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Irish faithful prepare to swarm Big House

Students could face aggressive crowd in Ann Arbor Saturday

By JOE PIARULLI
News Writer

Brandishing Notre Dame flags, tailgate supplies and determination not to let a hostile environment dampen their spirits, hundreds of students will make the trip to Ann Arbor this weekend as the Irish take on Michigan.

The stage is set for the ranked football rivals to duke it out in a revenge match many Notre Dame students want to see in person, though few will have the privilege.

Tickets for this year's game in Ann Arbor were hard to come by, as the contest is highly anticipated after the Irish eked out a surprising upset at home last

year. Many of the students who rushed the field in Notre Dame Stadium after that game waited in line for a chance to buy tickets at the Student Union Board's lottery last Friday, and many of those who didn't snag admission are still making the three-hour road trip for game day.

"Tickets are always hard to come by, especially when Notre Dame is in town," freshman Pat Moore said. "Everybody wants to see them play."

Moore's family lives near Ann Arbor, so he said he would be "killing two birds with one stone," by visiting home and seeing the Irish "whomp on Michigan."

The Big House — already a generally unfriendly environment for Irish fans — will host a massive Michigan crowd ready to get revenge on Notre Dame, much like two years ago when

see BIG HOUSE/page 6



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Students rush the field after last year's football win at home against Michigan Sept. 11. Irish fans hope for a similar celebration in Ann Arbor Saturday.

Rules and relationships



TIM SULLIVAN/The Observer

Students from Welsh Family, Dillon, St. Ed's and Morrissey talk in Reckers Thursday after parietals.

Editor's Note: This is the second article in a periodic series examining gender relations at Notre Dame and Saint Mary's.

By KATE ANTONACCI and
KAREN LANGLEY
News Writers

For sophomore Brenna Doyle, the biggest problem with gender relations at Notre Dame is not romantic relationships. It's friendships.

"The strain to make meaningful friendships with members of the opposite sex is the unhealthy aspect of gender relations on campus," said Doyle, a member of the Senate Gender Issues Committee. "I feel like it's harder to make friends of the opposite sex

without people assuming that we are more than friends."

Doyle is not alone. Students who echoed her sentiments blamed their frustration largely on the University's traditional residential rules, but said transitions from freshman to senior year can ease the often tense campus climate.

Single-sex dorms

While single-sex dorms have always been the rule at Notre Dame, they stand out at a time when most universities have men and women living together in the majority of dorms. But some students like being different.

"Single-sex dorms add a different dimension to gender relations that most schools

see GENDER/page 4

Free trade provokes discussion

Scholars to debate economic integration in Latin America

By MARCELA BERRIOS and
JANICE FLYNN
News Writers

With the free trade agreements awaiting ratification in Congress and the world watching, Notre Dame has invited scholars and policymakers from around the globe to convene Friday and Saturday to discuss the controversial issue of trade integration in Latin America.

The conference, titled "The Sequencing of Regional Economic Integration: Issues in the Breadth and Depth of Economic Integration in the Americas," will be held at the Mendoza College of Business, sponsored by Mendoza, the Kellogg Institute for International Studies, The Coca-Cola Company and the Inter-American Development Bank.

In both lecture and discussion formats, the conference will enable scholars and economic specialists to examine the Free Trade Agreement for the Americas (FTAA) and other trade agreements in progress.

Jeffrey Bergstrand — a professor of finance at Notre Dame, Kellogg faculty fellow

Journalist speaks on media duties

By MADDIE HANNA
Associate News Editor

Renowned media commentator Ken Auletta once saw New Yorker editor William Shawn shell out \$80,000 to add eight pages to the magazine and run Auletta's piece in its entirety.

"I know that will never happen again," Auletta told those attending Thursday's Red Smith lecture at Notre Dame's Hesburgh Center. "He [Shawn] believed that we worked for the readers, not the shareholders."

Auletta's lecture focused on

the issue of who journalists work for, a question he believed is increasingly polarizing the journalistic profession.

"Perhaps the biggest problem in journalism is the cult divide between journalists and corporate owners," said Auletta, who explained the differing philosophies of each camp.

CEOs, Auletta said, want journalists to abandon their "elitist" ideas and "give the public more of what it wants," not just what it needs.

"In the end, you have to lis-

see AULETTA/page 6



TIM SULLIVAN/The Observer

New Yorker media critic Ken Auletta speaks Thursday in Notre Dame's annual Red Smith lecture.

see TRADE/page 3

INSIDE COLUMN

Closing the deal

There he is, perched on the edge of some mystic battlefield fogged over by loud music and black lights, waiting to engage his counterpart in the oldest form of battle known to the human race. He is armed only with liquid courage, shielded by sarcasm and keen wit, and clad in the armor of paper-thin confidence waiting to charge.

Then it happens, like Moses himself just parted the sea of Domers, and standing there across the room is his very own Helen of Troy embracing a silver-clad natural beverage.

This is in no way a fair fight. While we mere men are armed to the teeth with weapons that wouldn't work on a sixth grade bully, 'Helen' is her own dark army. Her weapon is intimidation, her strategy aversion, and her source of strength is a stare capable of stopping him dead in his tracks. The real danger lies in the wing-women she brought with her that are only there to make sure he fails in whatever end he's dumb enough to pursue.

I consider myself to be an average Notre Dame guy who has no problem making a few friends at a party, but this battle seems to be lost from the beginning. Fear not my friends, there are ways to turn the odds in this battle in our favor.

Step 1: Ask her name, and remember it. Even if things go sour and she jets, you'll be able to facebook her the next day and ask her out sometime. The worst thing that can happen is to be holding a glass slipper the next morning with no clue who it belongs to.

Step 2: Show genuine interest in her. This requires listening skills and patience — practice with friends beforehand if you need to. Even if it's hard to listen to her babble on about how much she loves "The O.C.," swallow hard and pretend it's your favorite show.

Step 3: Dance with her. I'm not talking about VH1 Enrique Iglesias dancing (although it does work wonders in Zahm) — I want to see some MTV David Banner stuff.

Step 4: Have your buddies entertain her friends. Be a gentleman and make sure everyone feels welcome, even the weird one with bangs.

Step 5: Exercise patience. Even Wilt Chamberlain missed his first lay-up.

I can assure you that following these simple steps will certainly get you a few brownie points and open the door for further exploration. Just remember it's not winning the battle that is important, it's winning the war.

Contact Sam Pandolfo at spandolf@nd.edu

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

CORRECTIONS







Due to an editing error, two articles in the Sept. 8 issue of The Observer were listed as being written by the wrong reporters. The article "Local coffee shop honors Weis" was actually written by Kathy Lee, and the article "Meal plan includes more Flex Points" was written by Peter Devine.

Due to a reporting error, an article in the Sept. 8 issue of The Observer misspelled the last name of CJ's Pub owner Ricky Medich. That article also said the pub was damaged in January 2004, when it was actually damaged in January 2005.

Due to a reporting error, an article in the Sept. 8 issue of The Observer misspelled the last name of Director of Notre Dame Food Services Dave Prentkowski and contained several factual inaccuracies. This year, 2,000 Flex Points were added, not 20, because a point is worth a penny, not a dollar. The points were added to keep up with consumer inflation, not because of student complaints, and the administrative decision involved student input. The Bookstore Café began accepting the points last fall, not this fall.

The Observer regrets these errors.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: How do you feel about single-sex dorms?

					
Chris Cesca freshman Basil Hall	Di Liang grad student off-campus	Jean Henegan sophomore Lewis	Kai Sun grad student off-campus	Kory Wilmot junior Carroll	Matt Shikany junior Zahm
"Top notch, superb, supreme, sublime. Go Irish!"	"I believe there are more positive aspects than negative ones. I support it."	"I'm open to integration — it would make our section lingerie parties more interesting."	"Our dorms are single sex?"	"Since Carroll is not really on campus, I believe it should be a multi-sex dorm anyway."	"They don't bother me. It's almost like a frat, except you can't drink. Plus you meet a lot of friends with common interests."



OFFBEAT

Tiger urine gives meat a special "tang"
SHANGHAI, China — A restaurant in northeastern China that advertised illegal tiger meat dishes was found instead to be selling donkey flesh — marinated in tiger urine, a newspaper reported Thursday.
The Hufulou restaurant, located beside the Heidahezi tiger reserve near the city of Hailin, had advertised stir-fried tiger meat with chilies for \$98 as well as liquor flavored with tiger bone for \$74 a bottle, the China Daily reported.
Raw meat was priced at \$864 per kilogram.

The sale of tiger parts is illegal in China and officers shut down the restaurant, only to be told by owner, Ma Shikun, that the meat was actually that of donkeys, flavored with tiger urine to give the dish a "special" tang, the newspaper said.

The report didn't say how the urine was obtained.

Scuba divers begin ten days living underwater
PONZA, Italy — Two scuba divers spent Thursday underwater off Italy, starting what they hope will be a record 10 days submerged — aided by a special dry chamber where they can change masks and eat.

Stefano Barbaresi, 37, and Stefania Mensa, 29, completed the first diving 26 feet under water off the island of Ponza.

They have nine days to go to reach their goal of 240 hours — doubling the 120 hours set by Jerry Hall of Bluff City, Tenn., in eastern Tennessee's Watauga Lake, according to the Guinness world records.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

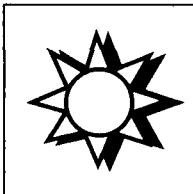
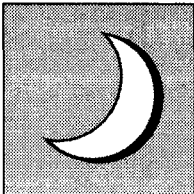

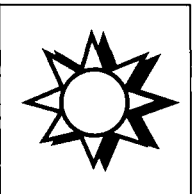
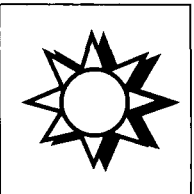
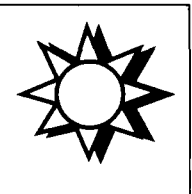
The Center for Social Concerns is sponsoring Hurricane Katrina Response Day today. A Cajun lunch fundraiser will take place from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Five speakers will participate in an Academic Forum on Disaster Relief from 2-3:30 p.m. A communal prayer will take place from 3:30-4 p.m., and a prayer vigil starting at 4 p.m. will run through midnight. All events will take place at the CSC.

The tri-military branches of ROTC will sponsor a Patriot's Day ceremony today at 7 a.m. next to the Hesburgh Library Reflecting Pool. The event will feature speaker retired Lieutenant Colonel Douglass R. Hemphill, a former Notre Dame professor of Military Science and current academic advisor in the Mendoza College of Business. The public is invited to attend.

An exhibit entitled Two Italian Hardbodies: Sports Cars Clad by Scaglietti and Frua will be on display in the Snite Museum of Art Entrance Atrium Gallery until Sept. 18. The exhibit features a 1958 Ferrari and a 1955 Maserati. Admission is free.

A lecture entitled "Catholics and the Intellectual Life in Late 20th Century America" will be given by Patrick Allitt of Emory University at 4 p.m. today at the Eck Visitors Center. The lecture is sponsored by the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 80 LOW 72	HIGH 70 LOW 65	HIGH 84 LOW 67	HIGH 90 LOW 67	HIGH 91 LOW 70	HIGH 90 LOW 70
	Atlanta 88 / 66 Boston 76 / 56 Chicago 84 / 64 Denver 86 / 56 Houston 94 / 73 Los Angeles 77 / 60 Minneapolis 84 / 68 New York 82 / 64 Philadelphia 84 / 62 Phoenix 98 / 80 Seattle 66 / 52 St. Louis 92 / 72 Tampa 88 / 76 Washington 86 / 64					

Trade

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and organizer of the event — affirmed the goal of the conference is to “ideally, help find guidelines for policymakers for progress in the economic integration that can enhance the economic welfare of members of the societies in the Americas, which will eventually advance the democratization, security, and peace of these nations.”

Currently, the governments of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras have approved the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), and are awaiting the treaty’s ratification in the United States Congress.

The agreement aims to eliminate trade barriers such as tariffs between the five Central American countries and the United States.

Though many large industries in both countries would immediately benefit from the liberalization of the market, critics have shown concern for the small farmers and entrepreneurs in Latin America who will be unable to compete against subsidized U.S. exports.

In recent months, there have been numerous riots and violent protests against CAFTA throughout Central America, some even resulting in several casualties.

Political science professor and Kellogg fellow Scott Mainwaring agrees that “regional economic integration is one of the most important yet controversial issues regarding the future of economic

development for our planet.”

“Advocates claim that economic integration boosts efficiency and will lead to improvements in the standard of living,” he said. “Foes claim that it is bad for the environment, employment, and equity, and that it will not boost economic development.”

Speakers from four different continents, including the former Foreign Commerce Minister of Costa Rica, will address issues such as the benefits and costs that may arise from the globalization process. Other conference participants include prominent academic trade economists, political scientists and policymakers from the International Monetary Fund.

Inter-American Development Bank, World Bank and other internationally renowned institutions.

Bergstrand said the intent of the Kellogg Institute is for the conference to promote research in major themes of development and democracy in today’s world. He also said he believes it is important for students to inform themselves of the economic situation affecting both the United States and Latin America.

As such, the conference will include a question and answer session for those unfamiliar with the subject Saturday at 2 p.m. in the Hesburgh Library Auditorium. Also, the \$100 fee to attend the conference has been waived to allow Notre Dame faculty and students to participate.

Contact Marcela Berrios and Janice Flynn at mberrios@nd.edu and jflynn1@nd.edu

Cushwa Center celebrates 30 years

By ANTHONY IANNAMORELLI
News Writer

In honor of the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism’s 30th anniversary this weekend, Associate Director Kathleen Sprows Cummings is opening the Center’s doors for a public celebration.

“You don’t need to know exactly what the Cushwa Center is to attend,” Cummings said.

The main events of the weekend-long anniversary commemoration are a lecture Friday at 4 p.m. in the Eck Notre Dame Visitors Center’s Auditorium and a seminar Saturday, starting at 9 a.m. at the McKenna Hall Center for Continuing Education.

Friday’s lecture, entitled “Catholics and the Intellectual Life in Late 20th-Century America,” marks the 50th anniversary of an article published in 1955 by Monsignor John Tracy Ellis. The article was a “lament on the abscess of Catholics in intellectual life,” a topic that hits very close to home in the Notre Dame community, Cummings said.

The seminar on Saturday



Cushwa Associate Director Kathleen Sprows Cummings prepared the Center’s 30th anniversary commemoration.

will examine Leslie Woodcock Tentler’s work “An American History: Catholics and Contraception,” sixth out of seven works in a comprehensive study on the effect Catholics had on this aspect of American history up until 1968.

The Center, which received its name from a large endowment by the Cushwa family six years after its inception, sponsors about eight events per year and publishes a newsletter each semester. Cummings coordinates the events and edits the publication, which documents happenings in the field of religious history and has more than 1,800 subscribers.

Cummings said she and Director Tim Matovina are

attempting to build bridges between the Center and different departments, as all prior Directors and Associate Directors for the Center were professors from Notre Dame’s history department. While Cummings is an associate professor in the history department, she is also very active in gender studies. Matovina is an associate professor in the theology department and is active in Latino studies. The Center hopes to begin to incorporate many interests into its purpose.

The two scheduled talks are prime examples of what the Center is about, Cummings said.

“We are not studying what the Catholic Church has to say about certain events, but rather, the effect Catholics and the Church have had on history,” she said.

Contact Anthony Iannamorelli at aiannamo@nd.edu

punk/alternative combo

hailing from Minneapolis, MN

Vans Warped tour 2004 performer

who

QUIETDRIVE

with opener
The Underwater

live@legends

where

september

10
ten o'clock

when



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Gender

continued from page 1

don't have to worry about," said Walsh senator and sophomore Erin Hankins. "Because of single-sex dorms, students get a chance to form very strong, healthy relationships with others of the same sex."

"It limits the number of people of the opposite sex who you are going to come in contact with and meet," freshman Nick Kovachevich said. "But it also makes you a lot closer with your guy friends and brothers."

Some students, however, said this limitation made finding friends of the opposite sex and forming healthy friendships significantly more difficult, especially when considering the background of many Notre Dame students.

"A lot of our students come from single-sex high schools and did not have daily contact with the opposite sex during those four years," O'Neill senator and sophomore Steve Tortorello said. "Because of this, many students aren't used to forming genuine friendships with the opposite sex — that is, relationships that are based on something more than just flirting."

Sophomore Dan Justice sees a more dramatic result of single-sex dorms.

"It makes [the campus] into two zones with guys' dorms as party dorms," he said. "No one bothers to go to girls' dorms. It makes for zones where you can get away with stuff and where you can't."

Though many upperclassmen said they have enjoyed their overall experience at Notre Dame, some students expressed feelings that more friendships could have been formed with members of the opposite sex had the dorms not been single-sex.

"I am glad to have the friendships that I have with guys here, but I think that things could have been better," senior Elizabeth Bullock said. "So I would say that I am content with my friends, but not content with the opportunities I had to make more or closer friends."

Bullock said her main problem was that "Notre Dame doesn't treat its students like adults" and does not give co-ed housing as an option.

"I think that co-ed dorms would be a good step," Bullock said. "Even if they didn't want to make all of the dorms co-ed, at least give students an opportunity to make that decision for themselves. But rather than trusting the students to make good choices, they decide that we'll live with members of the same sex and that seeing the opposite sex after midnight is inappropriate."

While single-sex dorms are the cause of much controversy, some students believe they contribute to Notre Dame's uniqueness and are not worth changing.

"I don't think it would be worth sacrificing the dorm unity and atmosphere that we have now to move guys and girls into the same dorm to help the relationship thing," senior Andy Burkavage said. "I think that the University has a lot more to lose from getting rid of the current situation than they have to gain from the integration of co-ed dorms."

Parietals ups and downs

It's not just the single-sex dorms creating controversy. Parietals are a constant source of debate that divides students and administrators.

The University rule limiting late-night visiting hours was instituted "to foster the personal and social development of residence hall students and at the same time respond to the safety, security and privacy needs of students sharing common living space," according to DuLac, Notre Dame's official guidebook to student life.

Undergraduate residence halls set their opposite-sex visitation hours as specified by DuLac: visiting hours are not to begin before 9 a.m. on any day and are not to extend past 2 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights and midnight on other nights. Graduate student housing allows for 24-hour visitation.

"The University's values are to develop well-founded adults," said student body vice president Lizzi Shappell, who defended the parietals policy.

Many students, however, blame parietals for the unhealthy development of male-female relationships, even if they are not romantic.

"I think that parietals have a big effect on gender relations," Bullock said. "It doesn't prevent the 'hook-up' from happening between guys and girls, but it stops the normal behavior like watching a movie late at night or staying up to talk."

Pangborn senator and sophomore Lisa Rauh agreed with Bullock, saying parietals seriously impeded budding male-female friendships.

"At most universities, even if there are single-sex dorms, people have the opportunity to get to build these important platonic relationships with the opposite sex because there is no time limit on how long a conversation can last or two people can hang out," Rauh said. "It is difficult to be in the midst of a great conversation or discussion, and suddenly it is midnight and that person, because they happen to be of the opposite sex, has to leave."

While outlets like Reckers or 24-hour spaces are provided for students to continue such conversations, many students find it difficult to foster such friendships in loud, public places.

Shappell said parietals "seem to hyperactivate any social time between the sexes, especially on the weekends at dorm parties."

Many students also said that parietals are a way for the University to make sure that students do not engage in sexual intercourse, which is a violation of school policy.

According to DuLac, sex "requires a commitment to a total living and sharing together of two persons in marriage." Any student found in violation of this policy is subject to disciplinary suspension or permanent dismissal.

Some students think the idea that parietals prevent students from having sex negatively affects relations between genders.

"In order to create a healthy environment here, this idea that parietals are about sex really needs to go," Rauh said. "It can add a sexual connotation to platonic male-female friendships, at least those behind closed doors after midnight. To foster a better atmosphere for gender relations, the Notre Dame community needs to, if you will, make it more natural. Relationships are natural when they happen when people choose, not just between the hours of 9 a.m. and midnight."

The University's policy actually has the opposite effect on some students, freshman Ashleigh Cross said.

"It almost creates more of an emphasis on wanting to be in the other sex's dorms and rooms," Cross said. "And [it also creates an emphasis] on wanting to break parietals more because they exist."

