
The Belles won the MIAA championship in the fall season, shooting a 679 as they finished first in the eight-team tournament at Olivet. The spring portion of the schedule also started off well for the Belles, as they took fifth-place overall at the 19-team Ferris State Invitational, a competition that included several schools at the Division-I level. In the spring of 2004, Saint Mary's finished eighth in the NCAA championships, with Stefanie Simmerman leading the team with an 82.92 scoring average throughout the four-round tournament. The Belles should have another good season this year, with Simmerman returning as a senior. The only players lost to graduation from last year are Jaclyn Thompson and Elizabeth Harlon.

SMC Volleyball

The Belles only lose one senior from last year's team, but they will also have to deal with the loss of Kristen Playko after the sophomore decided to study abroad this year. Saint Mary's loses senior Alison Shevik from last year's 16-13 (5-10 in MIAA) season. Playko's offensive output will be missed, as she was named a first-team All-MIAA player after leading the Belles with 496 kills and 54 service aces in 104 sets during the 2003 season. Senior Elise Rupright also returns, after leading the Belles with 43 solo blocks and 104 total blocks. Rupright also led the team with a .254 hitting percentage. Saint Mary's coach Julie Schroeder-Biek adds two talented freshmen in Elizabeth Stohl and Stephanie Bauer. The Belles open their season Sept. 1 at home against the University of Chicago.

SMC Soccer

After losing just three seniors and gaining a new coach, the Belles look to improve on last year's fifth place finish in the MIAA. This fall, they will be under the leadership of Caryn Mackenzie, who comes to Saint Mary's from John Adams High School, where she was the head girls' soccer coach. Mackenzie returns a talented bunch, including senior Jen Concannon, who led the team in points and earned first-team All-MIAA honors last season. Joining her is junior defenseman Carrie Orr, who started all 19 games and also earned first-team All-MIAA honors. Joining these two will be sophomore Carolyn Logan and senior Katie Taylor. Both were named second-team All-MIAA a year ago. Goalie Laura Heline returns one year removed from receiving honorable mention All-MIAA honors.





TIM KACMAR/The Observer

Sophomore Jen Buczkowski fights off a Michigan defender last season. The Irish just returned from a preseason trip to Brazil.

Brazil

continued from page 36

last game too," she said. "Your whole life you dream about putting on that Irish uniform and when that finally happens, you're shaking."

Coach Randy Waldrum told Notre Dame's athletic Web site that he was pleased with the results, especially from his younger players.

"We didn't have too many bad performances over the course of the six games," he said. "It was great to see how the freshmen can fit in. We found out that our depth is going to be tremendous."

The depth will be particularly tremendous at the goalkeeper position.

Three different players saw significant playing time in net over the course of the six games. Waldrum has made it clear that junior Erika Bohn,

sophomore Nikki Westfall and freshman Lauren Karas will all be on call to defend the Irish goal when the regular season begins.

"I've never had three keepers as good and as close in performance as these three," Waldrum said. "We have to make the kids understand, because we play so many games in a short period of time, that some may have to sacrifice some minutes to help keep the team fresh."

Work and practice have been a big part of the team's journey to the southern hemisphere, but the foreign environment provided a great opportunity for the team to bond with the upperclassmen getting the chance to impart some useful advice to their freshmen teammates.

"We talked a lot about school and stuff, what to expect being a student athlete," Jones said. "[They told me] don't worry, just go out there and be yourself, just play hard and that's really all you can do. You can't worry about things you can't control."

NCAA rules permit every school team to take one foreign trip every four years. The Irish last left American soil in the summer of 2000 (also for Brazil) and finished that year as one of the best teams in school history. Ranked No. 1 for most of the season, the team's only loss came in the NCAA semifinals to eventual national champion North Carolina.

If the Irish want to improve from last season, they will

need to be deep after losing last year's leading scorer, Amy Warner, to graduation. Warner helped lead the 2003 Irish to a near perfect regular season and a No. 2 ranking. But the team

lost three of its last five games including twice to Michigan, once in the season finale and then again to eliminate the Irish in the second round of the NCAA tournament. Notre Dame will meet the Wolverines again in this year's final regular season contest Oct. 28 in Ann Arbor.

Before the team concentrates on revenge, the team must focus on first things first, namely sorting out the lineup.