Parietals have been an issue of much debate in recent years. On April 30, 2001, nearly 300 students camped out on South Quad in protest of the administration's opposition to extending late-night visiting hours. Though the Campus Life Council had just approved a resolution allowing visitors to be in dorms at 9 a.m., rather than 10 a.m., students were unsatisfied because the group defeated a proposal to extend parietals on weekdays.

Living off-campus

Many students choose to live off-campus during their senior year, though some make the move earlier. This trend, students said, has fostered a healthier environment for male-female relations.

"Moving off campus tends to signify reaching a certain point in a career at Notre Dame," Senate Gender Issues Committee chair Ali Wishon said. "Healthier gender relations are one of many advantages of moving off. Moving off-campus allows for much more

independence and freedom."

Part of that freedom, Wishon said, means no longer having to "fear parietals."

"It is much easier to relax and spend time at the apartment or house of members of the opposite sex, without constantly having to be aware of the clock," she said.

However, parietals are not the only rule students leave behind when living off-campus.

"I think people move off-campus to escape the rules in general, not just parietals. By the time people are seniors, the relationships that you have with the opposite sex seem to be set in stone," said Bullock, who lives at the Clover Ridge apartment complex. "Being off-campus doesn't change that. It just means that there's not a rector or an RA peering over your shoulder."

Other students, however, said moving off-campus is just a better way to prepare for life away from the Dome, and not meant as an escape from the rules of the University.

"I would say that the decision to move off campus is more a decision to become more independent in preparation for life after graduation than anything to do with relationships," Shappell said.

And moving off-campus does not guarantee healthier gender relations, Burkavage said.

"I think even off-campus people are as segregated as they are on campus — as far as living with people of the same sex," Burkavage said. "Obviously I think some people live co-ed, but all my friends who are off-campus live with people of the same sex."

Changing relationships

"[Gender relations at Notre Dame are] more healthy than at bigger state Universities," junior James Ramos said. "I think random hook-ups here are less prevalent."

Ramos, who said two of his closest friends at Notre Dame are female, said relationships do seem to change over time.

"Guys are more accepting of being friends when you get older," as opposed to earlier in college where "it's more about hooking up," Ramos said.

Sophomore Ashley Modak agreed with Ramos' theory of relationship evolution, with serious relationships becoming more and more common as a student gets older.

"I think the major change from freshman to senior year is the level of maturity," said Shappell, a

former worker at the Gender Relations Center. "Students become more serious about relationships."

But many students disagreed with Ramos about the healthiness of Notre Dame relationships.

Shappell noted that while moderate relationships do occur, random hook-ups and intense relationships — including the "ring-by-spring" phenomenon that marries off students by senior year — represent the vast majority of interactions on campus.

"Random hook-ups are very common when students are partying," she said. "Serious relationships are also seen across campus. Anything in between, however, is rare."

Junior Matt Houser was even more emphatic in saying there was no middle ground with Notre Dame relationships, especially since he thinks the environment pressures males to start romantic relationships.

"I think that the relationships here are seriously messed up," Houser said. "First of all, there is no dating. Two people hook up when they are drunk a few times and then all of a sudden they are together."

Cross said random hook-ups have little to do with Notre Dame and a lot to do with college culture.

"That's an everywhere thing," she said. "It has to do with alcohol and people trying to find themselves during their first and second years."

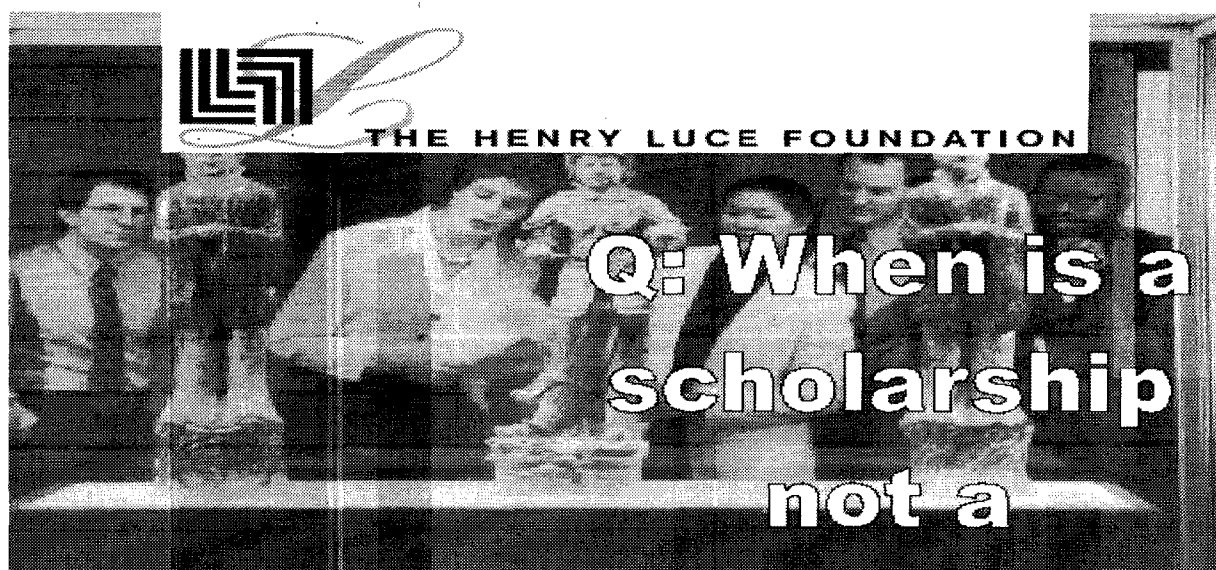
Regardless of where the heart of the gender relations issue lies, Doyle said the transitions from year to year help students become more at ease in their environment.

"Students become more aware of and comfortable with the gender relations at Notre Dame as they progress from freshman to senior year," she said.

There's no easy solution to the problem, Shappell said, but there are ways to improve the situation.

"I think it is difficult to pinpoint what exactly is missing from gender relations at ND," Shappell said. "However, I think that they could be improved with increased dialogue about gender relations issues and another look at the parietals system."

Contact Kate Antonacci and Karen Langley at kantonac@nd.edu and klangle1@nd.edu



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WORLD & NATION

Friday, September 9, 2005

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 5

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Arafat's kidnapped son is released

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — The kidnapped son of slain ex-security chief Moussa Arafat was released early Friday, two days after he was seized by the attackers who killed his father.

An Associated Press reporter saw Manhal Arafat enter the office of Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas in Gaza City early Friday, accompanied by Palestinian officials.

Dozens of gunmen stormed the Arafat home Wednesday morning, killing the former head of Palestinian security and abducting his son.

A masked man saying he represents the Popular Resistance Committees, a renegade group, reaffirmed responsibility for the killing and kidnapping, after leaders of the group distanced themselves from the attack.

NATO aids areas struck by Katrina

FRANKFURT, Germany — The United States turned Thursday to its allies in NATO, which sent AWACs planes to patrol U.S. skies after the Sept. 11 attacks, to help bring in food and supplies for the hundreds of thousands of Americans left homeless by Hurricane Katrina.

Military experts began drawing up plans for an expanded role, including the possible use of ships from the elite NATO Response Force to ferry the aid. The extraordinary request comes at a time when many nations offering aid are complaining that they have received no answer from U.S. authorities.

"NATO military authorities are now going to discuss this proposal," Kurt Volker, the U.S. principal deputy assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, said in Brussels, Belgium.

NATIONAL NEWS

Katrina rescuers evacuate stragglers

NEW ORLEANS — More stragglers seemed willing to flee the filthy water and stench of death Thursday as increasingly insistent rescuers made what may be their last peaceful pass through swamped New Orleans before using force.

"Some are finally saying, 'I've had enough,'" said U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokesman Michael Keegan. "They're getting dehydrated. They are running out of food. There are human remains in different houses. The smells mess with your psyche."

Police said they were 80 percent done with their scan of the city for voluntary evacuees, after which they planned to begin carrying out Mayor Ray Nagin's order to forcibly remove remaining residents from a city filled with disease-carrying water, broken gas lines and rotting corpses.

Base closing proposal withdrawn

WASHINGTON — The base closing commission submitted its recommendations to the White House on Thursday night after withdrawing proposed changes at an Air National Guard base in Connecticut.

What was to have been a routine paperwork delivery of those proposals to President Bush was threatened by a cross-country legal fight.

Judges in Connecticut and Tennessee blocked the panel from recommending changes at local Air National Guard bases.

LOCAL NEWS

Indiana issues air pollution alert

INDIANAPOLIS — People with heart and breathing problems should limit outdoor activities at least through Friday because of unhealthy levels of microscopic particles, state environmental officials warn.

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management has issued an alert for the Indianapolis, Evansville, Louisville and Terre Haute areas.

Fine particles — soot, dust and liquid droplets — are so tiny, they can lodge deep in the lungs and cause breathing and cardiac problems.

CANADA

Jintao makes visit to Canada

Chinese president intends to improve oil, energy ties, trade; Washington looks on

Associated Press

OTTAWA — Chinese President Hu Jintao lauded his country's joint role with Canada in promoting global peace and development Thursday, arriving on his first state visit to here with the goal of improving oil and energy ties. Hu's visit was aimed at celebrating 35 years of diplomatic links and rapidly expanding trade between the two nations, but also comes at a time of uneasy relations between Washington and Ottawa.

"The two economies are highly complementary for one another and their vast potentials are mutually beneficial," Hu told a welcoming ceremony at Rideau Hall, the official residence of Governor General Adrienne Clarkson. He and his wife, Liu Yongqing, rode in an antique horse-drawn carriage and then received full military honors.

Hu spoke of the shared responsibility of Canada and China to protect the Pacific Rim.

"China and Canada shoulder important responsibilities in safeguarding world peace and promoting common development," said Hu, through an interpreter.

China is Canada's second-largest trading partner, after the United States, and Ottawa and Beijing conducted some \$30 billion worth of trade last year. With the world's fastest growing economy and rapid urbanization, the Chinese are hungry for more oil and natural resources — and Canada has those, in abundance.

Prime Minister Paul Martin said earlier in the day, however, that economics should not overshadow human rights.



Chinese President Hu Jintao and his wife Liu Yongqing arrive with Royal Canadian Mounted Police outriders at Rideau Hall in Ottawa Thursday.

"It is a very important issue and there isn't a trade-off between human rights and economics," he said. "We are going to be raising both issues and I can tell you that in my meetings with the president on this particular trip it will be at the very top of the list."

A few dozen followers of Falun Gong stood outside Rideau Hall, quietly waving banners and meditating. "We hope that Hu Jintao will not continue to carry on the notorious crimes and persecution of Jiang Zemin," said Li Xun, a businessman from Ottawa, referring to the former Chinese president

who outlawed the form of spiritual meditation. Beijing has dubbed Falun Gong an "evil cult" and thousands of its followers have been jailed.

Washington will closely watch the official visit, which includes meetings with Martin and federal, provincial and business leaders in Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver.

The trip came the same week that Hu postponed a visit to the United States after President Bush canceled a meeting that had been planned for Wednesday with the Chinese leader, citing Hurricane Katrina.

The two presidents

intend to meet on the sidelines of a U.N. meeting next week in New York, but the postponement upset Hu's plans to try to polish Beijing's image in Washington amid strains over China's growing economic and military power, human rights and other issues.

Following the cancellation of Hu's trip, China's main Communist Party newspaper, the People's Daily, assailed the U.S. response to Hurricane Katrina. But officially, the Chinese government has expressed its sympathy to Katrina's victims, sending the U.S. a \$5 million donation plus supplies.

Hurricane Ophelia nears Fla. coast

Associated Press

NEW SMYRNA BEACH, Fla. — Tropical Storm Ophelia strengthened into a hurricane as it stalled 70 miles off the northeast Florida coast Thursday, churning waves that caused beach erosion and drenching Kennedy Space Center.

Thursday night, Ophelia had top sustained winds of 75 mph, just over the threshold to be classified as a hurricane, forecasters at the National Hurricane Center said.

But forecasters said it was still unclear where Ophelia was headed.

If it hits Florida, it would become the third hurricane to strike the state this year and the seventh in the last 13

months.

Downpours from earlier storms had caused flooding in Flagler County, raising anxiety levels about the effect of more rain. Authorities shut down a mile-long stretch of beachfront road in Flagler Beach so transportation workers could shore it up with sand and boulders.

"The storm is eating up our dunes," said Carl Laundrie, communications manager for Flagler County.

As a precaution, 14 Navy ships at the Naval Station Mayport in Jacksonville headed to sea.

Two shelters in Flagler County were also readied just in case. Neighboring Volusia County opened three shelters, but later closed them because just 12 people showed up.

"We know from last year these storms can do an about-face. We are not out of the woods unless this storm moves well away from Volusia's coast," said Dave Byron, spokesman for Volusia County. Volusia County schools were closed Thursday.

Ophelia is the 15th named storm of the season. At 8 p.m., it was centered about 75 miles east-northeast of Cape Canaveral, with hurricane-force winds stretching up to 15 miles from the center. The storm was stationary.

Hurricane specialist Jack Beven said Ophelia should start moving north or northeast — away from land — within a day or so. However, it could curl back early next week and slam north Florida or Georgia as a Category 1 hurricane.

Michigan

continued from page 1

threats and fights broke out between students of the two schools.

Michigan Stadium's security has been tightened to ensure that fans keep their actions under control. The university will not permit bags larger than a sheet of paper, containers, alcoholic beverages of any kind or food inside the stadium, according to a statement from the school's security department. Any person who throws projectiles will be ejected from the game, cited and possibly face administra-

tive action from the school, Michigan security officials said.

The majority of students making the journey this weekend are upper-classmen who remember how the Irish were treated the last time they visited Michigan — and intend to make sure Notre Dame is well represented in the Big House.

"Being that it's so close and we won last week, you have

to figure a few thousand fans will be there," senior Dan Zenker said.

Zenker also said he thinks the proximity of Michigan is what causes large numbers of students to attend the game, despite having to alter trip plans slightly from previous years because of rising gas prices.

"[My friends and I] try to go to the away games that are somewhat close," Zenker said. "The six-hour trip to [Pittsburgh]

"Some people are pretty hostile, but it's not going to stop me from wearing my Notre Dame gear."

Pat Moore
freshman

makes the three-hour trip to Ann Arbor seem like nothing. A lot of the kids are going to try to carpool. Obviously with gas prices the way they are you don't want to drive by yourself to Ann Arbor."

Zenker said that for the most fervent of Notre Dame fans, nothing will stand in the way of cheering on coach Charlie Weiss and the Irish as they give Michigan their best.

"[Many] students are going

to support the team," he said. "Win or lose, a lot of Notre Dame fans will be there to root on our new coach."

"Win or lose, a lot of Notre Dame fans will be there to root on our new coach."

Dan Zenker
senior

Moore said he isn't fazed by the high tension that awaits him in Ann Arbor.

"Some people are pretty hostile, but it's not going to stop me from wearing my Notre Dame gear," he said.

Contact Joe Piarulli at
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Auletta

continued from page 1

ten to your customers," Auletta said, playing the part of corporate owner. "Isn't a good business supposed to understand its customers?"

The problem arises, Auletta said, when journalists focusing on their "craft" clash with the business approach to their profession.

"Journalists prize independence, not teamwork," Auletta said. "Journalists understand waste is inherent to good journalism ... that good reporting and writing is hard to quantify."

Although as a journalist Auletta understands the anti-corporate sentiment, he made several concessions.

"It's wrong to portray our bosses in a cartoon fashion as greedy capitalists unconcerned with anything besides maximum profits," he said. "Most journalistic enterprises need to make a profit [and provide a range of news]. But too often this journalistic supermarkets have become specialty stores."

After citing five major "vices" in today's journalism — synergy, infatuation with brand, lack of humility, hubris and bias — Auletta gave an eight-step solution to the progressively widening rift.

"First, give journalists more time and space," he said. "Too often journalists are like firefighters — we are reacting, not thinking. Journalism is about sifting information, finding different courses ... It's not just a bird's eye view."

Secondly, Auletta said readers needed access to essential hard news stories, for the public good.

"Journalists and the people who sign our checks have to be willing to risk boring our audience" with more government and international news, he said. "It's not easy."

Although he listed bias as a journalist's vice, Auletta said objectivity was impossible.

"But fairness is possible. Balance is possible," he said. "We can be skeptical without being cynical."

Auletta stressed the importance of diversity in the newsroom and better communication between journalists and businessmen and women. He denounced the idea of a partisan press, saying it would only create further polarization in American society.

His last piece of advice? "Be prepared to be fired," Auletta said.

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mhanna1@nd.edu

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MARKET RECAP

Stocks			
Dow Jones	10,595.93	-37.57	
Up: 1,242	Same: 177	Down: 2,004	Composite Volume: 1,941,081,140
AMEX	1,696.08	+5.28	
NASDAQ	2,166.03	-6.00	
NYSE	7,594.64	-30.60	
S&P 500	1,231.67	-4.69	
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	12,533.89	0.00	
FTSE 100(London)	5,340.79	-25.11	
Treasuries			
30-YEAR BOND	+0.07	+0.03	44.22
10-YEAR NOTE	+0.02	+0.01	41.39
5-YEAR NOTE	+0.18	+0.07	39.43
3-MONTH BILL	-0.21	-0.07	33.98
Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+0.12		64.49
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	+1.70		449.00
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+1.08		79.95
Exchange Rates			
YEN			110.525C
EURO			0.806€
POUND			0.544£
CANADIAN \$			1.181C

IN BRIEF

Dollar gains on Euro overseas

FRANKFURT, Germany — The dollar rose against the euro and other rival currencies Thursday in Hurricane Katrina's aftermath, as oil prices dropped and hopes for higher U.S. interest rates were renewed.

In late New York trading, the 12-nation euro bought \$1.2391, down from \$1.2416 late Wednesday, after Germany's trade surplus narrowed during July as import gains outpaced exports gains, according to a report Thursday.

The British pound slipped to \$1.8349 from \$1.8356 after the Bank of England, in a widely expected move, held official interest rates steady at 4.5 percent. The dollar bought 110.48 Japanese yen, up from 110.06 yen, despite a report from Japan's central bank that said the economy there continued to improve. The dollar rose to 1.2452 Swiss francs from 1.2424, but fell to 1.1817 Canadian dollars from 1.1891.

The dollar slid last week on concerns that Katrina, which devastated a swath of the U.S. Gulf Coast, may dampen economic growth.

Currency traders speculated that the U.S. Federal Reserve may, as a result, halt a series of interest rate increases, which would diminish the appeal of dollar-denominated investments.

Crude edges up; U.S. output falls

NEW YORK — Oil prices ended higher for the first time this week Thursday, as early selling sparked by a widely expected inventory decline gave way to last-minute buying triggered by word of a decline in Gulf of Mexico output.

The amount of Gulf of Mexico oil production shut in by Hurricane Katrina rose to 901,726 barrels a day, or 60.12 percent of total output, up from 57.37 percent reported shut in Wednesday, the federal Minerals Management Service said.

The amount of shut in natural gas remained largely unchanged at about 4 billion cubic feet a day, the federal agency said.

More than 14 million barrels of oil and 76 billion cubic feet of gas have been lost since Aug. 26 as a result of Katrina, according to MMS.

Medicare expansion in works

Insurers await Washington's decision concerning massive drug plan changes

Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — Seniors on Medicare are about to be swamped with choices as the federal government enacts a massive prescription drug program and health insurers begin battling to sign up customers across the country.

Federal health officials will formally announce this month which companies will participate, but some insurers jumped the gun by announcing Wednesday that they have been chosen. Initial estimates project that Medicare Part D, part of the greatest expansion in Medicare's 40-year history, will cost nearly \$400 billion over 10 years.

It promises to be an earnings bonanza for the nation's largest health insurers, according to Goldman Sachs & Co. The investment firm estimated in July that the prescription drug program will generate as much as \$10 billion in revenue and \$250 million in earnings next year for nine large insurance companies.

Insurers already are spending millions to ramp up marketing campaigns and prepare for the formal rollouts of their programs, even if the system is designed to invite competition and hold down costs. Aetna Inc. in Hartford and PacifiCare Health Systems Inc. in Los Angeles are each spending \$50 million. Humana will spend \$80 million, Cigna HealthCare in Philadelphia is spending up to \$40 million. Indianapolis-based Wellpoint has committed \$30 million and UnitedHealth Group Inc. said it will spend \$75 mil-



President Bush takes the floor in August to promote a new drug plan. Medicare Part D, an expansion of Medicare, is set to benefit from the plan.

lion.

"I know I sound like Pollyanna, but the theory is capitalism says that people will have higher value (and) lower price or they won't be very successful in the private marketplace," said Scott Latimer of Kentucky-based Humana Inc. "I certainly expect that's going to be happening in spades next year."

Medicare beneficiaries will be able to sign up for a stand-alone drug plan or join a health plan that offers drug coverage. Goldman Sachs projects that nearly 17.5 million seniors — about 41 percent of those eligible to participate — will enroll in the drug plan in 2006.

Premiums for the drug program and Medicare

Advantage, which offers a range of health plans, are estimated at \$32 a month, according to a spokesman for the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Premiums could be as low as \$20 a month for the drug program.

Participating seniors will spend an average \$792 for prescription drugs in 2006, excluding premiums, or 37 percent less than the \$1,257 cost without the benefit, according to a July 2004 report by the Congressional Budget Office.

Contracts were sent recently to insurance companies bidding for the business nationally and locally. The insurers and CMS are not giving details

about the terms of the contracts, but Torchmark Corp. said Wednesday that its United American Insurance business plans to market the plans to its existing 300,000 Medicare supplement policyholders and other Medicare beneficiaries.

Wellpoint, Aetna, PacifiCare, United Health and Cigna HealthCare, a unit of Cigna Corp. in Philadelphia, are all seeking to offer drug benefit plans nationwide. Humana wants to offer its products in 46 states.

Several insurers — such as PacifiCare, Aetna and UnitedHealth, based in Minnetonka, Minn., — expect to rely on some form of pharmacy business they are already running.

Stock market stalls; investors profit

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Oil worries and a raft of economic uncertainties plagued Wall Street on Thursday, sending stocks lower as investors collected profits after the strong gains of the previous two sessions.

Oil prices edged higher after a report said 60 percent of oil production in the Gulf of Mexico remains shut due to damage by Hurricane Katrina.

An inventory report from the Energy Department showed the nation's oil and gasoline stockpiles fell considerably, although the losses were less than Wall Street expected. A barrel of light crude settled at \$64.49, up 12 cents, on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

With oil remaining in the mid-\$60 per barrel range, investors were concerned that both corporate earn-

ings and consumer spending would drop due to high energy costs. Investors also worried that the Federal Reserve would continue to raise interest rates at its Sept. 20 meeting. Despite Katrina's devastation and death toll, the harm to the U.S. economy was less than originally expected, and hopes of a halt in rate hikes dimmed.

"I think the Fed's in a box here, and they really don't have a choice but to raise rates," said Michael Chren, portfolio manager for the Allegiant Funds. "Rebuilding from the hurricane will be an economic positive next year, you have concerns about inflation, and you have the housing bubble. I don't think they can stop."

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 37.57, or 0.35 percent, to 10,595.93. The Dow had gained 186.13 in the previous two sessions.

Broader stock indicators also lost ground. The Standard & Poor's 500 index slid 4.68, or 0.38 percent, to 1,231.68, and the Nasdaq composite index dropped 6.00, or 0.28 percent, to 2,166.03.

Bonds held steady after two sessions of selling, with the yield on the 10-year Treasury note remaining at 4.14 percent from late Wednesday. The dollar was mixed against most major currencies, while gold prices moved higher.

Investors' preoccupation with oil and interest rates caused them to look past a surprising drop in first-time jobless claims. The Labor Department reported the number of new unemployment claims fell to 319,000 last week, 1,000 less than the prior week. More claims, however, are expected in the coming weeks from workers displaced by the Gulf Coast disaster.

FDA panel votes for new insulin approval

Inhalable drug to be an alternative to injections

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal health advisers on Thursday recommended government approval of the first inhaled form of insulin, offering some diabetics an alternative to many of their daily injections.

The recommendation by a Food and Drug Administration advisory panel came despite questions about use of the drug in people who have lung disease or were exposed to secondhand smoke.

No specific restrictions were recommended for Exubera, but FDA officials said smokers probably would not be able to use the drug. Their blood sugar could fall dangerously low with Exubera because they absorb much more inhaled insulin in their lungs than do nonsmokers.

Some advisers also were concerned that patients might not use the device properly. Drug company representatives suggested that the inhaler was not any more complicated than the injections many diabetics now must rely on.

Panel members twice voted 7-2 to recommend FDA approval of Exubera for each of the two most common types of diabetes. The drug is being produced by Pfizer, Sanofi-Aventis and Nektar Therapeutics.

The FDA usually follows the recommendations of its advisory committees, but is not required to.

The advisers questioned the drug companies about the long-term effects of distributing insulin to the body through the lungs, rather than directly into the blood stream.

Rebecca Wilkes Killion, a patient representative member of the committee, said inhaled

insulin could convince reluctant diabetics that they should take their medicine.

"I take four shots a day and the fourth one is hardest one," Killion said. "I'm tired of it. If I could get myself down to one I'd be thrilled. A lot of people resist it because they are afraid of the needles."

The companies, which are promoting Exubera as an easier-to-take alternative, proposed to conduct studies on the long-term effects of the drug until 2019.

"We understand the need to assess the long-term effects on pulmonary function," said Dr. Neville Jackson of Pfizer.

During drug trials, researchers found that inhaled insulin generally was as effective as injections in controlling blood sugar levels. Some patients who took inhaled insulin complained of coughing and a small decrease in breathing capacity.

It is estimated that more than 18 million people in the U.S. have diabetes, although some do not know it. The number of people with diabetes is believed to have tripled in the past quarter-century.

Most have Type 2, a condition linked to obesity that occurs when the body cannot effectively use the insulin it makes. Sometimes this can be treated with pills instead of injections.

Fewer than 10 percent have Type 1, a disorder in which the immune system attacks insulin-producing cells in the pancreas. This is sometimes called juvenile diabetes.

An FDA medical officer questioned whether inhaled insulin could provide a precise enough dose to treat people with Type 1 diabetes.

Brain possibly still evolving

Findings show humans could be genetically changing, scientists say

Associated Press

ASHINGTON — The human brain may still be evolving.

So suggests new research that tracked changes in two genes thought to help regulate brain growth, changes that appeared well after the rise of modern humans 200,000 years ago.

That the defining feature of humans — our large brains — continued to evolve as recently as 5,800 years ago, and may be doing so today, promises to surprise the average person, if not biologists.

"We, including scientists, have considered ourselves as sort of the pinnacle of evolution," noted lead researcher Bruce Lahn, a University of Chicago geneticist whose studies appear in Friday's edition of the journal Science.

"There's a sense we as humans have kind of peaked," agreed Greg Wray, director of Duke University's Center for Evolutionary Genomics. "A different way to look at it is it's almost impossible for evolution not to happen."

Still, the findings also are controversial, because it's far from clear what effect the genetic changes had or if they arose when Lahn's "molecular clock" suggests — at roughly the same time period as some cultural achievements, including written language and the development of cities.

Lahn and colleagues examined

two genes, named microcephalin and ASPM, that are connected to brain size. If those genes don't work, babies are born with severely small brains, called microcephaly.

Using DNA samples from ethnically diverse populations, they identified a collection of variations in each gene that occurred with unusually high frequency. In fact, the variations were so common they couldn't be accidental mutations but instead were probably due to natural selection, where genetic changes that

are favorable to a species quickly gain a foothold and begin to spread, the researchers report.

Lahn offers an analogy: Medieval monks would copy manuscripts and each copy would inevitably contain errors — accidental mutations.

Years later, a ruler declares one of those copies the definitive manuscript, and a rush is on to make many copies of that version — so whatever changes from the original are in this presumed important copy become widely disseminated.

Scientists attempt to date genetic changes by tracing back to such spread, using a statistical model that assumes genes have a certain mutation rate over time.

For the microcephalin gene, the variation arose about 37,000 years ago, about the time period

when art, music and tool-making were emerging, Lahn said. For ASPM, the variation arose about 5,800 years ago, roughly correlating with the development of written language, spread of agriculture and development of cities, he said.

"The genetic evolution of humans in the very recent past might in some ways be linked to the cultural evolution," he said.

Other scientists urge great caution in interpreting the research.

That the genetic changes have anything to do with brain size or intelligence "is totally unproven and potentially dangerous territory to get into with such sketchy data," stressed Dr. Francis Collins, director of the National Human Genome Research Institute.

Aside from not knowing what the gene variants actually do, no one knows how precise the model Lahn used to date them is, Collins added.

Lahn's own calculations acknowledge that the microcephalin variant could have arisen anywhere from 14,000 to 60,000 years ago, and that the uncertainty about the ASPM variant ranged from 500 to 14,000 years ago.

Those criticisms are particularly important, Collins said, because Lahn's testing did find geographic differences in populations harboring the gene variants today. They were less common in sub-Saharan African populations, for example.

That does not mean one population is smarter than another, Lahn and other scientists stressed, noting that numerous other genes are key to brain development.

"There's a sense we as humans have kind of peaked. A different way to look at it is it's almost impossible for evolution not to happen."

Greg Wray
director, Center for
Evolutionary Genomics

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Hurricane garners African-American response, relief

Katrina brings outcry from members of black populace nationwide, who provide survivors with food, clothing, shelter

Associated Press

NEW YORK — To African-Americans, Hurricane Katrina has become a generation-defining catastrophe — a disaster with a predominantly black toll, tinged with racism. They've rallied to the cause with an unprecedented outpouring of activism and generosity.

Blacks who have been touched by the disaster are not only donating money but gathering supplies, taking in friends and relatives, even heading south to help shoulder the burden of their people.

"You'd have to go back to slavery, or the burning of black towns, to find a comparable event that has affected black people this way," said Darnell M. Hunt, a sociologist and head of the African American studies department at UCLA.

If the rescue effort had not been so mishandled, and if those who suffered so needlessly had not been so black and so poor, perhaps Hurricane Katrina would have been just another destructive storm, alongside the likes of Charley and Andrew and Hugo.

But Katrina's searing images — linking nature's wrath and the nation's wrongs — have fanned the smoldering resentments of the civil rights, Reaganomic and hip-hop eras all at once.

"Something about this is making people remember their own personal injustices," said author damali ayo, whose book "How to Rent a Negro" takes a satirical look at race relations.

"You don't look at Rodney King

and say, 'I remember when I got beat up.' But people remember being neglected, unimportant, overlooked, thought of as 'less than.' That's a very common experience for black people."

Some 71 percent of blacks say the disaster shows that racial inequality remains a major problem in America, according to a survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Sept. 6-7 among 1,000 Americans; 56 percent of whites feel this was not a particularly important lesson.

And while 66 percent of blacks think the government's response would have been faster if most of the victims had been white, 77 percent of whites disagreed.

On Thursday, first lady Laura Bush said it was "disgusting" that critics blamed her husband's policies for the racial disparities between hurricane survivors. In an interview with American Urban Radio Networks, she said the homes of the poor were more vulnerable to the storm and "that's what we want to address."

Many events have transfixed African-Americans: the Rodney King and O.J. Simpson cases, the killings of icons from Martin Luther King Jr. to Tupac Shakur, the crack cocaine epidemic, the Clarence Thomas confirmation hearings.

But Katrina is different. It has opened people's eyes — "The face, the cover has been pulled off the invisible poor," said Rev. Ronald E. Braxton of Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C. — and it has created a rare opportu-

nity for people of all backgrounds to make a tangible, immediate difference.

Braxton spoke as his congregation loaded a 50-foot tractor-trailer with antacid, diapers, food, water and other supplies destined for AME churches in Jackson, Miss. and Baton Rouge, La.

Before Independence Air volunteered to fly the supplies to the hurricane zone, Braxton turned away volunteers willing to drive 22 hours to Baton Rouge. In addition, he said, his church raised \$20,000 last Sunday alone to send to the national AME relief effort.

Individuals have also stepped up. Kimberly Lowe of Philadelphia signed up on that city's Web site to host an evacuee in a spare bedroom.

"They just probably want to talk to regular folks and be in a real home," Lowe said. "There's nothing like being home."

Katrina has spurred other blacks to take crucial roles in relief efforts — and they're in a better position to help than they were even a decade ago, when rap still scared people and being paid \$30 million per year to play basketball was beyond imagination.

Now billionaire Mississippi native Oprah Winfrey is bringing her top-rated show to the Katrina zone, famed attorney Willie Gary is planning to transport victims in his 737 jet, and rapper Kanye West can excoriate President Bush's response to the hurricane in front of a nationwide audience.

Tavis Smiley has devoted much of his television talk show to Katrina.

"I've seen black folk come together around any number of issues. It's usually either a head or a heart issue," he said. "For example, we came together after



Hurricane survivors hug Sept. 4 after a Mass at Our Mother of Sorrows, the first African-American Catholic Church in Biloxi, Miss.

the election of 2000, when Bush essentially stole the election. That was a head issue. People were mad. Other issues hit our hearts; O.J. Simpson comes to mind."

With Katrina, "our head is saying we know that what happened here is wrong ... and our hearts at the same time go out to these people because we know, we feel their pain."

Many want to share it.

Hip-hop hitmaker Timbaland said that he is renting trucks, buying clothes and toys and heading "to the trenches" — first stop, the Houston Astrodome. He challenged peers who splurge on jewelry and cars to do the same, because "these people in the dome listen to our music."

"Don't give to no Red Cross, that's the easy way. Not to say anything bad about the Red Cross, but who knows where that money's going," the producer said. "Take your money and do your own thing."

Timbaland estimated he was spending several hundred thousand dollars, up there with Diddy

and Jay-Z's half-million each. The donation of time, money and free performances by hip-hoppers is a watershed for what had become a largely apolitical genre.

"This is the most devastating thing to their community they've seen in their lifetime," said the original hip-hop mogul, Russell Simmons. "I've never seen a bigger outpouring of love and giving. I've never seen anything like it."

There is another reason Katrina resonates. Most blacks have family from "down South," a sort of symbolic womb from which black America slowly went its separate ways.

"We are a population in this country of black people, but do we feel like a community?" said ayo, the author. "What really makes a community?"

Shared experiences, perhaps? "I think this is one," ayo said. Katrina "is at the central core of black culture and American culture ... I hope this is a turning point of some kind, a turning point for creating a larger community."

The Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism

30th Anniversary Events

LECTURE

Patrick Allitt, Emory University

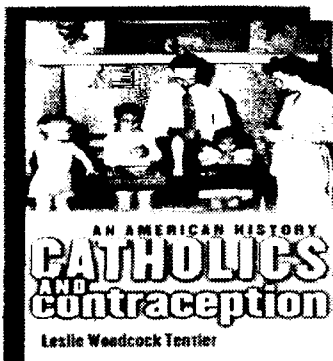
"Catholics and the Intellectual Life in Late 20th-Century America"

Friday, September 9, 2005

4:00 p.m.

Eck Center Auditorium

SEMINAR IN AMERICAN RELIGION



Saturday, September 10, 2005

9:00 a.m.-noon, McKenna Hall
Center for Continuing Education

Catholics and Contraception: An American History

(Catholic University Press, 2004)

Author:

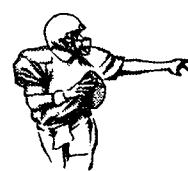
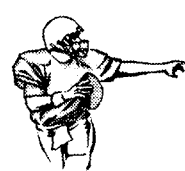
Leslie Woodcock Tentler, Catholic University of America

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Una Cadegan, University of Dayton

Maura Ryan, University of Notre Dame

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PARTY STARTS AT 10:30...GAME AT 11
MINIMUM DONATION...\$10.00

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fee is required to enter Jersey Mike's)

GET A GROUP TOGETHER AND JOIN
US...HELP A GREAT CAUSE AND HAVE A
GREAT TIME...

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

page 10

Friday, September 9, 2005

THE OBSERVER

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

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THE
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POLICIES

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

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

Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief Claire Heininger.

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Ad does not represent Notre Dame

Notre Dame sells itself. Its distinctive reputation, built on 163 years of tradition, does its own recruiting — from the thousands of applicants who annually seek admission to the numerous donors who daily pledge their dollars to the school's enhancement.

So advertising for the University should be a no-brainer. Right? Apparently not, judging by Notre Dame's latest "institutional spot" — the 30-second television commercial that debuted during last Saturday's nationally televised football game against Pittsburgh. Titled "Candle," the ad features a prospective student repeatedly lighting candles in church to pray for admission to Notre Dame. At the end of the spot, her prayers are answered with the arrival of her coveted "big envelope," and she looks to the heavens in thanks as the school's name and the words "A Higher Education" appear onscreen.

The University says the ad emphasizes a faith-based education to show Notre Dame's difference from other NCAA Division I schools. And the ad accomplishes that goal — but not in the way Notre Dame intended.

No other school could appear so one-dimensional if it tried.

Yes, Notre Dame is the nation's premiere Catholic university, reflected on the crucifix-dotted walls of its classrooms, the collared necks of its administrators, the towering face of its library. But it is also a Top 20 academic institution, a perennial Directors Cup contender and an unmatched campus for tradition-filled student residence life. By excluding these aspects of Notre Dame's multidimensional identity from a widely exposed advertisement, the University is hurting itself.

It's not the ad's overwhelming Catholicism that's the problem. It would be equally foolish to run a 30-second spot that focused only on the football team.

With so many powerful campus images to choose from — the Dome, the Basilica, Notre Dame Stadium, dorm events, pep rallies, tailgates, classrooms and yes, lighting candles in a chapel or

at the Grotto — it's disappointing Notre Dame chose not to show any of them in favor of filming a single prospective student in New Jersey.

The University also says the ad aims to attract a particular type of student — one who believes strongly in prayer and in uniting faith with academics. But that student doesn't need to see a commercial to recognize Notre Dame's Catholic identity — that student has likely been wearing blue and gold since diapers. The point of an advertisement is to lure those who weren't previously interested in what is being sold to take a second look. By narrowing its focus so intensely on one already well-known aspect of the University's offerings, the "Candle" ad fails to target students — for example, anyone non-white or non-Catholic — who may have assumed Notre Dame isn't the place for them but whom a more multidimensional ad could have convinced.

Finally, the ad's treatment of Catholicism undermines the very uniqueness it is trying to emphasize. True faith requires a lot more than lighting matches and waiting for prayers to be answered. The ad's unsophisticated portrayal of religion detracts from the potentially clever phrase "A Higher Education" — words that ring especially hollow considering the constant and complex debates, here and elsewhere, about the role and nature of a truly Catholic university.

With a season's worth of network television football broadcasts still to go, Notre Dame has time to reconsider its choice. Those charged with producing the ad should reflect on all of the things the University is proud to offer, and take a walk around campus for inspiration. Then they should create a replacement spot that reflects the multidimensional reality that defines Notre Dame — and air it for the rest of the season.

Notre Dame is more than just Catholic. And a school that sells itself shouldn't sell itself short.

The Observer Editorial

A tale of two Notre Dame graduates

Despite my personal political leanings, my friends come from opposite ends of the political spectrum and include Democrats, Republicans, Independents and Libertarians. It just so happens that two of my closest Notre Dame alumni friends have been quite active since Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf coast area. One is a Republican former special operations military veteran from Atlanta, the other a peace activist and liberal Democrat from Kansas.

These two Notre Dame graduates could not be more unlike each other except for a common undergraduate alma matter. My Atlanta friend brags of his covert past and at times still bullies his way through business dealings with veiled threats and an air of intimidation. My Kansas friend is a writer who can unceasingly spout off one joke after another and compares his anti Vietnam protest days with his current peace movement activities. Each has carved out a homestead on opposing mountaintops, yet each has put life on hold to assist homeless evacuees.

My Atlanta friend owns interests in several business ventures with many employees and has holdings of vast warehouses containing large equipment such as cranes, generators, air conditioners, portable lighting fixtures and a fleet of vehicles. Following Katrina's devastation, he quickly secured special transportation permits, including state police escorts, and led one of many convoys to the disas-

ter area. He is equipped with satellite telephones and has set up his base of operations in Alabama.