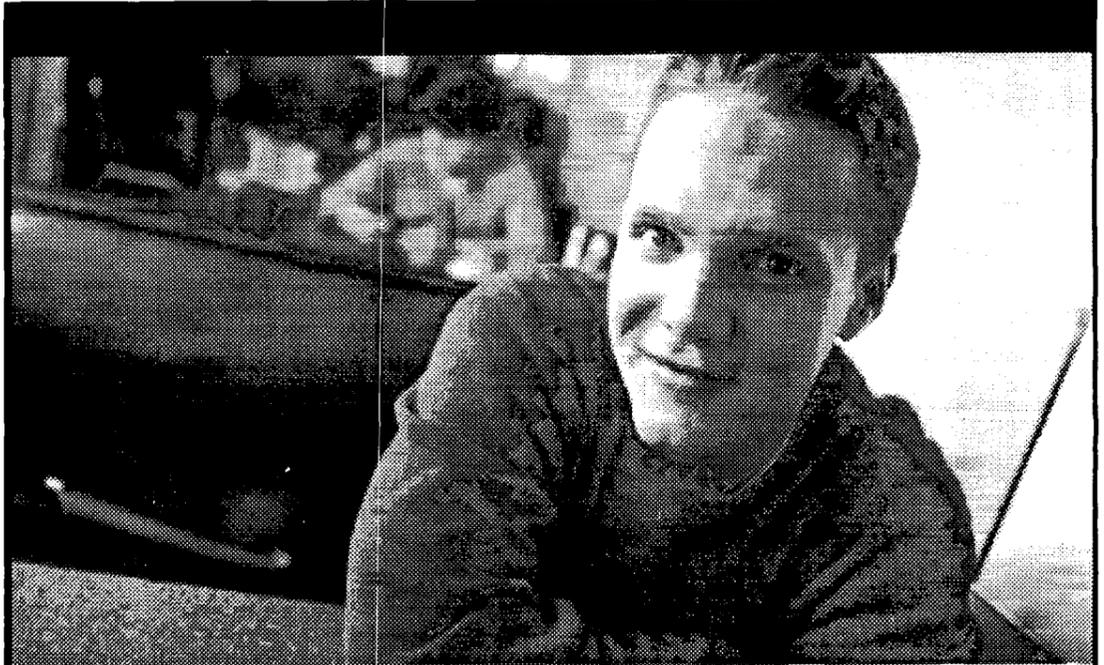
"We haven't really talked about [playing time]," Jones said. "The Brazil trip was just to see where everyone fit in."

If Jones and the rest of her new classmates continue to perform well, they may fit in sooner than they think.

"Your whole life you dream of putting on that Irish uniform and when that finally happens, you're shaking."

Ashley Jones
Irish freshman

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Photo courtesy of Notre Dame Sports Information

Andrew MacKay swam for the Cayman Islands in the Olympics.

Record

continued from page 36

liked to go a little faster, but with all the nerves at the Olympics, I was happy."

MacKay's quick start in the 200-meter individual medley helped him distance himself from the field, as his start was .02 seconds faster than anyone else in the field.

"I've always had a pretty good start," he said. "Playing a lot of sports growing up, I guess you just develop a quick reaction."

MacKay will enter Notre Dame this fall as the only Notre Dame men's swimmer to have participated in the Olympics. He also holds the Cayman Islands nation-

al records in the 100-meter butterfly, and several other record in the backstroke, breaststroke and individual medley events.