Upon his arrival during his initial visit to the stricken area, he donated a generator and air conditioner to a hospital where trapped patients were sweltering in oppressive heat. On his second visit he was disappointed to learn that while the air conditioner was operational, the hospital wing's temperature was registering at only 82 degrees. A nurse comforted him by saying, "It was a humid 102 degrees, and each day it gets slightly cooler. This is a big relief. Thank you."

His other priority is to rescue a priest in Louisiana who was trapped with others in his church. My Atlanta friend did not say how he contacted the priest, but noted that the group was isolated and feared for their safety. The former commando explained that prior to his departure from Georgia, he bought several guns and ammunition to fortify the church if necessary. Jokingly he quipped that he now qualified as a one-man militia.

Half a continent away, my Kansas classmate took a different approach to the rescue efforts. Unlike the Atlanta alumnus who dove head first into the disaster area, the Kansas alumnus and a prominent local attorney organized their own mini-effort to assist evacuees who were headed for Oklahoma. They attained a truckload of bottled water through their local soft drink bottling plant owner and then organized a new goods contribution campaign from local businesses. They too led a convoy south.

My Kansas friends sidestepped both the Red Cross and emergency management agencies during their project. They reasoned that it was better to have a moving

van full of goods sitting next to a shelter staging area for possible use rather than to have a shortage of goods. To their amazement, others had had the same bold strategy, and each truckload nicely complemented the overall effort to assist evacuees.

The relief shelters took on an atmosphere of shock, despair and hope. My friend described the dramatic effect the experience had on him as "conflicted." On one side of the room someone was frantically trying to find a family member while on the other side another rejoiced at news that a relative had been found alive. The beaten, weary brows of adults contrasted to the energetic, bright eyes of their children. The dazed sorrow of some clashed with the euphoric joy of others.

Interestingly, both of my Notre Dame friends mentioned to me similar conversations with those affected by the hurricane's devastation, that a common social thread ran through their experiences. At some point during their interactions with others, the fact became clear that they had graduated from Notre Dame. Both reported that several Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana State University football fans then pledged to cheer for Notre Dame. Both graduates, in their own way, replied, "It's just something Notre Dame does."

Gary Caruso, Notre Dame '73, is a political strategist who served as a legislative and public affairs director in President Clinton's administration. His column appears every other Friday. He can be contacted at hottline@aol.com

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



Gary Caruso

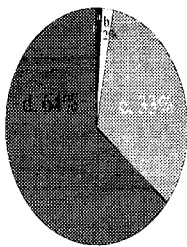
Capitol Comments

OBSERVER POLL

What are you doing to help with Hurricane Katrina relief?

- a. Hosting evacuees
- b. Volunteer
- c. Nothing
- d. Donate money, food and items

*Poll appears courtesy of NDToday.com and is based on 187 responses.



Submit a Letter
to the Editor at
www.ndsmcobserver.com

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any one thing."

Abraham Lincoln
former president

Calling the U.S. to take genocide seriously

One year ago today, then-Secretary of State Colin Powell declared the atrocities in Darfur tantamount to genocide. It was a historic declaration that gave many around the world hope that the United States would not stand on the sidelines once again as genocide ensued. Yet, one year has passed and that hope has subsided with lack of action by the U.S. government and international community. There is still time, though, for the United States to reenergize that hope and act to save lives.

The atrocities in Darfur rage on as more than two million people are displaced and another two million require humanitarian assistance. Since 2003, it is estimated that between 80,000 and 400,000 people have been killed. In the same time, tens of thousands of women have been brutally raped and villages have been demolished in a systematic campaign conducted by government and militia forces.

The United States has much to contribute in bringing an end to the horror in Darfur. First, the government can provide increased logistical, financial and diplomatic support to the African Union mission in Darfur to protect civilians. In addition, high-level engagement and financial support will promote and energize the Darfur peace negotiations. Finally, the region requires a continued and increased commitment to dealing with the humanitarian crisis created by the atrocities. The current administration has shown that none of these steps will be implemented without sustained pressure by concerned citizens.

The tragic disaster in the Gulf Coast demands our immediate and urgent attention; however, that attention need not negate continued focus and engagement to the human disaster that continues to kill in Sudan. These attacks on human life — whether caused by humans or nature, whether in our backyards or an ocean away — call us to affirm the sanctity of life and act to defend it. This is a calling that we cannot ignore any longer.

Today, we are joining the voices of thousands of Americans asking the Bush Administration to make human life in Darfur a priority. We urge you to join in by calling your representatives and especially the White House today at 202-456-1414. Together, let's call the U.S. to take genocide seriously and act accordingly.

Peter Quaranto is the director of the Uganda Conflict Action Network. Patrick Corrigan is the leader of the Sudan Steering Committee. Contact Peter at pquarant@nd.edu and Patrick at pcorrigan@nd.edu

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

**Peter
Quaranto and
Patrick
Corrigan**

*Guest
Columnists*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Argument hypocritical

This country, though rooted in Judeo-Christian morality, is secular. Though recent rulings of the Supreme Court may imply otherwise, specific religious beliefs and American law should not be intertwined.

With this in mind, I'd like to ask Gregory Pio ("Liberal, examine thyself" Sept. 7) to step down from his soapbox and ask him why it makes the least bit of difference whether or not Mario Cuomo's, John Kerry's, or John Roberts' political ideals come from beliefs of religion, natural law or the U.S. Constitution. They have their ideals. That is enough.

Since Pio is so opposed to rape (as well he should be) what happens to his stance on abortion when rape come into the picture? If the 14-year-old New Orleans refugee who was raped in the Superdome last week became pregnant, should she be morally or legally obligated to carry the child to term and give birth to it?

I am always repulsed at the audacity of those who think that the government has the power to tell women (and girls) what they are allowed to do with their bodies based on a religious belief. Should this 14-year-old girl who has lost her home, all her possessions and her sense of security, only to be violated in the most intimate way, be forced to carry a constant reminder of the trauma for nine months? How can she, or her family, support such a child?

If your solution is adoption, what of her life in school for the next year? What of the dangers to her health that any fully grown adult woman need be conscious of? Oh, you say, there can be an "exceptional circumstances" exemption in your ideal anti-abortion law? Who will decide what qualifies as an exemption? How can any one person or even legislative body make that decision for someone else's life?

Pio is also eager to point out the hypocrisy of liberals' acceptance of abortion in the face of their personal religious convictions, but he has to look no further than his own argument to find another example of that hypocrisy. He himself states: "I opposed abortion before I was Catholic", asserting that his position on abortion is independent of his Catholic faith. If it is so easy for Pio to separate the two in his personal belief system, why does he assume that Catholic liberals are too "morally crippled" to do the same?

Pio has asked me to examine myself. I have done so, and am completely satisfied with what I see. Now I have a request of him: spray some Windex on your glass walls before you throw your next stone.

Anne Macrander
senior
Badin Hall
Sept. 7

Don't blame the Legion

Don't blame the Legion for the word "sucks" I must really be bored here in Alabama, where I am working for the ACE program, because I'm actually taking the time to respond to what someone said about the Leprechaun Legion. However, I was looking through The Observer Web site today, to remember how much fun college was, when I ran across some comments from Kelly Jordan, a Faculty Senate Committee Member.

Jordan said he didn't like the vulgarity of the Legion, especially when the section says the dreaded "S" word during opposing player introductions. When a player is announced for the opposing team, students have yelled "Sucks" loudly. I was never one of those people, although I still don't get how students are allowed to yell "Kill" during football cheers, but can't say "sucks" at any time. Ever.

Either way, I spent a lot of time helping to create and sustain the Legion, so I figured I'd help Jordan understand some of the facts about the Legion. First, the "Sucks" cheer was here years before the Legion arrived. We started the Legion during the middle of the 2002 season and students were already yelling "sucks." So, please don't blame the Legion for conceiving this jeer.

Second, we actually have worked with sports promotions to have students refrain from yelling the word. We have brought newspapers to most

games in hopes that students wouldn't yell that word. However, it's hard to control 3,000 students. Despite the difficult odds, we felt at the end of last season, many students were beginning to stop chanting the "S" word.

Third, if you didn't know, Mr. Jordan, the Legion donated almost \$3,000 to Coaches vs. Cancer last season, thanks to our public shirt sales which reached more than 2,800 shirts. This season, the new president expects to sell more shirts and therefore give more money to charity. We also kept zero dollars from our sales.

So I can understand that you don't want your child to hear the word "sucks." At the same time, it's not fair of you to accuse the Legion of starting or trying to continue such behavior. Frankly, it's not our fault. Instead of being a hazard at Notre Dame basketball games, the Legion has raised money for charity while helping to give the Irish a home court advantage. So please understand the facts before you bash someone or something else.

The author of this letter was Assistant Managing Editor of The Observer from 2004-05.

Joe Hettler
alumnus
class of '05
Sept. 8

EDITORIAL CARTOON



Ad trivializes faith

I never thought I would see a clip such as the one shown during the Notre Dame vs. Pittsburg game last weekend. The commercial, which the Office of News and Information and Matt Storin believe to show the University as a "serious place for learning and faith," is an insult to anyone who has ever put their faith in prayer. It is an outrage to think that the University would allow such a clip.

It trivializes the faith and its most important conduit to God, prayer. To let Rudy pray at the grotto for admittance is one thing — that's Hollywood. Twelve thousand students apply to get into here and I guarantee most of them spent a lot of time praying for admittance. Does God not hear the prayers of the 8,000 who didn't get in, or could it be that those who got in made it with credentials of academic excellence and a dedication to their community through service and activity. Of all the people that helped make this film I wonder if anyone asked the theology department what they thought. As a theology major, we laugh in class at the thought of people praying at the Grotto for an Irish

victory or that one might do well on a test.

This video sends an awful message to people like my brother who did not get in. "You should have prayed harder and maybe God would have listened. You should have gone to your church and prayed during every season of the year." This video does not speak of a "Higher Education" it speaks of a false sense that prayer will get you anything and that admittance to Notre Dame is dependent on your devotion to God.

I'm sorry that I did not pray enough for my brother down at the Grotto. I will make a note of that for the next four siblings that I have that look for admittance here, and I will tell them to drop their books and pray. If this video is aired during the Michigan game you will be insulting the faith of many and trivializing the meaning of prayer.

John Kearney
senior
off-campus
Sept. 8

DPAC REVIEW

'Crash' is a course in stunning cinema

By BRIAN DOXTADER and MOLLY GRIFFIN
Assistant Scene Editors

Brian: Every once in a while there is a film destined to be a sleeper classic, like "Memento" or "The Usual Suspects." These films often come from talented directors who have made an impression and are on the verge of fulfilling their potential. Paul Haggis, who wrote last year's Best Picture Oscar winner "Million Dollar Baby," is such a director.

In "Crash," his directorial debut, he has made a film that is not only an incisive portrait of racial tensions, but the best American film of the year so far.

Haggis has proven himself a great screenwriter, but the directorial panache on display in "Crash" is still a little startling. He juggles intertwining storylines and balances a talented ensemble cast perfectly, almost out-mastering the master, Robert Altman. Like that director's 1993 film "Short Cuts," "Crash" follows the seemingly unrelated but ultimately intersecting lives of various Los Angeles residents. The differences in the attitudes and backgrounds of the characters are immediately evident, ranging from poor black ghetto residents to a rich white district attorney. Race, gender and economic disparity all play major roles as the characters develop over the course of the film.

There are some dazzlingly effective moments in "Crash," particularly a mid-film car crash and the scene that appears on the movie poster. Haggis' pacing and control is excellent, especially for a first-time director. Additionally, his sense of drama (in some cases, melodrama) and character interaction is pointedly effective. The film's sense of build-up and payoff is unparalleled in its logic and execution, and each situation resolves itself in ways that are often unexpected, but somehow perfectly right.

Additionally, Haggis' ear for dialogue is perfect. All of the characters have distinct voices and personalities, and none are played for type, not even the fast-talking African-American carjacker (rapper Ludacris, who is surprisingly talented) nor the corrupt, racist police officer (Matt Dillon, in the best performance of his career). Each of them have reasons for acting the way they do, and while those reasons may not be entirely justified, neither can they be simply dismissed.

"Crash" is alive in ways that few movies can be. Though the subject matter and its presentation is often quite harsh, it's not as darkly depressing as "Million Dollar Baby," which is actually one of its strongest facets. Most of the characters arrive at an epiphany of some sort before the film's conclusion, and the film ends on a hopeful note. "Crash" is not as directly didactic as might be expected, but Haggis' message is clear: If these characters, with all



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Detective Graham Waters, played by Don Cheadle, investigates a car crash. "Crash" is partially a critique of race relations in the culturally diverse U.S.

their hate and prejudice, can learn to change, why can't we?

Molly: Los Angeles is a city of contrasts. It is at the same time vastly wealthy and the center of extreme poverty, naturally beautiful and a concrete jungle and a place where dreams come to be fulfilled or to be painfully extinguished. The movie "Crash" manages not only to reveal the binary opposites that give Los Angeles its character, but also uses the city and its troubles to make a greater commentary about the society in which we live.

"Crash" focuses on racial prejudices, but not the simple and stereotypical conflicts that one would expect. Tension between African-American, Caucasian, Hispanic, Arabic, Asian and other racial groups is intermingled with the idea of how class changes all of these identities. Racial issues can easily be made into

simplistic, two-sided debates, but "Crash" refuses to give into stereotypes or expected endings.

The film uses cars and car accidents as symbols of the sudden violence with which racial issues can erupt. In a multicultural place like LA, racial tensions seethe beneath the surface of the city and it just takes one quick impact to cause huge dramas to arise.

Cars in Los Angeles are much more than just a means of transportation. They are a symbol of class, status and self. A car superficially represents the people who drive it,

and thus stealing a car or crashing it has a great symbolic impact. Thusly, cars are an apt representation of the city and the shifting torrent of emotions within it.

The extreme irrationality of racism is one of the most important focuses of the film. Jean Cabot (Sandra Bullock) goes on a tirade after her car is stolen by two

black men, but she focuses her rage on the Hispanic locksmith who she hires to protect her. An Arabic immigrant, Farhad (Shaun Toub) becomes so distraught after his insurance won't cover a robbery, he attempts to kill an innocent worker he blames for the event.

Another interesting element is how Americans' attempts to be politically correct and conceal feelings can lead to greater tension and problems. The sensitive and politically correct Officer Hanson (Ryan Phillippe) requests a new partner after Sgt. Ryan (Matt Dillon) harasses an African-American woman after stopping her for speeding. When it comes down to a final life-or-death choice involving people of other races, though, Sgt. Ryan redeems himself and Officer Hanson commits a horrific act.

The importance of actions over words is a huge part of the film, and it comments on the fact that while words are hurtful, the final actions that we take under pressure reveal our true characters. Anthony (Chris "Ludacris" Bridges) constantly discusses how young African-American men are stereotyped by Caucasian society while simultaneously fulfilling such societal prejudices. He feels entitled and blames society for his own actions, but ultimately finds contentment after realizing that some people in society even have it worse than he does.

The differences between people in "Crash" ultimately boil down not only to racial differences but to the same basic human emotions of fear, resentment and loneliness. Race is just a medium through which people express their frustration in their lives, and the film reveals that humans have much more in common with one another than the tensions within society would reveal. Class and attempting to fulfill certain societal expectations are more to blame than race alone.

"Crash" is not a movie to go see to escape reality for a few hours. If anything, the film creates a greater sense of awareness. As the actors and actresses perform masterfully, the movie truly seems to open our eyes not only to the racial tensions that lie at the heart of our American society, but also reveals a great deal about the difficulties of communication and personal interaction in American society. The film can be difficult to watch because parts of it are almost too real and show distinctly unpleasant sides of our own humanity. It is a film, however, that is immensely entertaining, interesting and that will be discussed long after the credits have rolled.

Contact Brian Doxtader at bdoxtade@nd.edu and Molly Griffin at mgriffin@nd.edu



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Officer Thomas Hansen, played by Ryan Phillippe, struggles to be a "good cop" despite the political pressure and racism that surround him.

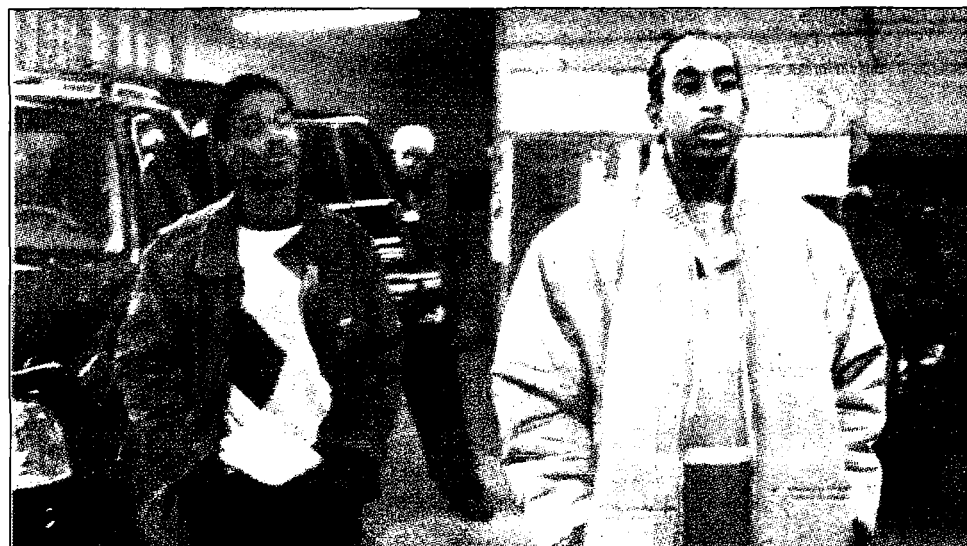


Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Anthony, played by Chris "Ludacris" Bridges (right), sells a car he stole. Bridges' character is fueled by the stereotypes that exist in racially diverse LA.

VIDEO GAME REVIEW

Batman Begins can't quite soar



Photo courtesy of gamespot.com

Batman, voiced by Christian Bale, attacks an enemy in the new video game from Electronic Arts. "Batman Begins" is based on the movie by director Chris Nolan.

By JOSH TALLEY
Scene Writer

Many consider the original Batman film, directed by Tim Burton, a contemporary classic, but it may soon be surpassed by the Dark Knight's current incarnation in Chris Nolan's "Batman Begins."

But even though Batman Begins is, in this reviewer's humble opinion, an excellent film, this Batman game needs some major improvements. While this game is 100 percent Batman, it fails to transcend the norms of action games and fails to be all it can be as both a superhero and a Batman game.

This game does follow the film fairly faithfully. It never takes huge liberties with the events in the movie. But, it has been tweaked slightly to make it more acceptable as a video game. Like the movie, the game follows Batman's first attempts at being the Caped Crusader. It starts out in Arkham Asylum, but then moves into flashbacks which lead back into the beginning of the game, and then continues on to the finale.

This change in setting and back story creates a little depth for the character and provides people who haven't seen this movie a chance to understand what is going on. During game-play you are accompanied with Bruce Wayne's confidant and friend Alfred. Alfred offers you advice and tells you of the goals to come in the level. There are two kinds of missions in the game, the first in which you play as Batman searching for clues to forward the plot and fighting off various villains, and the second in which you drive the Batmobile around Gotham City chasing bad guys and escaping from the police. The game's 10 to 15 hours of game play aren't amazing, but are the best of any other in the Batman series.

When you play as Batman, one of the major points of the game is striking fear into the hearts of your enemies in order to make them flustered and confused. The game takes a realistic approach to Batman this time in the fact that you can't rush through the game like Rambo. One guy with a gun is more than sufficient to ruin even the Dark Knight's day. You have to use the game's environment to scare your prey to frighten them out of using their weapons. Also, by taking out the strongest opponents (i.e. the ones with weapons or giving orders) you

can scare the others badly enough that they come close to passing out from fear. This addition to the game is an enjoyable one, but it could have been done differently. The game is extremely linear, usually only offering one way in which to scare your opponents.

While there are no major flaws, there is also nothing spectacular about the game. It does get a little tiring to see the same 10 generic thugs over and over again. The in-game movies use the same quality or rendering as game-play, but film footage is incorporated into the game fairly well. The audio work is well above average. The ambient noises in the game make it believable that are actually in the game and are creeping through a steam filled subterranean corridor. Also, the voice acting is superb, with all the principal actors voicing their characters (save the glaring omission of Gary Oldman). The sound effects quality

of the game is also well done, providing that little extra to make the game feel more complete.

Of course, since this game is based off of the latest Batman movie, there is no multi-player option. This isn't a huge problem though, because the

stealth style of the game is better situated for a single player. The controls to the game are simplistic at best. While combat is a large part of the game, the player essentially has an attack button and a dodge button at his disposal. Also, Batman's gadgets are simplified in the game as well because you can only use them when you are near an enemy and in combat or when your opponent is already scared. You can't just use them like you think Batman really would, but have to follow the poorly designed item engine in the game.

There aren't too many special features in the game. Once the game is completed, you have unlocked alternate Batman costumes from past incarnations of the Caped Crusader. While interesting, it does nothing to change the gameplay. Also, you can unlock both of the Batmobile levels so that you can play them as a stand alone mission or as a time attack. While fun the first few times, it gets old rather quickly.

This game is the best Batman game to date, and the best superhero game of the year so far. This game does not compare to the superhero game "Spiderman 2," but it is still worth a rent.

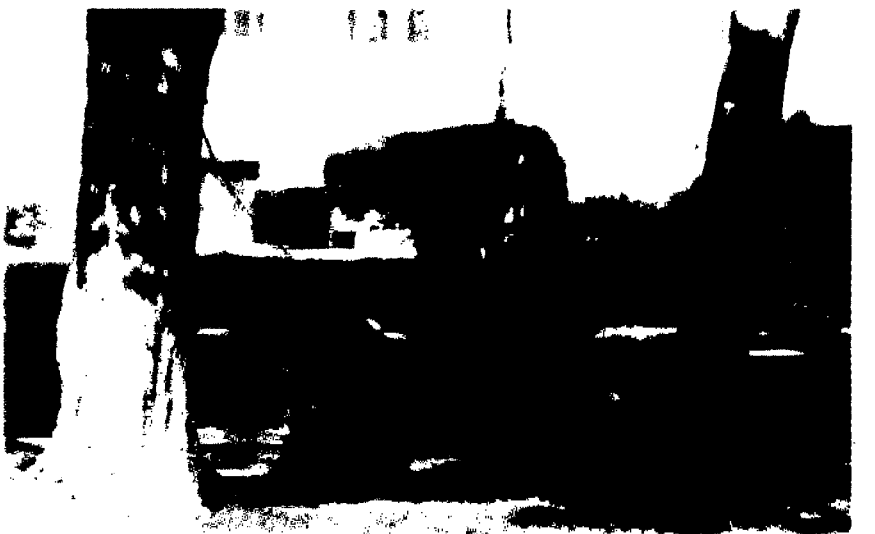
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NOTRE DAME'S BEST... *Napping Spots*

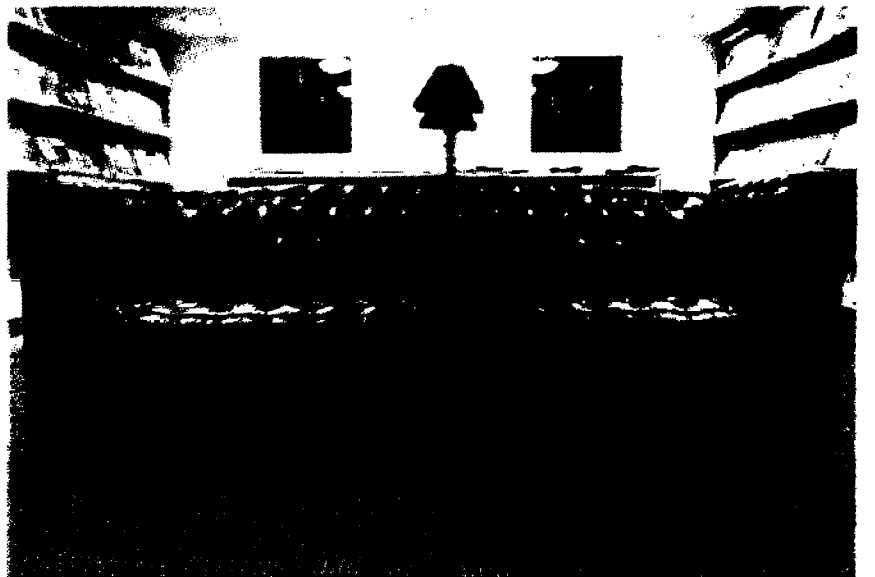
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MLB — AMERICAN LEAGUE

Indians move into wild card lead with victory

Angels' Byrd shuts down Red Sox in 3-0 win; Yankees fall 7-4 to Devil Rays, trail Boston by 4 games in AL East

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — As if waving some magic wand, Kevin Millwood makes the most frightening situations disappear.

One instant, the bases are loaded. The next, it's presto-chango, abracadabra and alakazam — inning over for the Cleveland Indians. Another head-scratching escape.

"It was like, 'Did I just see that?'" Detroit manager Alan Trammell said. "We've got the bases loaded and we're all excited. Seconds later ... Wow!"

Millwood kept it close for five nerve-racking innings before Aaron Boone hit a two-run homer and Casey Blake and Coco Crisp hit solo shots as the Indians moved into the AL wild-card lead with a 4-2 win over the Detroit Tigers on Thursday.

Boone's homer off Nate Robertson (6-13) tied it 2-2 in the fifth inning before Blake and Crisp connected in the sixth. Cleveland's last 15 runs have all come via homers.

The Indians, who have won four in a row and 12 of 14, moved a half-game ahead of the New York Yankees, who lost to Tampa Bay 7-4. It's the first time this year the Indians have been alone in the lead, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

"We're playing as good as anyone right now," Millwood said.

Cleveland's three homers — the Indians have 31 in their last 16 games — wouldn't have meant anything, though, if not for Millwood's tenacity. The right-hander made two Houdini-like escapes, wiggling out of jams in the first and third innings when the Tigers had a chance to blow it open.

Millwood's knack for dodging trouble is nothing new, with opponents 0-for-16 against him with the bases full. He allowed one earned run and seven hits while throwing 110 pitches in five innings.

"It's nothing like I've ever seen," Indians manager Eric Wedge said of Millwood's ability

to elude danger. "He throws 60 pitches in the first couple innings and did nothing but get much stronger. He's tough. It wasn't like it was just today, either, he's been doing that all year."

Millwood would obviously prefer more 1-2-3 innings, but they've been rare for him this season.

"It hasn't been easy," said Millwood, who has the lowest run support (3.23 runs in 26 starts) in the AL. "But I've been able to keep us in the game and give us a chance to win, that's a starter's job."

Rafael Betancourt (3-3) pitched 1 2-3 scoreless innings, and Bob Howry struck out Brandon Inge with the bases loaded to end the seventh. Bob Wickman pitched the ninth for his 37th save, matching his career-high set with Milwaukee in 1999.

Los Angeles 3, Boston 0

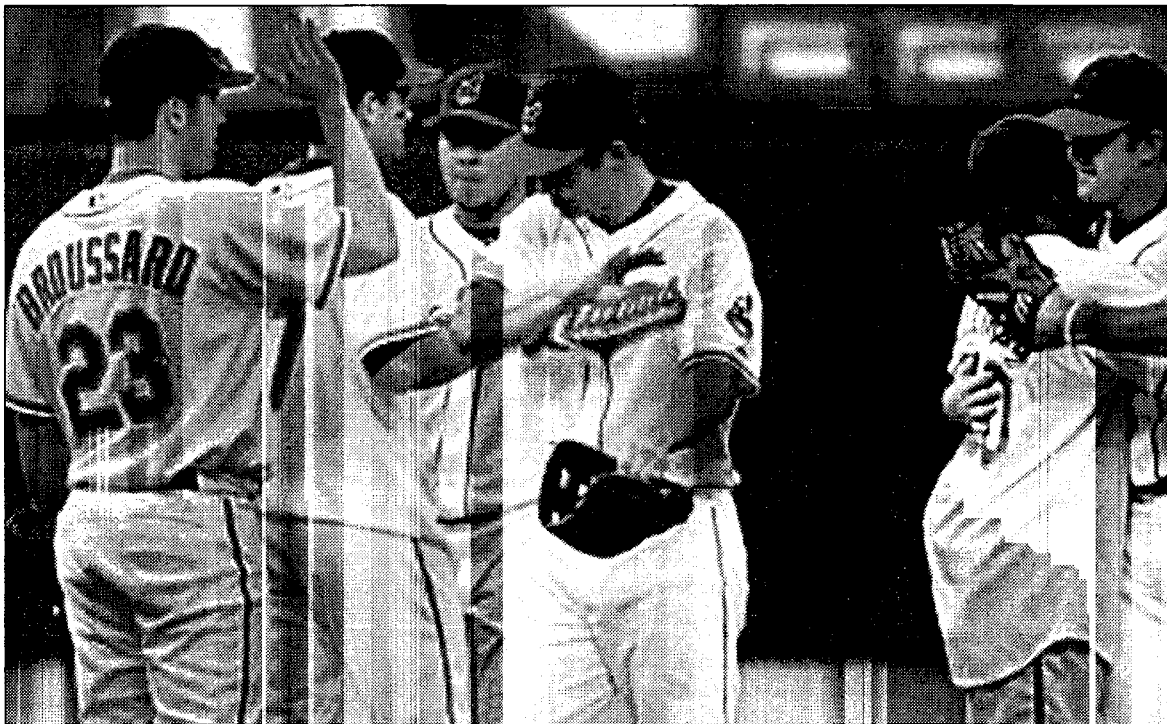
The Los Angeles Angels showed a little emotion and escaped Boston with their AL West lead intact.

Paul Byrd combined with two stomach-churning relievers to shut out the Red Sox on Thursday night, avoiding a sweep. Los Angeles manager Mike Scioscia and hitting coach Mickey Hatcher were ejected — Scioscia for the second straight night.

"I think we feed off that," said Byrd, who allowed four hits in seven innings before Scot Shields and Francisco Rodriguez each pitched out of bases-loaded jams. "These games count. That (emotion) is the way it should be."

Los Angeles, which moves on to play the Central-leading Chicago White Sox, opened a one-game lead over idle Oakland in the AL West after losing the first two games of the series.

Despite getting shut out for the fourth time this year, the Red Sox maintained a four-game lead in the AL East over the second-place Yankees, who lost to Tampa Bay 7-4. The Red Sox open a three-game series in New York on Friday with the knowledge that they will still



Members of the Indians celebrate their 4-2 win over the Tigers Thursday. The victory, coupled with the Yankees' 7-4 loss to the Devil Rays, gave Cleveland a half-game lead in the wild card race.

be in first when they leave.

Byrd (11-9) allowed two walks and struck out four in his second consecutive win. He retired 13 straight batters before John Olerud's slow-bouncing infield single to lead off the seventh.

Matt Clement (13-4) allowed three runs and five hits in 6 2-3 innings, walking two and hitting a batter while striking out one. He had won three straight decisions, but also received no decision in five other starts since July 16.

Tampa Bay 7, New York 4

Forget about the Boston Red Sox coming to town. The New York Yankees must be thrilled just to see Tampa Bay leaving.

Carl Crawford hit a two-run double and scored three times, Mark Hendrickson won his fifth straight decision and the Devil Rays held off New York Thursday night for yet another victory over the Yankees.

"We have to be better. We expect more of ourselves. Tonight is just not acceptable," Alex Rodriguez said.

Jonny Gomes and Jorge Cantu also drove in two runs

apiece, helping the last-place Devil Rays build a 6-0 lead and improve to 11-5 against New York this season.

The Yankees dropped two of three in this series — not the way they wanted to head into three big games in the Bronx against AL East-leading Boston this weekend. New York remained four games behind the Red Sox but fell a half-game behind Cleveland in the wild-card race.

"This team tomorrow, they start scoring runs, they don't stop," Yankees manager Joe Torre said. "We need to do a better job of controlling the game than we did tonight."

New York has lost four consecutive series against the Devil Rays after dropping only four of the previous 38.

"You can't say we're embarrassed because they're major league players, too," Derek Jeter said. "They played better than us. I don't know how many times they beat us, but they deserved to win all of 'em."

Rookie right-hander Chien-Ming Wang (6-4) returned from a two-month stint on the dis-

abled list and lasted five innings. After recovering from inflammation in his right shoulder, he gave up three runs and eight hits, dropping to 0-3 against Hendrickson this year.

Wang said his shoulder felt fine, but he thought it was a mediocre performance.

"It looked like he was just trying to get his rhythm in the first inning," Crawford said.

Danys Baez retired Rodriguez with a runner on to end the eighth, then finished for his 35th save in 42 tries. He has seven saves against New York this year, tying Bobby Thigpen of the Chicago White Sox in 1990 for the most against the Yankees in one season.

"Fastball right down the middle," Rodriguez said. "I had a great pitch to hit. I didn't come through, and that's not acceptable. I need to do more."

Hendrickson (9-7) retired 13 straight after Jeter's leadoff single in the first, then ran into trouble in the seventh. But he hung on to improve to 3-0 in four starts against New York this year.

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U.S. OPEN

Defending champ Federer tops Nalbandian

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Roger Federer sure knows how to kill a party.

Federer's quiet brilliance tranquilized U.S. Open fans one night after they roared nonstop for Andre Agassi and James Blake.

Watching Federer, the defending champion and top seed, roll past Argentine David Nalbandian 6-2, 6-4, 6-1 Thursday night was like watching a rerun of a mediocre movie that has one star, no plot and no drama.

Federer was too good — too strong with his serves, too quick with his returns, too sharp on his groundstrokes and volleys — to let the match become anything more than a predictable step into the semifinals against Lleyton Hewitt, a winner earlier in the day in five sets against Finland's Jarkko Nieminen.

Federer beat Hewitt in the Open final last year and has won their last eight matches, four in Grand Slam events, going back to the 2004 Australian Open.

"Maybe we had enough men's tennis over the last few days," said Federer, the only semifinalist who did not play five sets in the quarters.

Federer didn't shy away from saying that he couldn't play much better than he did against the 11th-seeded Nalbandian in a 1-hour, 40-minute sweep.

"I played great last year and it's just looking great again," Federer said. "It's exactly the way I should be playing at this stage of tournament because the opponents are only getting tougher. The result really shows it. I've been struggling a little bit over the last few days, but this is a great rhythm I got against David. I'm surprised it went so quick."

So was Nalbandian.

"When he plays like this, it's really tough to beat him," Nalbandian said. "That's why he's No. 1 in the world and he loses just a few matches during the year."

Federer was as enthralled by the Agassi-Blake match as the fans who stayed past 1



Switzerland's Roger Federer, left, shakes hands with Argentina's David Nalbandian after their match Thursday in New York. Federer dominated the match, winning 6-2, 6-4, 6-1.

a.m. to watch it.

"I came back from dinner and I thought, 'It's looking

good for James,' and suddenly it turned around," Federer said. "What a thriller. I was up until 1:30 myself. Maybe it wasn't the best preparation, but I enjoyed it."

Asked about the Agassi-Robby Ginepri match on Saturday, Federer he's happy to see two Americans in the semifinal.

"This doesn't happen every day so you better enjoy this moment," he said with a sly smile.

Hewitt, ragged at the start, virtually flawless at the end, dodged danger in yet another five-setter to keep up his bid for a second U.S. Open title.

The third-seeded Australian, who won the Open in 2001, advanced with a 2-6, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3, 6-1 victory over the unseeded Nieminen, the first player from Finland to reach a Grand Slam quarterfinal.

Hewitt made only two unforced errors in the fifth set while putting away 15 winners to end the threat from the left-handed

Nieminen.

In the first set, Hewitt racked up 16 unforced errors.

"I was just struggling a little bit with my movement," Hewitt said. "Just felt a step slower, a bit sluggish out there."

Hewitt seemed flat much of the match, never even trying to rally himself with his usual cries of "Come on!" after a winner in the first four sets.

Instead Nieminen generated noise from the crowd, inspiring chants of "Let's go, Jarkko!" from fans pulling for an upset by the underdog.

"I felt that he's not that confident on the court because he doesn't show those emotions that he's usually showing," said Nieminen, who had won only one match in three previous years at the Open. "Maybe he was a little bit surprised after the first set."

An Open semifinalist for the fifth time on a hard court similar to the kind he grew up on in Adelaide, Hewitt had come off an easy straight-sets victory against No. 15 Dominik Hrbaty in the fourth round. But Hewitt struggled before winning a five-setter against No. 25 Taylor Dent in the third round.

Nieminen raced relentlessly in the opening set, winning the last five games as he retrieved shots that seemed out of reach.

Hewitt settled into a rhythm in the second set, winning 19 of 21 points on his way to a 5-0 lead.

He served out the set to even the match 1-1, but then faded again. After they exchanged the next two sets, Hewitt finally got out of his funk.

He broke Nieminen with a crisp forehand pass and let loose a "Come on!" that now really meant something.

Hewitt served a 122-mph ace — the first of 10 straight points he won on serve — and raced to a 4-0 lead. Nieminen made one last stand, enduring nine deuces before holding serve.

But Hewitt streaked through the next two games, closing out the match with a volley winner and yelling "Come on!" one last time.

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MLB — NATIONAL LEAGUE

Carpenter dominates Mets for his 21st victory

Pirates end 10-game home losing streak with extra innings win over Arizona; Fick wins it for Padres in the 10th

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Facing Chris Carpenter was the last thing the New York Mets needed.

Carpenter became the first 21-game winner in the major leagues, Albert Pujols homered twice and the St. Louis Cardinals beat the fading Mets 5-0 Thursday night.

New York has lost 10 of 12 following a 9-2 stretch, falling to 70-70. The Mets, on the verge of taking the wild-card lead on Aug. 31 before Pedro Martinez faltered against Philadelphia, have lost eight of nine since then and dropped 5 1/2 games back of Houston, which leads in the wild-card chase.

"We've got to see if we can get something going from the little funk we're in," Mets manager Willie Randolph said. "Obviously we've picked a bad time to go into a little swoon, and it's hurting us."

St. Louis cut the magic number for clinching its second straight NL Central title to 10, beating the Mets for the ninth straight time at Busch Stadium.

Carpenter (21-4) allowed three hits in seven innings, struck out seven and walked one, lowering his ERA to 2.21, second in the major leagues' to Roger Clemens' 1.57. He's 13-0 in his last 16 starts with a 1.36 ERA over that span.

"What a performance we're watching," Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said. "It's just been a privilege to watch this kind of excellence."

Carpenter said everything was working against the Mets.

"I made quality pitches over and over again and kept the ball down in the strike zone and kept them off balance," he said.

Carpenter has started 22 games in a row in which he allowed three runs or fewer while pitching six innings, the longest stretch of consecutive quality starts in the NL since Bob Gibson also did it 22 straight times in 1968.

Pittsburgh 8, Arizona 7

The Pittsburgh Pirates went through two managers and a pair of 12-inning games in three days before finally ending a record-tying home losing streak.

Humberto Cota singled home the winning run in the 12th, and the Pirates overcame Tony Clark's two homers and five RBIs to end a 10-game home losing streak with a victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks on Thursday.

"This feels really good, because we didn't want to break that record," Cota said.

The Pirates lost 10 in a row at home for only the second time in their 119-season history and the first time since 1968. Their first victory in Pete Mackanin's three games as interim manager since replacing the fired Lloyd McClendon also ended a six-game overall losing streak.

"Hopefully, this relaxes everyone and we can start playing better ball," Mackanin said.

With a 56-83 record, they can't play much worse.

Pittsburgh was within two outs of losing following Clark's second homer, a three-run go-ahead drive in the ninth, when Jason Bay hit a tying two-run shot — his 26th — in the bottom of the inning off Tim Worrell. Worrell blew his third save in four opportunities.

In the top of the inning, Jose Mesa blew his third consecutive save opportunity by giving up Clark's 25th homer. Clark also hit a two-run drive in the first off Josh Fogg during his 17th career multihomer game.