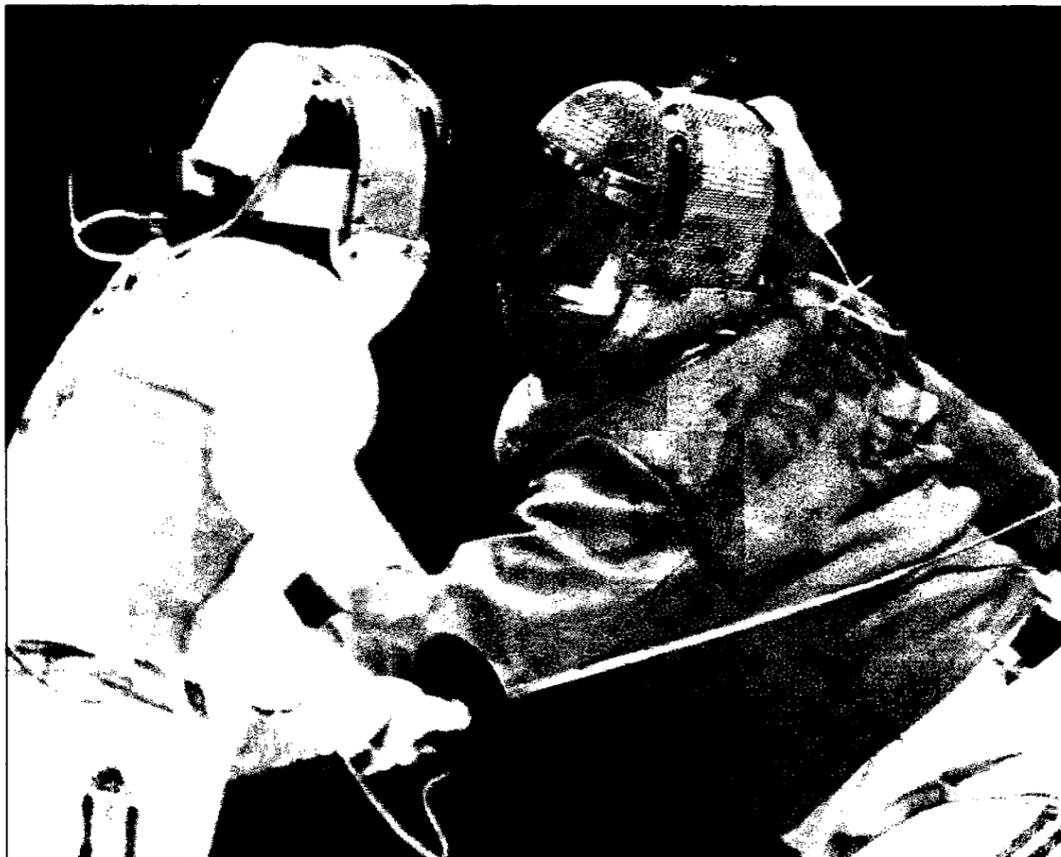
He reached the Olympics after earning an invitation in both the 200-meter individual medley and 400-meter individual medley at the 2003 Pan Am Games.

"It was huge," MacKay said of the Olympics. "You're up against the best in the world."

MacKay said he will be in South Bend the day after the closing ceremonies, which are August 30. He will be flying from Athens straight to South Bend to join the rest of the class of 2008.

"I can't wait to get there and enjoy the campus," MacKay said.

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvanhoeg@nd.edu



Mariel Zagunis, right, and Romania's Gheorghitoaja dual in the semi final bout of the Women's Individual Sabre competition Tuesday. Zagunis went on to win the gold medal.

Gold

continued from page 36

he was recruiting the star junior fencer two years ago.

"She had to take a leave for the Olympic games that she wouldn't be able to make it with the crazy schedule," Bednarski said.

But Bednarski also had to sell Zagunis and her family on the ability to continue fencing at a world-class level while surviving in the classroom.

"The academic challenge of Notre Dame sometimes makes athletes frightened because they know the daily schedule is very tough," Bednarski said. "I think it's a challenge for us and for her. We have to take care of her. She is a talented kid."

While Zagunis didn't attend Notre Dame for a year, she wasn't even on the U.S. Olympic team until June. Zagunis lost in the semifinals of a tournament in March to Sada Jacobson by one touch (a point in fencing).

That loss dropped Zagunis to No. 11 in the world rankings and left Jacobson's sister Emily at No. 10 in the world. The qualifying system left Zagunis as the Olympic's first alternate and both Jacobson sisters going to Greece.

When the Nigerian team declined its Olympic spot, Zagunis claimed the spot at the top-ranked fencer in the April 1 rankings not currently qualified for the Olympics.

The fateful turn of events paved the way to Zagunis' gold medal.

"I'm just happy in the first place that I was able to come here and compete," Zagunis said.

Bednarski said Zagunis was initially slated to return to South Bend on Friday. With her success, those plans could change as the United States Olympic Committee might want Zagunis to participate in the closing ceremonies Aug. 30, meaning Zagunis would get to campus a few days later.

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu



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Backs

continued from page 36

son Grant ran as the feature back for 1,085 yards and became the seventh player in Notre Dame history to eclipse the 1,000-yard mark in a season. His experience and knowledge of the system makes Grant (6-1, 218 pounds) the penciled-in starter, at least for now.

"We got a lot of guys who can play," Thomas said. "But starting off, it's [Grant's] to lose. He knows the system well so he'll start the season off as the starter, but anything can happen so I just got to be ready for my time."