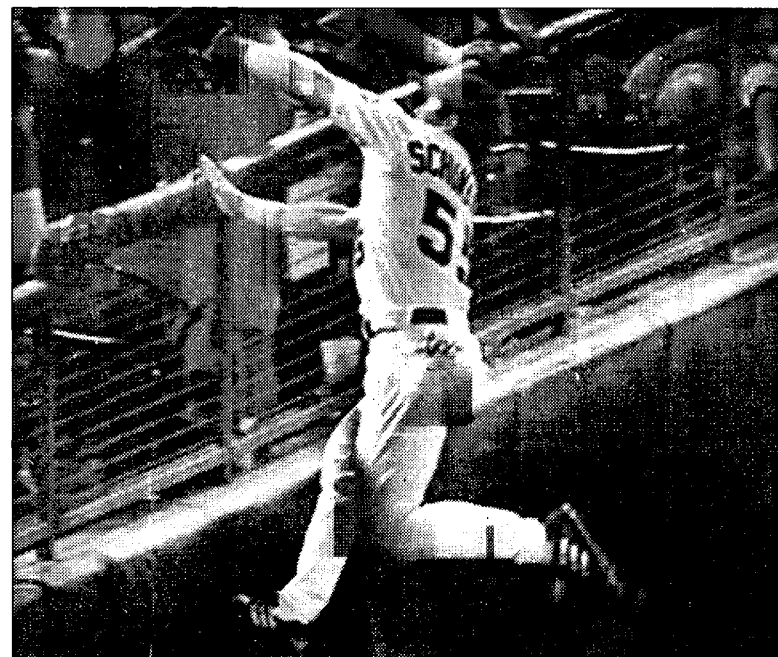
"The goal is to shake hands at the end of the day," Clark said of his big day in a losing cause. "If it's a 5-for-5 that does it or a 0-for-5, it doesn't matter."

After the Pirates couldn't score with the bases loaded in the 11th, Rob Mackowiak singled off Buddy Groom (0-1), Arizona's seventh pitcher, to start the 12th and moved up on Freddy Sanchez's sacrifice bunt. Cota, who doubled in a run in the eighth, then singled to center to give Pittsburgh its first home victory since Aug. 23.

"It's good to finally win a game — it seems like it's a lot longer than it's actually been," Bay said.

San Diego 3, Colorado 2

It was a big bounce-back night for Brian Lawrence and Robert Fick, who helped carry the San Diego Padres to their biggest lead in the NL West this



AP
The St. Louis Cardinals' Skip Schumaker hauls in a foul ball in the ninth inning of the team's 5-0 victory over the Mets Thursday.

year.

Lawrence threw seven strong innings and Fick singled in the winning run with two outs in the 10th inning as the Padres beat the Colorado Rockies on Thursday night to climb one game above .500.

The Padres (70-69) took a seven-game lead over idle Los Angeles and San Francisco, which lost 5-3 to the Chicago Cubs. San Diego took two of three from last-place Colorado.

"We control our own destiny," Fick said. "As long as we win every night, we don't have to worry about anybody else."

Lawrence, Akinori Otsuka, Trevor Hoffman and Scott Linebrink combined to five-hit the Rockies. Linebrink (6-1) pitched a perfect 10th.

Miguel Olivo started the winning rally by drawing a leadoff walk in the 10th off Jose Acevedo (2-4). Pinch-hitter Woody Williams, one of the Padres' starting pitchers, sacrificed him to second. After Mark Loretta grounded out, Fick hit a fly ball over right fielder Brad Hawpe to score Olivo.

"Shoot, I was just trying to be aggressive and hit the ball hard for once," Fick said.

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SMC SOCCER

Belles start MIAA play against Flying Dutch

By KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writer

After dealing Hope College its only loss of the 2004 campaign, the Belles seek not only to repeat the upset, but also double the fun by completing a season sweep.

The Belles open their MIAA conference season on Saturday afternoon against the Flying Dutch of Hope College in the first of a two-game season set. Last season, in the opening game of the season series, the Belles upset Hope 2-0, before falling in a 3-2 close-fought grudge match.

Saint Mary's is confident in its chances to defeat Hope — the Flying Dutch lost their star player, Dawn Gillam, to graduation. The center midfielder was the MIAA conference MVP in 2004 and controlled Hope's on-field play.

"She was pretty much the engine on the field for [Hope], everything went through her," Belles coach Caryn Mackenzie said. "They kind of rose and fell with Dawn, so I don't know what they will look like this year."

The Flying Dutch are not lacking in strong players this year, however. Junior goalkeeper Holly Nestle and junior defender Rachael Sauerman are the backbone of a tenacious Hope defense that the Belles will counter with a vicious attack.

Another strong point for Hope is their size across the pitch.

Mackenzie described them as larger than a lot of the competition in the MIAA.

"This will be an adjustment for our freshman, they are not used to playing up against these bigger bodies," she said.

A mantra for the Belles on the road this season is to stay mentally tough, to not be intimidated by any team no matter how strong it is.

They refuse to get down on themselves, a central aspect to any strong team.

"I have confidence in our talent," Mackenzie said. "It's only a matter of us believing in ourselves and playing hard for the whole 90 minutes."

Mackenzie is glad that the Belles face the cream of the MIAA crop early as it will serve as a guidepost for the rest of their season.

"We'll just try to grow and get better," she said. "We are looking forward to playing them, they are always great competition."

The Belles are confident they will recover from Wednesday's tough 4-0 loss to Illinois Wesleyan, their largest margin of defeat in over a year.

But the defeat was merely a speed bump, and the Belles are ready to get back on their horse for conference play.

The game will be played at noon Saturday at Hope's home-field in Holland, Mich.

It is the lone game of the weekend for the Belles.

Contact Kyle Cassily at
kcassily@nd.edu

MLB — NATIONAL LEAGUE

Bonds could return soon

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Barry Bonds felt strong and limber while taking swings and running the bases in a pregame workout back home Thursday, and the San Francisco Giants slugger said there's a possibility he could return this weekend.

Bonds, who hasn't played this season after three surgeries on his troublesome right knee since Jan. 31, faced 21 pitches from Giants right-hander Kevin Correia split into two sessions in a simulated game. He took just one swing at the first seven pitches, but hit an early pitch from the second session out of the park.

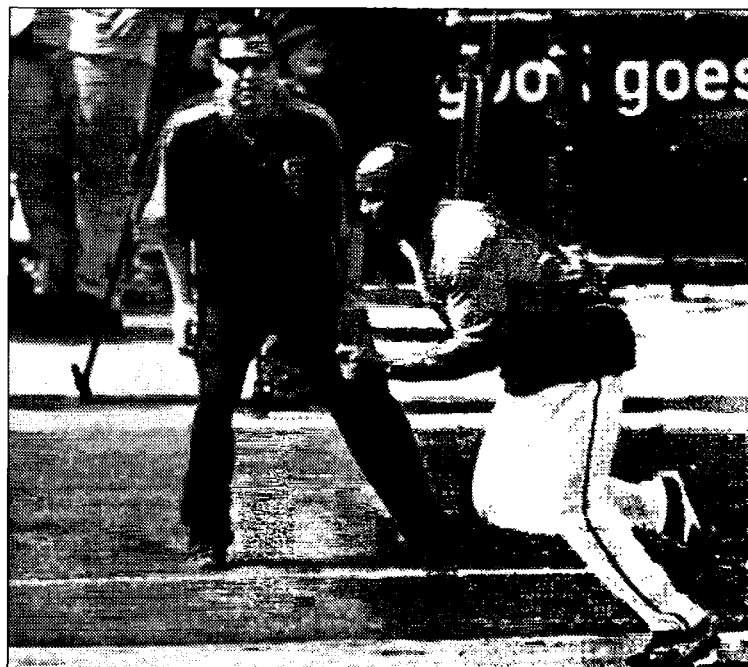
He also took a round of batting practice against hitting coach Joe Lefebvre, swinging 17 times and hitting another homer along with a handful of line drives. Bonds took more batting practice later with his teammates, and he played catch in the outfield.

He'll consult with his doctors Friday before a similar workout — and if he responds well to the increased stress and waiting periods required by his sport, Bonds acknowledged the possibility he could return this weekend.

"It's not unrealistic, but now it's just the time of how I recover," Bonds said.

Bonds looked good in batting practice for the fourth straight day since rejoining the Giants in Los Angeles, where he spent the last two months in rehabilitation. He also was upbeat being back in his home park with McCovey Cove behind right field — though the chilly weather tested him.

"I've been in L.A. for the most



Barry Bonds sprints to first base in a simulated game Thursday as Giants trainer Dave Groeschner watches.

part in 90-degree weather," Bonds said of his rehabilitation. "Coming up here to San Francisco and the cold ... I just want to see how I come out of it."

During his running exercises, Bonds sprinted around the bases and spoke with several coaches. After getting instructions on how to quickly head out of the batter's box for first base, Bonds cracked: "What if I hit a home run?"

"I'm not waiting on his swing. I take that for granted," Giants manager Felipe Alou said. "The thing is running the bases. He ran better than in spring training and in the last month of last year. At this time last year, he was limping and complaining about the knee. It's much, much better than a year ago, or in spring training."

Bonds and general manager Brian Sabean refused to give a timetable for his return, but the Giants' longtime left fielder said he would be willing to return even as a pinch-hitter.

"I want to play [in the outfield] if it's my pick, but I have to do what's best for the team," Bonds said.

"I hope he's activated during

the weekend — that everything is OK enough that he's activated," Alou said. "[Friday], I don't see it as a sure thing, because we've got to see how he comes in tomorrow."

The 41-year-old outfielder will provide a huge boost to San Francisco's improbable playoff push. Following Wednesday night's 9-8 loss to the Dodgers, the Giants were 63-75 — but in second place in the NL West, just six games behind San Diego.

"There's a feeling of urgency, because we know the difference that he could make for us," Alou said.

Giants owner Peter Magowan and Sabean watched Bonds' workout from a luxury box above the field, while at least 40 reporters and photographers crowded into foul territory in the otherwise empty stadium.

"It's days like this that tell you he's getting closer, but he's going to have to feel like he's ready," Sabean said.

Bonds, who has 703 career homers, said Wednesday he would definitely play this season, continuing his quest to overtake Hank Aaron (755) and Babe Ruth (714) on baseball's career homers list.

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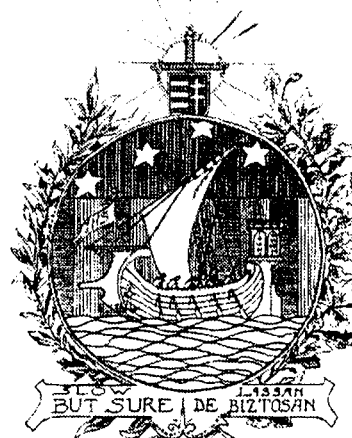
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ND WOMEN'S GOLF

Irish host Notre Dame Invitational at Warren

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame women's golf team will open its season Saturday and Sunday with the Notre Dame Invitational at the Warren Golf Course.

The three-round tournament will host a field of 17 teams; including the Irish. Other field notables include Illinois, Western Michigan and Yale. Saint Mary's will also cross U.S. 33 to compete.

Irish head coach Debbie King explained her reasoning in choosing which schools to invite.

"I usually invite Big East and Central Region teams," she said. "Those are first priority. If none of them can make it, I start on the waiting list of schools around the country."

Division I women's golf is divided into three regions: East, Central and West. Teams need to beat as many schools as possible from their region to secure a bid to the NCAA Championship Tournament on Nov. 21.

Despite King's attempts to bring in Big East opponents to the Invitational, only Georgetown and Notre Dame will be representing the conference at Warren this weekend. Former league member Boston College is making the trip, but the Eagles moved to the Atlantic Coast Conference after last spring.

While she likes to play Big East opponents early in the season, King says she will not use the Invitational to scout the Hoyas.

"We've played them many times, and we have a good idea of their caliber," she said.

King said that opening the season at home is important for the psyche of the Irish.

"It's the best way to start the season, especially for the fresh-

men just getting used to competition," she said. "We don't have to miss classes and we're a little more comfortable at home."

Teeing off for the Irish this weekend will be junior Noriko Nakazaki, senior Katie Brophy, sophomore Jane Lee and senior Suzie Hayes. The four veterans earned spots after a series of playoffs over the course of the preseason. Nakazaki and Brophy hold the two lowest stroke averages in Notre Dame history.

"We've had five rounds of qualifying since the first day of school," King said. "It's been a shootout for those top four spots."

Three other players — senior Lauren Gebauer, junior Stacy Brown and freshman Courtney Sullivan — will compete in a playoff Friday for the fifth spot. King said the three were tied after the first five qualifying rounds.

Five Irish golfers will compete as individuals. Senior Sarah Bassett, sophomore Alejandra Diaz-Calderon and freshman Lisa Maunu will join the two golfers who do not earn a spot on Friday.

King also said she feels having the players compete for the top five spots and a chance to compete in tournaments is the most fair way to determine the team's roster.

Butler, Indiana, IUPUI, Bradley, Western Illinois, Eastern Michigan, Toledo, Xavier, Winthrop and Bucknell will round out the field along with the Irish, Hoyas, Eagles, Broncos, Illini, Bulldogs and Belles.

Iowa State won the 2004 Notre Dame Invitational, but will not compete this year.

Contact Chris Khorey at
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SMC GOLF

Belles join Irish at course

By JORDAN BELTZ
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's will visit Notre Dame this weekend when the Belles take part in the Notre Dame Invitational at the Warren Golf Course.

Competition figures to be tough, as the Belles are the only Division II squad entered in the event.

Last year, Iowa State took home the title in an extremely close match, followed closely by the Washington State. The Notre Dame women's squad finished just 12 strokes behind, in third place.

This is the first time the Belles have ever been extended an invitation to the Notre Dame Invitational, and they feel honored by the bid. The Belles are

realistic about their goals for the weekend, but they are excited to get the chance to show off their skills against some of the top college teams in the nation.

"I think we're all pretty nervous for it, but we hope to play well," senior Megan Mattie said. "It's an honor just to be invited."

The Belles hope to put on a better showing than last week, where they struggled in the opening round of the Ferris State Lady Bulldog Invitational. The team eventually pulled it together in the final round and salvaged an eleventh place finish, but they know that they can, and will, perform better in the future.

"As a team, we played well for it being our first tournament, but we could have played much better," freshman Alex

Sei said.

The added pressure of facing some of the top-ranked collegiate teams in the nation will surely push the Belles to play to the best of their ability, as they are eager to show off their talents to the rest of the women's golfing community.

The Belles will look to take some of the positives out of last week's match, such as the fact that they defeated regional rivals St. Joseph's and Depauw, and parlay them into a respectable performance this weekend at home.

Looking ahead, the Belles will begin conference play next week as they travel to Calvin College next Wednesday for the first of three MIAA outings.

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PASSING THE COMPETITION



Observer File Photo

Forward Justin McGeeney sprints past a New Mexico defender in a 1-1 tie Aug. 22 at Alumni Field. The Irish recently dominated then-No. 7 SMU in a 4-1 thumping Sept. 2.



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Presenter: James McKenna
Department of Anthropology

Commentator: Eric Smithburn
The Law School

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AROUND THE NATION

Friday, September 9, 2005

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 19

AVCA Volleyball Top 25

	team	record	points
1	Nebraska	4-0	1,498
2	Washington	4-0	1,427
3	Stanford	4-1	1,384
4	Penn State	4-1	1,316
5	Minnesota	3-0	1,210
6	Florida	4-0	1,153
7	Hawaii	2-3	1,146
8	Southern California	2-2	957
9	Wisconsin	3-0	939
10	UCLA	3-0	887
11	Louisville	3-0	849
12	Ohio State	2-1	823
13	Texas A&M	5-0	706
14	Missouri	2-0	651
15	Arizona	3-0	610
16	Tennessee	2-1	608
17	Texas	1-1	581
18	UC Santa Barbara	2-1	519
19	NOTRE DAME	3-0	446
20	San Diego	4-1	431
21	California	4-0	424
22	Long Beach State	3-1	180
23	Saint Mary's (Calif.)	5-1	164
24	Kansas State	5-0	126
25	Santa Clara	3-0	86

NCAA Men's Soccer Top 25

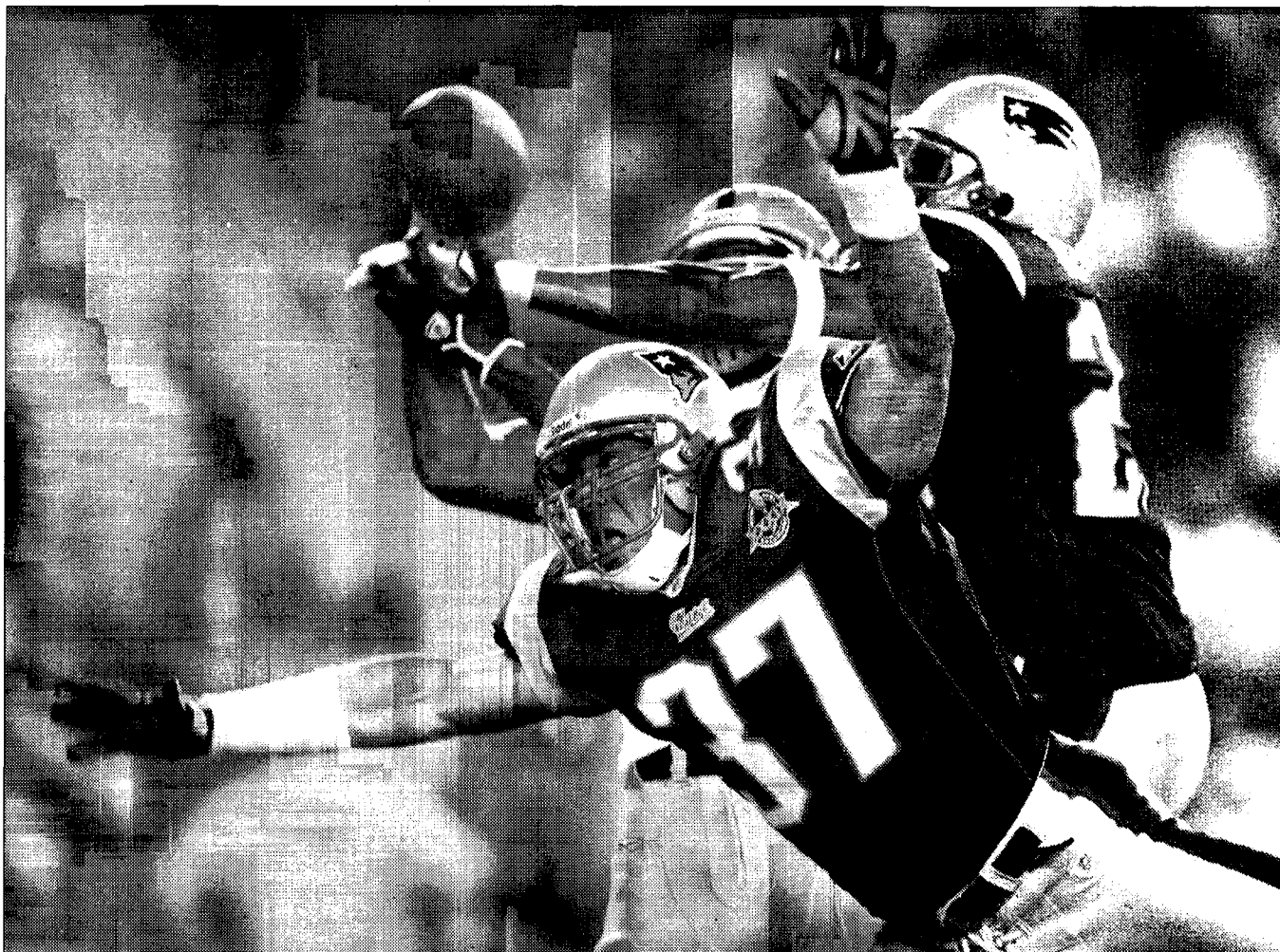
	team	record	points
1	Indiana	2-0-0	400
2	Duke	2-0-0	377
3	New Mexico	2-0-0	354
4	UCLA	1-1-0	293
5	Santa Clara	2-0-0	291
6	Virginia	1-0-1	276
7	St. John's	1-0-1	272
8	California	2-0-0	268
9	North Carolina	2-0-0	253
10	Connecticut	2-0-0	251
11	Wake Forest	1-1-0	243
12	Maryland	1-1-0	238
13	Creighton	1-0-1	225
14	NOTRE DAME	1-1-0	180
15	VA Commonwealth	1-1-0	161
16	UC Santa Barbara	0-1-1	151
17	Akron	2-0-0	142
18	UNC Greensboro	1-1-0	126
19	Memphis	2-0-0	84
20	Boston College	1-1-0	65
21	Washington	1-1-0	53
22	Fairleigh Dickinson	2-0-0	47
23	Ohio State	1-1-0	46
24	Northwestern	2-0-0	43
25	Missouri State	2-0-0	42

Big East Men's Soccer

Blue Division Overall Standings

team	record	Pct.
West Virginia	3-0-0	1.000
Seton Hall	3-0-0	1.000
Connecticut	2-0-0	1.000
Georgetown	2-0-0	1.000
Providence	1-0-1	.750
NOTRE DAME	1-1-0	.500
Marquette	1-1-0	.500
Pittsburgh	0-2-0	.000

NFL



New England Patriots' defenders Rodney Harrison, center, and Eugene Wilson keep the ball from Oakland Raiders star receiver Randy Moss in Thursday night's first regular season game. The Patriots won 30-20.