Thomas missed all of spring practice with an injured ankle after red-shirting the previous season. The fall repetitions are working him back into a system coaches feel he fits.

"Travis has looked good, but that's not any different from how he looked last fall," Willingham said after Tuesday's practice. "We think Travis can be a good back. He's got enough shiftiness, elusiveness ... speed, and he is big time tough. Those are pretty good ingredients."

While Thomas is beginning to create a buzz with his play in practice, Walker has entered Notre Dame with immediate expectations.

No one expects Walker to start, but after breaking the Georgia State Association single-season touchdown record with 46, a record formerly held by Herschel Walker, the 5-foot-11, 200-pound back could challenge for playing time.

"I came here because I felt the opportunity [to play] was here," Walker said. "I'm confident in myself that hopefully I'll get a chance to see the field, and those are my plans."

Walker admits, however, that he must first adjust to the college game and playbook schemes before he makes an impact.

"Right now it's just me coming in trying to learn the system as best as possible, which has been the hardest thing for me," Walker said. "We ran sort of the same stuff in high school, but now you have protections with Mike linebackers and safeties ... which is a lot different from high school."

Willingham sees the learning

curve ahead of Walker, but he also sees a desire to conquer that learning curve as soon as possible.

"Darius is not any different from any of our freshmen in that he's also learning," Willingham said. "But when you look at the basic skill of being a good runner, he seems to be indicating that he has a vision. That is always a key asset if you're going to be a very good runner."

Willingham said Hoskins and Walker have had parallel experiences in fall practice.

"[Hoskins] is similar to Darius. There are some good things that they're doing and there are some days where they are ... wondering what this offense is all about. But they seem to be progressing well."

Hoskins has had a nagging minor injury and could not be reached for comment. At 6-foot, 195 pounds, the three year, two-way starter from Creston High School in Grand Rapids, Mich. rushed 209 times for 1,621 yards and 19 touchdowns his senior year. He also caught 20 passes for 134 yards and two touchdowns and threw a perfect 3-for-3 for 71 yards and a touchdown.

Other potential backfield contributors include 5-foot-11, 202-pound senior Marcus Wilson and 6-0, 216-pound junior Jeff Jenkins. Wilson played in 11 games last season and carried the ball 14 times for 29 yards, a 2.1 yards per carry average. Though he has received sparing playing time, Wilson has the most game experience in the Irish backfield after Grant.

Anybody could potentially receive the nod at running back, with the depth of the backfield and also with the nature of the position.

"I think the running back position is very physical, anybody can go out in any play," Thomas said. "So if you're one, two or three, you got to be ready to go."

Backfield bullets

◆ Senior Ryan Grant needs only 295 yards to become the 13th player in Notre Dame history to rush for 2,000 yards in a career. He has rushed over 100 yards in a game four times for the Irish and has a career rushing total of 1,705 yards and 13 touchdowns.

◆ Freshman running back Darius Walker could be attracting even more attention to himself with his choice of jerseys. Well, that is if it had been his choice. Walker dons the famous number three worn traditionally by Irish greats, including Rick Mirer and Joe Montana. The most recent player to wear No. 3, converted wide receiver Arnaz Battle, is returning kicks for the San Francisco 49ers.

"I was No. 7 in high school and I was hoping to try to get that this year," Walker said, "but Carlyle Holiday moved to wide receiver and he still wanted to keep his number. I wanted a single-digit number, and it was really one of the only single-digit numbers available. So it just worked out that way, I guess."

Injury report

◆ Ryan Grant appeared to tweak his left hamstring Monday morning and did not practice in the afternoon or on Tuesday. "It's a minor injury," red-shirt freshman Travis Thomas said. "It's not serious so he'll be ready to go."

◆ Red-shirt senior linebacker Brandon Hoyte has stood on the sidelines for the major part of the week with his right arm in a sling. Hoyte was second on the team in tackles last season with 74, including 48 solo. Courtney Watson led the Irish with 117 tackles.

◆ Defensive linemen Justin Tuck and Kyle Budinsack are coming back from off-season ACL surgeries and have sat out most of practice.

Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu

FOOTBALL

Fall practices split up after rule change

By JOE HETTLER
Sports Writer

After a mandatory five-day breaking in period, teams were restricted on how many two-a-days they can have and may not allow any practice of three hours or more. With that in mind, Notre Dame coach Tyrone Willingham split his team into two groups when fall practice started for practices that lasted an hour and a half.

"I think has been advantageous to us because it has allowed almost every player on the squad repetition and that's the one thing you need to get better," Willingham said.

During the first split squad practice Aug. 10, the team was divided into two groups. The first consisted of mostly first stringers and the second group was comprised of reserves and freshman. Both groups met for 30 minutes for special team work near the end of practice. When a group was not on the field, they did a variety of activities such as lifting or riding the exercise bike.

Willingham said he and the other coaches are hoping the new format helps the team, although he has never run practices this way in the past.

"You don't know," he said. "This is the first time we've done this. You're learning as you go in terms of what effectiveness it

has, what impact it has on your team. We'll know once we get into the season exactly how it's impacted our team. With the other schedule, you knew after doing it for years and years you knew exactly where things were going to fall. You knew exactly where your team would be and how to respond to it."

After implementing the new format for more than a week, Willingham has been pleased with the results.

"We've got a lot of work done," Willingham said. "When we started one of the main focuses of the team was to get everyone a lot for repetition. I think we've achieved that so from that standpoint it's been a good week we've made progress."

But the third-year coach also said there are some shortcomings to any practice that can be worrisome.

"What coaches always strive for and what you probably never get until they actually get to the game and really get the productivity in a game is execution," he said. "As you know from listening to me before, we struggle because as coaches if one side does well then one side isn't doing well because you're working against yourself and that makes our practices very competitive."

Contact Joe Hettler at jhettler@nd.edu

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OLYMPICS

Domers shine in Athens

Zagunis captures sabre fencing gold medal in Athens for U.S. team

By MATT LOZAR
Sports Writer

Winning an Olympic gold medal is a pretty unique answer to the standard question of "How was your summer?"

Incoming freshman fencer Mariel Zagunis can now say just that.

Zagunis won the women's individual sabre competition Tuesday in Athens, Greece becoming the first U.S. fencer to medal since 1984 and the first to win a gold medal since 1904.

"I don't even know what to say right now," Zagunis told the Associated Press. "I'm so happy."

Zagunis defeated China's Tan Xue 15-9 in the sabre final. Tan beat U.S. fencer Sada Jacobson — who went on to win the bronze medal — in the semifinals.

The U.S. team appropriately rushed the strip when Zagunis scored the winning point.

"There's no better feeling than being thrown up there after becoming champion of anything," Zagunis said of her teammates tossing her in the air. "I'm glad they could get on stage and celebrate with me like that."

Zagunis had the opportunity to win the gold medal after deferring her enrollment to Notre Dame. Signing with Notre Dame in November 2002, Zagunis didn't enroll in August 2003 because of the rigorous and demanding Olympic qualifying schedule.

That was something Notre Dame fencing coach Janusz Bednarski knew about when

see GOLD/page 33



Mariel Zagunis kisses her gold medal in individual sabre.

ND WOMEN'S SOCCER

Irish don't lose on trip to Brazil

By MATT MOONEY
Sports Writer

ΔFreshman Orientation was a little different this year for the newcomers on the Notre Dame women's soccer team.

Instead of packing their bags for South Bend, the Irish took their game south of the equator to Brazil for six exhibition games against local semi-professional teams.

With the freshmen joining the rest team for the first time, Notre Dame meshed well on its way to an undefeated 5-0-1 record. The Irish encountered little trouble with the opposition, outscoring their international counterparts by a combined 16-3 margin.

Senior Candace Chapman, sidelined for all of last season with a knee injury, led the team with four goals while first-year players Jannica Tjeder and Ashley Jones both got their feet wet with five points apiece.

Jones tallied two goals and three assists despite getting a few butterflies in her first collegiate action.

"I was definitely extremely nervous for at least the first couple games and even the

see BRAZIL/page 32

Irish freshman records fastest start in 200-meter individual medley

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Editor

Andrew MacKay has always had quick reflexes. But it wasn't until the Olympics that the

Cayman Islands competitor was really able to show them off.

The Notre Dame freshman got off the starting block in the 200-meter individual medley Wednesday morning in just 0.59 seconds, the fastest time in the 2004 games by any non-back-

stroker. As a result, he finished 41st in the 50 swimmer field — six places higher than his seeding.