Patriots kick off season with another 'W'

Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — New England's quest for an unprecedented three straight Super Bowl victories is in good hands with two stars the Patriots didn't lose: Tom Brady and Richard Seymour.

Brady threw for 306 yards and two touchdowns and Seymour made a game-turning defensive play as the Patriots beat Oakland 30-20 Thursday night, holding Randy Moss, the Raiders' new star, to one big play, a 73-yard touchdown catch.

"It's important, we wanted to get off to a good

start," said Brady, who had 212 of his yards and both TD throws in the first half.

New England's 35th win in 39 games since the start of the 2003 season was an odd one — all offense at the start, mostly defense after intermission. One key early adjustment was made by the Patriots, switching from their traditional 3-4 defense to a 4-3 to help fill the gap caused by the loss of inside linebackers Tedy Bruschi and Ted Johnson.

The Patriots, who also lost coordinators Charlie Weis and Romeo Crennel to head coaching jobs, led

17-14 at halftime on touchdown passes by Brady of 29 yards to Super Bowl MVP Deion Branch and 5 yards to newcomer Tim Dwight.

That offset a 2-yard TD pass by Kerry Collins to tight end Courtney Anderson on the game's first series and the bomb to Moss, who at 6-foot-4 simply went over 5-8 Tyrone Poole.

Anderson also caught a 5-yard touchdown pass with 3:04 left set up by Randal Williams' block of Josh Miller's punt.

But Moss was called for offensive pass interference on the 2-point conversion

play.

That wasn't Moss' only mistake.

He also dropped a short first-down pass that could have gotten the Raiders out a hole early in the third quarter.

That eventually led to the game-turning play with just under six minutes left in the period, the kind of play that has marked the Patriots' run to three titles in four seasons.

Seymour, who as usual made a half-dozen big plays on defense, was the catalyst, pushing Raiders center Jake Grove into Collins.

IN BRIEF

Westbrook finally speaks after one-week holdout

PHILADELPHIA — Move over T.O. Brian Westbrook is making his way to the top of the line of disgruntled Philadelphia Eagles.

The Pro Bowl running back cut off contract talks with the Eagles because the two sides are far apart on a long-term extension, expressing disappointment management "hasn't stepped up to the plate."

"Me and my agent have told the Eagles' management that we're no longer interested in talking to them as far as the contract situation," Westbrook said Thursday. "We don't feel as though we've received a proposal from them that really represents the value that I bring to this team and my market value."

"I think that in the last 2 1/2, 3 years that I've been here, I've brought a lot to this team."

Westbrook, talking for the first time since reporting to training camp

after a one-week holdout, had been seeking a long-term deal after signing a one-year restricted free-agent offer for \$1.43 million.

"I don't see anything but upside for me, and I feel as though I should be compensated for that," Westbrook said.

Red Sox hope to build AL East lead in weekend series

NEW YORK — For the past seven years, the Boston Red Sox have spent each September trying in vain to catch New York.

Now they get a chance to play with the lead. Boston begins a big three-game series at Yankee Stadium on Friday night with an opportunity to build a very comfortable cushion over its longtime rival in the AL East.

After finishing second to the Yankees every season since 1998, the Red Sox went into Thursday night with a four-game edge as they pursue their first division title in a decade.

Legendary Auerbach hospitalized again

BOSTON — Red Auerbach, the president and former coach of the Boston Celtics, has been hospitalized in Washington with an undisclosed health problem.

The 87-year-old coaching great has been in and out of the hospital the past month for tests and a successful surgical procedure, Celtics spokesman Jeff Twiss said Thursday. Twiss would not identify the procedure or the hospital and said Auerbach was readmitted for an unspecified problem within the last 10 days.

A statement posted on the Celtics' Web site said: "The Auerbach family expresses their deepest appreciation for the concern pertaining to the health of their father."

"Red has been under the weather at times recently and he has taken steps with his doctor to return to feeling better."

around the dial

NCAA FOOTBALL

Pittsburgh at Ohio 7 p.m., ESPN2
Washington St. at Nevada 9 p.m., ESPN

MLB

Boston at New York 6 p.m., ESPN

TENNIS

US Open Day 12 Coverage 10 a.m., CBS

Valpo

continued from page 24

Though Connelly will be keeping his top athletes in South Bend this weekend, he was extremely confident in the team that will be making the trip to Valparaiso, where the Irish finished third last season.

"We're going to give our younger runners a chance to compete, because they have trained real hard all sum-

mer," he said.

Among the nine runners making the trip will be Loryn King, a senior who was a part of the team that ran at the NCAA meet last November.

An injury in the spring limited her opportunities to race during the track season. Connelly wanted to get her back into a race early in the season.

Joining King will be junior Ann Mazur and a slew of sophomores attempting to prove they are worthy of a spot in the top seven.

Connelly pointed out that most of these runners will be in uncharted territory this afternoon.

"We want to put them in a situation where they haven't been before," Connelly said. "They are used to running eight[h] position on the team, and all of a sudden, they will have to run one or two. We'll see how they respond."

Connelly also spoke of his group of sophomores, and the adjustments they made entering their second season.

"Some of [the sophomores]

struggled last season as freshmen," Connelly said. "We sent them home with the message that they would have to train very hard over the summer. They got the message and worked hard. Now it's time to prove it in racing."

All-Americans Molly Huddle, Stephanie Madia and sophomore Sunni Olding lead Notre Dame's elite group of runners, which has undergone rigorous training early in the season.

Connelly could not say for sure who will fill out the top seven, saying the competition

is wide open.

He felt later races would determine who will step into these roles.

Connelly was certain that his team was eager to begin the season and attempt to improve on last year's fourth-place finish.

When asked if his team was ready to race, Connelly responded quickly.

"They're bouncing off the walls," he said.

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MEN'S X-C

Team set to run in Crusader Invitational today

Most of the top Irish runners will skip the event to keep training

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame men's cross country team will begin its season Friday at the Crusader Invitational at Valparaiso University.

The meet, which features mostly small schools, will serve as a tune-up for the Irish before the National Catholic Championships and the Notre Dame Invitational, both at home later this month.

Because of the relatively weak

field, Irish head coach Joe Piane decided to rest several of his top runners and give younger team members a chance to compete.

Irish regulars who will not be running include senior Tim Moore, fifth-year senior Sean O'Donnell, junior Kurt Benninger and senior Kaleb Van Ort.

"Some of the younger guys need the experience," Piane said of his roster for Friday.

Piane said Moore, O'Donnell, Benninger and Van Ort will not travel to Valparaiso with the team, but instead will work out at Notre Dame and drive together to the meet to cheer on their teammates.

Sophomore Brett Adams, senior Tom Longo, sophomore Daniel Bradley, sophomore Zach

Einterz, sophomore James Millar, sophomore Mike Popejoy, freshman Kevin McFadden, freshman Mark Moore and freshman Chris Rodriguez will all run Friday for the Irish.

Each runner will be experiencing his first chance to be in the team's top five and score points for the Irish. Only Adams has previous collegiate meet experience, and that was in junior varsity meets.

The Crusader Invitational field will feature eight teams in addition to the Irish: Chicago State, IUPUI, Oakland, St. Joseph's (Ind.), Western Illinois, Wisconsin-Green Bay and the hosts, Valparaiso.

None are expected to seriously challenge the Irish, who swept the top five and seven of

the top eight positions at the meet last year for a perfect score of 15.

But Piane is not worried about motivation.

"For various reasons, everyone who is running in this race is enthusiastic about it," Piane said. "It's a good way for them to contribute to the team."

Piane said the team ran workouts together for most of the week, but on Thursday, runners competing at Valparaiso ran distance while those not competing ran a faster-paced four-mile tempo workout.

While the team has been running hills in preseason practices, they have not been a priority because the Irish will compete on two mostly hillless courses — Valparaiso and their

home circuit on the Burke Memorial Golf Course during the month of September.

Also, like the course at Notre Dame, the Valparaiso course repeats itself several times.

"It's three loops, relatively flat," Piane said of the course. "It's pretty good from a spectators point of view. Fans can see quite a bit of the race."

After the Crusader Invitational and the two home meets, the Irish have two weeks off before the Pre-National Championship in Terre Haute, Ind. and another two weeks before the Big East Championships in The Bronx, New York.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

SMC VOLLEYBALL

Belles hoping to rebound at Wooster College Invitational

By KEVIN BRENNAN
Sports Writer

The Saint Mary's volleyball team needs a confidence boost.

After losing three of four matches at last weekend's Elmhurst Invitational, the Belles dropped their MIAA season opener Wednesday, losing to rival Hope College in four games. As Saint Mary's (1-4) prepares to participate in this weekend's Wooster College Invitational, head coach Julie Schroeder-Biek thinks the team must improve on its mental state and preparation.

"We're just going to start from ground zero," Schroeder-Biek said. "We're going to work our way back up, and I'm just trying to narrow their focus. Right now, that's my big focus — the confidence issue."

The Belles used Thursday's practice to try to iron out some of these issues. Schroeder-Biek said she concentrated less on technical or strategic adjustments, focusing instead on eliminating frustration and keeping her team motivated.

The tournament kicks off on Friday with the Belles taking on Mount Vernon Nazarene and Muskingum College. Saint Mary's then faces Bluffton on Saturday morning. Once the preliminary matches are done, the eight-team field will be re-seeded and elimination rounds will continue for the rest of Saturday.

Schroeder-Biek expects the competition at the tournament to be strong, especially with perennial power Muskingum in the field.

The Belles participated in the Wooster College Invitational in 2003 and lost in the championship

match. The team is excited to return to the tournament and hopefully post another similar result.

Saint Mary's views this weekend as an opportunity to get the season back on track before moving deeper into MIAA play. At the start of the year, the Belles set the goal of making significant strides in the MIAA standings this season, after

finishing seventh in the nine-team conference in 2004. Schroeder-Biek wants her team to approach Friday and Saturday as if they were playing in crucial conference contests.

"I want them to really get into the mental mode and the competitive mode to face every match as a conference match, because the conference is so important to us,"

Schroeder-Biek said. "We all have to start thinking like that."

"Everything is important. Every point is important. Every time you step out on that court, you are stepping out to win."

Despite the recent setbacks, Schroeder-Biek feels good about the Belles' chances heading into the weekend's match-ups. The coach thinks that an improved

mental outlook combined with her players' abilities should help Saint Mary's make a serious challenge for the tournament title.

"We just need to get our confidence back, and I'd say we have an excellent chance," Schroeder-Biek said.

Contact Kevin Brennan at kbrenna4@nd.edu

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Berticelli

continued from page 24

the tournament gives the team a chance to remember former Irish coach Mike Berticelli, who was the men's soccer program head coach from 1990-99 before passing away in 2000.

But each year, the tournament features high-caliber teams and strenuous competition, preparing the Irish for a season in the Big East, one of collegiate soccer's most challenging conferences.

"[This tournament] has the No. 1 team in the country here for a start in IU [Indiana University], two perennial tournament teams in St. Louis and Boston University, it's up to ourselves to make up the fourth team," coach Bobby Clark said. "It's a fabulous tournament."

As host, Notre Dame is set to take on Boston University at 7:30 p.m. Friday, followed by a showdown with St. Louis at 2 p.m.

The Irish are coming of a 1-1 weekend at Indiana University last weekend, at the adidas/IU Credit Union Classic.

After defeating then-No. 7 Southern Methodist University in a resounding 4-1 walloping, the team lost a close overtime match to then-No. 10 Wake Forest.

"We're very excited," Clark said. "We came off a big tournament last weekend, we're just hoping that our tournament will stand comparison with Indiana's."

For Clark, one advantage that No. 1 Indiana had last weekend was the raucous home crowd.

"We just hope that our students will come out and support the way IU students did," he said. "Four thousand peo-

ple were there both nights and both days — huge crowds. I hope we'll get a lot of people to come out and see great soccer."

This year's Irish squad promises excitement, having already played three overtime contests: both preseason exhibition matches, as well as last weekend's contest against Wake Forest.

The team is 1-1-1 in overtime matches this year, but their physical fitness gives them an edge in the post-regulation time.

"The overtime games, they're something we've done quite a lot of," Clark said. "It's quite good to get an overtime game at this point in the season, it helps you get in good condition. I think they've been good for the team, no complaints on that one."

The Irish have had a number of different players scoring goals, and Chris Cahill has been solid in his first season as starting goalkeeper. However, Clark said that leadership began and ended with each individual on the team.

"I think different games, we look to different people," he said. "It's a funny thing, different people have got to step up, you're always looking for guys to step up and be leaders. It doesn't matter whether they're freshmen or seniors, everyone has that potential."

This tournament, with its scorching competition and closely-played games, gives the Irish the chance to notch two big wins early in the season.

"You need people to step up," Clark said. "And the more people we have stepping up to the plate, then the better team we're going to be."

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Rally

continued from page 24

Saint Mary's Shamrock Invitational all-tournament team.

The Irish face the Trojans tonight at 7 p.m., the Sooners Saturday at 1:30 p.m. and the Gators Sunday at 11 a.m. The loaded tourney also includes Rice (4-1), host Texas-San Antonio (3-1), LSU (6-0) and No. 13 Texas A&M (5-0).

It's an NCAA tournament of sorts. The eight team melee will be about as close to Final Four atmosphere as a regular season tournament can get.

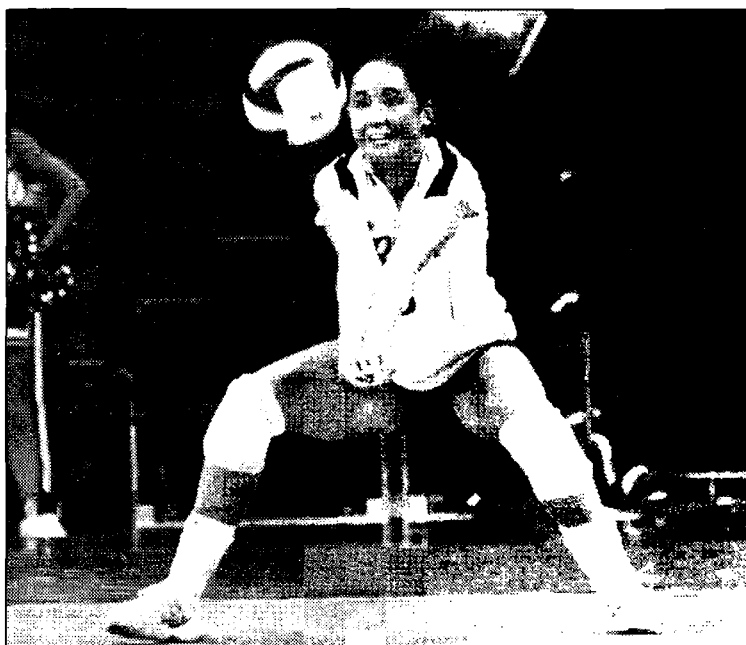
USC has beaten Cal Poly and Western Michigan and lost to No. 4 Hawaii and No. 5 Penn State. The Trojans return 11 letterwinners and five starters from last year's 23-6 Final Four squad that defeated top-seeded Nebraska 3-2 before falling to Minnesota 3-1. The Trojans had won two straight national titles prior to last year's loss.

Oklahoma's lone loss came against Alabama. The Sooners return nine letterwinners and five starters from last year's 12-17 team that finished ninth in the Big 12.

Florida, perhaps the most intimidating group the Irish will meet this weekend, has yet to lose a game this season. The Gators' closest game was 30-27, and their top win was a sweep against No. 15 UC Santa Barbara. They tied for first in the eastern division of the Southeastern Conference. After an easy first round win, the Gators gave eventual national champion Stanford a scare but lost 3-2. Florida concluded last season with a 28-5 mark.

If Notre Dame plans to show the nation's elite it belongs, the Irish will have to rely on Tarutis' leadership on offense.

Tarutis, as always, kept the



BETH WERNET/The Observer

Sophomore Ellen Heintzman bumps the ball in Notre Dame's 3-0 victory over Michigan Aug. 27 at the Joyce Center.

Irish offense flowing smoothly and methodically in Notre Dame's own tournament with her quick decision-making with the ball.

She acknowledged she takes pride in getting the attack going.

"I do [take pride], because when you get the offense started, it gives a lot of confidence to the team, if you get a big kill," she said.

The 5-foot-8 leader was so quick Sunday against Arizona State, she got to the volleyball when she wasn't even in position. Tarutis "pancaked" a ball, which is when a diving player lays her hand completely flat on the court in order to bounce the ball off to a teammate waiting to bump it over the net. Tarutis downplayed her seemingly miraculous play.

"I wasn't in the right position, and if I didn't go all out, then I wasn't going to get the ball," she said. "There are a couple of times when [pancaking] is necessary, but it's not technically good."

Conventional or not, she'll do whatever it takes to help her team win.

The pancake gave Notre

Dame its 10th point in the deciding fifth game against a scrappy Arizona State squad. The Irish won the match 30-20, 28-30, 21-30, 30-23, 15-10, in part because of Tarutis' hustle and 65 set assists.

Tarutis will need to continue to lead the Irish attack. She is still without fellow sophomore starters Ellen Heintzman and Adrianna Stasiuk, who are questionable for tonight's match against USC. Heintzman, who injured her knee in the first match of the season, practiced this week some and will likely play. Stasiuk has been out the entire season so far because of an off-season rib injury. She has done "minimal" workouts in practices. Coach Debbie Brown is unsure of when her outside hitter will return.

Still, the Irish have a hoard of capable players to keep their early season momentum rolling. And while there's a long way to go on the road to the Final Four, the Irish might as well get used to celebrating in the Alamodome.

Contact Tom Dorwart at tdorwart@nd.edu



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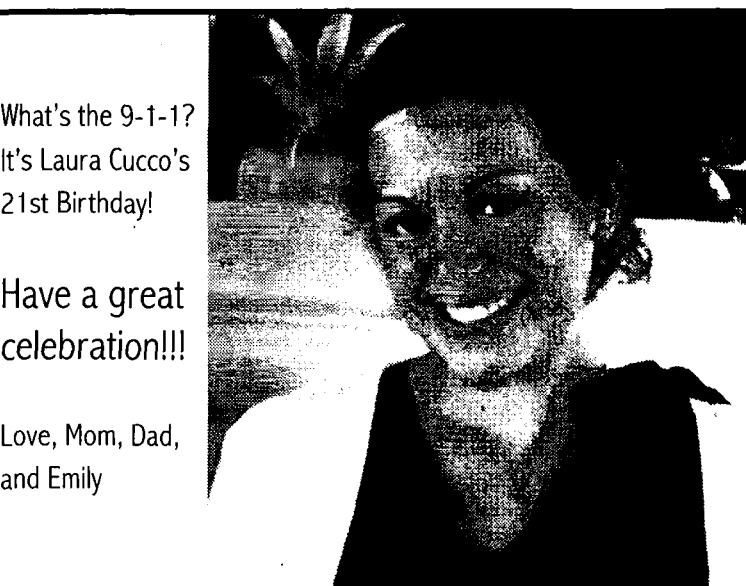
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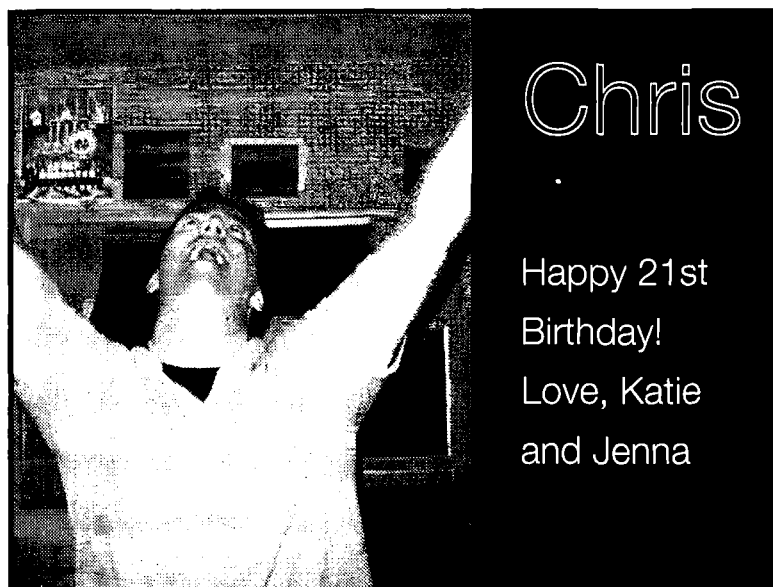
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What's the 9-1-1?
It's Laura Cucco's
21st Birthday!