Sunday he broke his own national record with a time of 4:32.38 in the 400-meter individual medley, good for a 33rd place

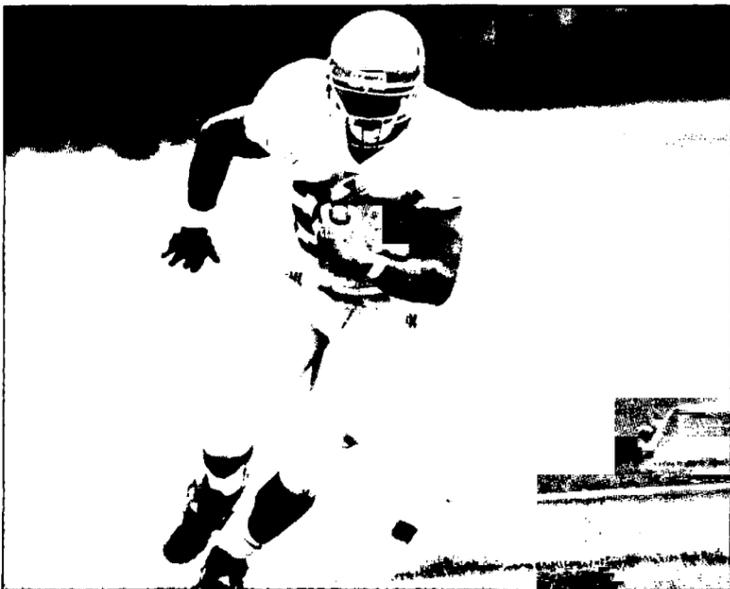
finish. Wednesday, he swam the 200-meter individual medley in 2:07.65, a personal best.

"It was my best time, so I can't complain about that," MacKay said from Athens. "I would have

see RECORD/page 33

FOOTBALL

Young running backs hope to make impact



Travis Thomas runs through a drill Wednesday afternoon during practice. Thomas will back up returning starter Ryan Grant.

By PAT LEONARD
Associate Sports Editor

In the first week of fall practice, freshman running backs Darius Walker and Justin Hoskins received the opportunity to showcase talent that made each a state Gatorade Player of the Year in Georgia and Michigan, respectively.

But another freshman back looks to prove just as much as the highly touted incoming players.

With a reported tweaked left hamstring sidelining starter Ryan Grant from practice for several days last week, red-shirt freshman Travis Thomas [6-foot,

212 pounds] has received first team duties behind the starting Irish offensive line over the past few days.

Thomas, Walker and Hoskins are all preparing as if the next carry belongs to them.

"Last year was a learning stage, the red-shirt year," Thomas said. "I took a lot from Julius [Jones] and Ryan [Grant]. This year we got a few guys bumped up [in the rotation] and I know what I'm doing. So they're throwing me in there and giving me that experience, and hopefully I'll be ready to go in the first game."

Notre Dame out-rushed its opponents 1,887 yards to 1,526 yards last season, though the bulk of those yards came in explosive outings from Jones.

Grant ran for 510 yards and three touchdowns on just 143 carries last season, averaging

3.6 yards per carry. Thomas hopes to contribute at least as much as Grant did last season.

"Within the last year and this year, you usually rotate backs a little bit one and two, [like] Julius and Ryan [did last year], and I think we're going to do some of the same this year."

Coach Tyrone Willingham did not dispute Thomas' claim that he could see the field early and, possibly, often.

"We'll let the players determine what happens," Willingham said. "But the truth is if we can be our best — I think it's usually when you have the opportunity to have two backs ... that are always fresh and always attacking the defense, I think you have your best chance to be successful."

During Willingham's first sea-

see BACKS/page 34

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

SMC SOCCER

After losing just three seniors from a year ago, the Belles hope to improve on last year's fourth-place finish in the MIAA.

page 28

MEN'S SOCCER

Notre Dame vs. Northwestern Monday, 7 p.m.

The Irish and the Wildcats square off in an exhibition.

page 26

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The Irish celebrate the 100th anniversary of men's basketball this season. Newcomers Dennis Latimore, Omari Isreal and Rob Kurz will contribute.

page 24

SMC VOLLEYBALL

After losing their best offensive player, Kristen Playko, who chose to go abroad, the Belles must find a source of offense.

page 22

ND VOLLEYBALL

The Irish return most of their starters and hope to build on last season's loss in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

page 22

ND CROSS COUNTRY

The men's and women's teams return most of the key runners in 2004.

page 20