Have a great
celebration!!!

Love, Mom, Dad,
and Emily



Chris

Happy 21st
Birthday!
Love, Katie
and Jenna

Broncos

continued from page 24

the season with an 11-0 win over New Hampshire, then followed that performance with a 6-1 victory over Vermont.

Last weekend, Notre Dame defeated No. 13 Florida (4-1) and No. 24 Maryland (6-0) to capture the 2005 Inn at Saint Mary's Notre Dame Classic title.

That dominance may help the Irish stay fresh against better opponents. Head coach Randy Waldrum was able to remove almost every starter for the final 25 minutes against Maryland.

"We've really got the kids to

"We've really got the kids to buy into this idea that each player may have to give up playing time for the benefit of the team in the long run."

Randy Waldrum
Irish coach

buy into this idea that each player may have to give up some playing time for the benefit of the team in the long run — to keep us healthy," he said.

Notre Dame must capitalize on that by continuing its devastating ball control and excellent offensive communication if the team is to keep dominating.

So far, it has worked. Irish second semester freshman Kerri Hanks attempted 27 shots and scored 10 goals in her first four games, and Thorlakson has 17 points (5G-7A).

However, they will be facing preseason All-American goalie Julie Ryder and a Broncos defense that has allowed just

one goal in 300 minutes of play this year.

Hanks said that although the team realizes the enormity of this early-season match-up, the Irish wouldn't look past other opponents in the run-up to the contest.

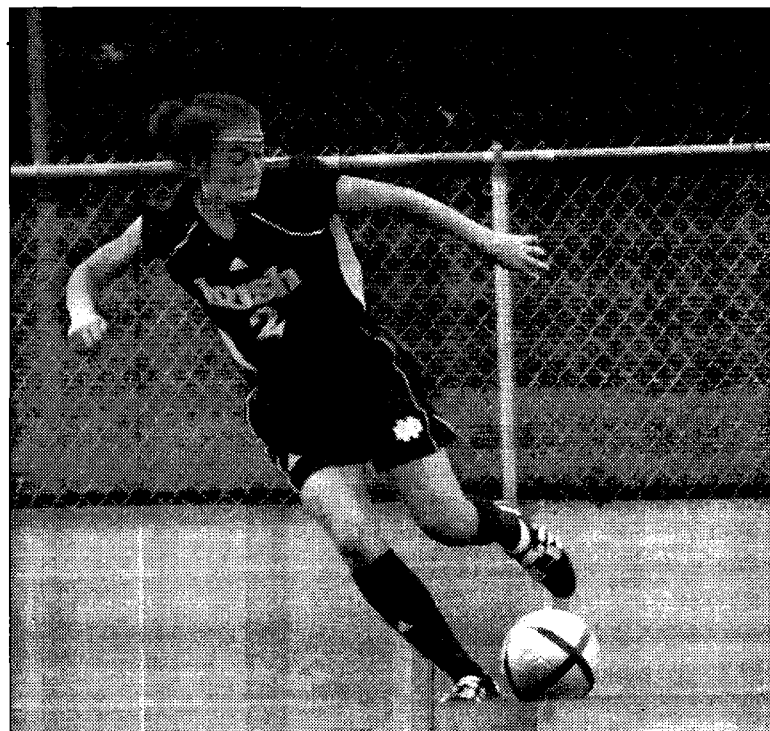
"There's no way we can look ahead," she said. "[Before a game], we can't even look ahead to the next weekend."

The Irish counter in goal with Erika Bohn, herself a solid veteran with a national title under her belt.

She will have to contend with offensive standouts Tina Estrada, Tiffany Roberts and Brittany Klein. Estrada led the Broncos with 21 points and 67 shots last year.

The game begins at 7 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time and will be broadcast live on Comcast Sports Net West, with delayed broadcasts on local affiliates.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu



BETH WERNET/The Observer

Forward Kerri Hanks attempts to gain control of the ball during Notre Dame's 6-0 victory over Maryland Sept. 4 at Alumni Field.

Mendoza

continued from page 24

said he feels as though this season he doesn't get as tired as a result of the strength program.

"It has definitely improved my game," the sophomore said. "Getting out there playing and running the ball, I'm not as tired now. When you know you can get out there and do the job and not have to worry about being tired, it makes your job a lot easier."

And the Irish have also benefited from their new facility, the Guglielmino Athletics Complex. The Haggard Fitness Center is twice the size of the team's old facility in Loftus. It contains more than 250 pieces of weight training equipment in addition

to six plasma screen televisions. The adjacent room consists of a 45x18 turf field for workouts and exercises. Next to that is a 50-yard track for speed workouts.

"Best in the country," said Mendoza, who formerly coached at the University of Mississippi. "I left Ole Miss building a new weight room and coming to this situation and having a little bit to say what was going on here — it's the best in the country."

And Mendoza used the Irish facility to push his players. He installed a "110 test" in which the Irish had to complete 18 consecutive 110-meter runs with a 30 second rest. Skill players had to finish each in 16 seconds, all others in 19.

"I think the conditioning that we received, the team as a

whole, was a lot different than any of us ever received," Walker said. "So I would definitely say the training and the conditioning that we received from Coach Mendoza kind of put us over the top."

Mendoza is a coach who prides himself in having players who are in shape.

"My philosophy's always been about being in great shape," he said. "I think when you come into camp being in great shape, I think you're focused on what you're doing. At the same time, it builds confidence in what you're doing."

While most high school players think they need to put on weight before they get to college, Mendoza said he stresses another part of the game — conditioning.

"One of the things I empha-

size to our freshmen coming in, I don't emphasize for them to work on their strength gain, I tell them they need to come in being in shape," Mendoza said. "The first thing we send them is the conditioning manual."

Mendoza also said the Irish had to adapt to some new exercises, such as squatting, which develops the legs.

"These kids have never squatted," he said. "My first week they struggled with 315 pounds. We've made some big kids. Most of these kids are at 550 pounds. When I left Ole Miss we

had three kids that squatted over 700 pounds. Not that that's what we need to work to, but I like to get these kids to where they're squatting 600 pounds."

And with the "Gug" complete, Mendoza has the perfect facility to help him achieve his goals with the Irish.

"We've made improvements over the summer," he said. "We're not where we need to be, but we're moving in the right direction."

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvanhoeg@nd.edu

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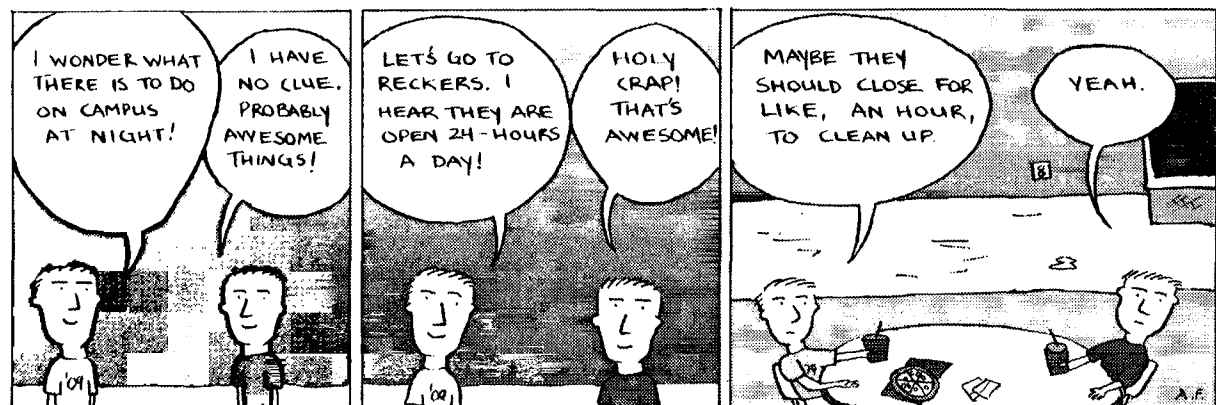
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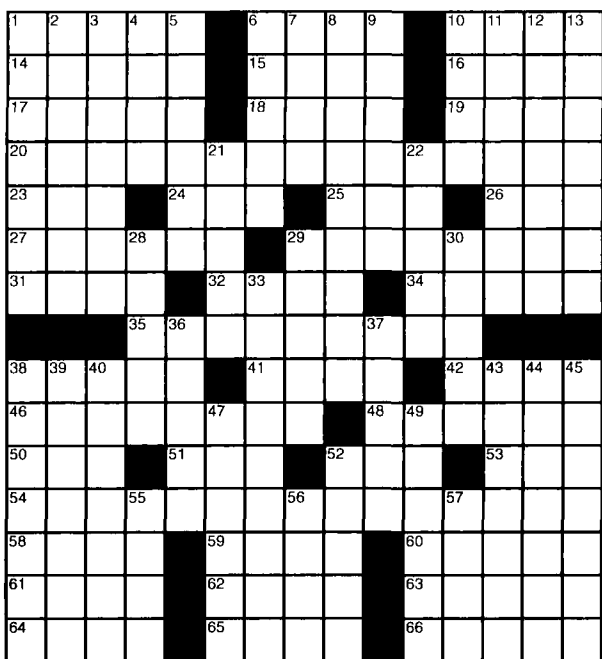
ADAM FAIRHOLM



CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- 1 Receive excitedly
 - 6 Some security aids
 - 10 Start of a Parisian protest
 - 14 2004 French Open finalist — Dementieva
 - 15 Blue material
 - 16 Something passed in courts
 - 17 Up
 - 18 Prepare to be shot
 - 19 First name in mystery
 - 20 Spat-beginning words
 - 23 Married mujer: Abbr.
 - 24 Tho lead-in
 - 25 To be, in Barcelona
 - 26 Meal source
 - 27 Least exciting
 - 29 Poisoned item in "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs"
 - 31 "Annuity coepts" appears on them
 - 32 Asian leader who had a Ph.D. from Princeton
 - 34 Beat by a bit, with "out"
 - 35 Track event?
 - 38 Craps loser
 - 41 Son of Leah
 - 42 1589-92 teaching venue for Galileo
 - 46 Hunter of fish
 - 48 Some psalms
 - 50 Laugh syllable
 - 51 How-___
 - 52 Boot holder
 - 53 Countdown presenters
 - 54 Spat-ending words
 - 58 WB sitcom
 - 59 Piece of mind?
 - 60 Yemeni port famous for its coffee
 - 61 Lacking volume
 - 62 Make or break
 - 63 Get ___ out of
 - 64 They're often 9-Down
 - 65 Tag line?
 - 66 Kind of mythology that influenced Tolkien
- DOWN**
- 1 Engenders
 - 2 #3 or #4, say
 - 3 Pumpkin, e.g.
 - 4 Newton, for one
 - 5 States one's case?
 - 6 House shower
 - 7 Marc Antony's love
 - 8 The Super Bowl, to a football fan
 - 9 Lit
 - 10 Look out for?
 - 11 Paints the town red
 - 12 Stag
 - 13 Fell hard?
 - 21 Tank swimmer
 - 22 Kharg Island resident
 - 28 Name on a compact



Puzzle by Kyle Mahowald

- 29 Bridget's portrayer in "Bridget Jones's Diary"
- 30 Old man
- 33 Sledding sites
- 36 Ranch in Ferber's "Giant"
- 37 Lake of "Hairspray"
- 38 Some souvenirs
- 39 Boot
- 40 Dish served on toast
- 43 Speedway racer
- 44 Home to the Big East's Red Storm
- 45 Take the edge off
- 47 Chocolate giant
- 49 Torpedo
- 52 Tars
- 55 Geiger of Geiger counter fame
- 56 Actress Polo
- 57 Sundowner

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.20 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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STARR ALOU EQUI
PATTI ZEUS SURE
CHESS MATCH TASS
ALS SPAR HIYA
HUGELY AUJUS
ESPOSITO SPRINT
DARC CHECK ABIE
TRIKES WHOSNEXT
VIXEN PEEKAT
YEAH DIN EPI
ZING GRADEDEXAM
ONEA NAPA AMIGA
ROOM USER LILAC
ANNE SETS STENS

JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SOOGE
RAALT
HERETT
ENMECT

Print answer here:



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Yesterday's Jumbles: ADAPT BURLY CONVEX DREDGE
Answer: What kind of outfit did she buy when she lost weight? — "REDUCED"

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jonathan Taylor Thomas, 24; Pink, 26; Heather Thomas, 48; Ann Beattie, 58

Happy Birthday: You'll have enough to contend with this year just trying to keep up with all the changes going on. Once you stop trying to keep everything the same, you'll discover that going with the grain can be to your advantage. As the year progresses, you'll realize that you do pretty good thinking on your feet. Your numbers are 16, 19, 26, 32, 37, 43

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Money should be on your mind. Pay down debt you've accumulated. A sudden streak of good luck is apparent -- coming into money, favorable contracts, deals or even receiving a gift. ***
TAURUS (April 20-May 20): It will be impossible to hide your feelings or disregard what others say today, so speak your mind. A chance to start a new hobby will help spice up your day. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't let personal issues stop you from getting ahead professionally. An opportunity to move to a new position is present. Take a chance if it will leave you with greater options. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): This is the perfect time to do your research or discuss your interests with someone in the know. Travel and learning will be important. Love and romance can be yours if you are receptive. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't limit yourself because someone is pressuring you to do things his or her way. Voice your opinion so you aren't blamed for someone else's shortsightedness. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Talk over a situation you are facing professionally with someone who can relate to what you're going through. Someone who is having trouble with an educational or financial establishment may need your help. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A change may not be what you expect, but it will be good for you. Don't let insecurity lead you to a poor career choice. A unique approach to love and relationships will bring far more interest than being too aggressive. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't get dragged into secret matters that could make you look bad later. Be discreet and ethical, even if the people you are dealing with lack integrity. You are likely to experience an emotional change. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be careful whom you trust with information about work and your co-workers. Someone may try to twist your words. A favor will be granted if you ask, but be prepared to offer one in return. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll feel sorry for someone who is in dire need of assistance. Do as much as you can for others. Your ability to take care of business should lead to advancement of some sort. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will have no trouble attracting love, but don't count on being told the whole truth. You may be led astray; you will have to defend yourself and your reputation. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Plan something fun that will bring you in contact with friends and new acquaintances. A creative project will catapult you into the limelight. *****

Birthday Baby: You have grace, charm and plenty of creative ability. You are versatile, adventurous and a very loyal friend. You are a powerhouse whenever anyone needs your help.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

THE OBSERVER

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ND WOMEN'S SOCCER

Team locks horns with No. 5 Broncos

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

In what is likely to be the team's toughest game of the regular season — and one of the best matchups of national powerhouses this year — No. 1 Notre Dame challenges No. 5 Santa Clara in the SCU adidas Classic



Waldrum

tonight.

The Broncos enter the game with a 2-0-1 record after beating Virginia Tech Sunday, and come off a season in which they reached the College Cup semifinals — a game they lost to the Irish.

Santa Clara traveled to South Bend early last season to play in the Inn at Saint Mary's Notre Dame Classic. This year, the roles are reversed. The Broncos play host to the tournament they call "El Classico," and the Irish play the role of the highly-ranked visiting foe.

Notre Dame emerged victorious from both contests last season. The Irish won the first game by a score of 5-2, though the game was much closer than the line indicates.

After the two teams battled closely for the first 80 minutes, Irish forward Katie Thorlakson scored two of her three goals and added one of her two assists in the final 10 minutes. In a dazzling stretch of just three minutes, 39 seconds, she netted five points and took the game's outcome out of question. Their second meeting would

have no such offensive outburst. Candace Chapman scored the national semifinal's only goal on a give-and-go with Thorlakson at 72:02.

The Irish then defeated UCLA 1-1 (4-3 on penalty kicks) to capture the national title.

The Broncos beat Arizona 2-0 to start the season, but tied No. 21 Wake Forest 0-0 after two overtimes a week ago.

The Irish have won all four of their opening games in convincing fashion. The team opened

see BRONCOS/page 22

ND WOMEN'S X-C

Younger runners compete

Veterans to remain at home for meet

By RYAN KIEFER
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame women's cross country team will not send any of its top runners to the season-opening meet, the Valparaiso Invitational, slated to take place this afternoon.

For any other team, this may seem like questionable coaching strategy, but Irish coach Tim Connelly has a plan.

He will save his best runners for later in the season, allowing them to get more uninterrupted training before they compete in any races.

This will allow them to be in peak shape for the most important races, including the conference, regional and NCAA meets, all of which take place in late October or early November.

It's difficult to argue with Connelly's philosophy. It has earned Notre Dame three consecutive NCAA top-10 finishes, including a fourth-place result last fall.

see VALPO/page 20

FOOTBALL

Packing a punch

Strength and conditioning coach Ruben Mendoza directs the Irish

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Writer

Last week the Irish line didn't give up a sack, helped its running backs rush for 275 yards and chased the play all game.

Credit strength and conditioning coach Ruben Mendoza for the stamina that the line showed.

"I think he does a great job," offensive line coach John Latina said. "It doesn't surprise me that our kids are in pretty good shape."

Running back Darius Walker



Photo courtesy of Notre Dame Sports Information

Featuring more than 250 pieces of weight training equipment and six plasma televisions, the Haggard Fitness Center in the new Guglielmino Athletics Complex is considered one of the nation's best.

see MENDOZA/page 22

MEN'S SOCCER

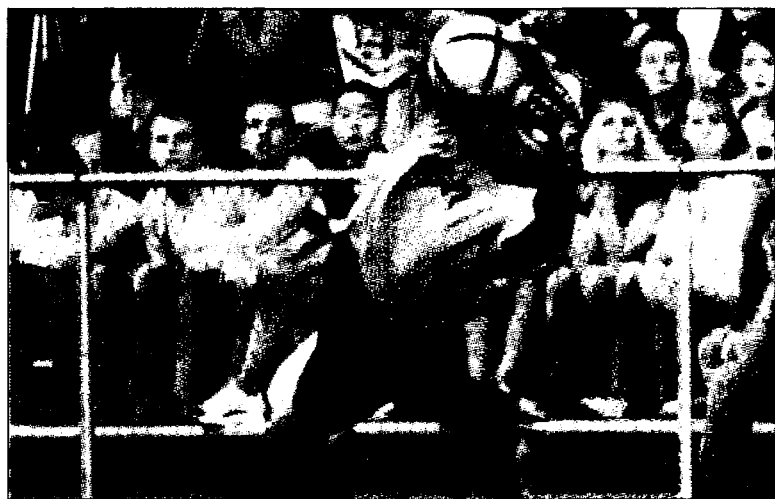
Irish set to host tournament

By KATE GALES
Associate Sports Editor

Before the long road trips and exhausting injuries, when every team harbors dreams of a national title and every freshman is full of potential, there are the tournaments.

For the Irish, there is one very important tournament — the Mike Berticelli Memorial Tournament, which Notre Dame hosts annually at the beginning of the season.

In the midst of dizzying non-conference schedules,



Observer File Photo

Irish goalie Chris Cahill makes a spectacular diving save in Notre Dame's 1-1 exhibition tie against New Mexico Aug. 22.

see BERTICELLI/page 21

ND VOLLEYBALL

Squad to face tough competition at Rally

By TOM DORWART
Sports Writer

The Irish hope to celebrate a championship this weekend.

It's September, and they're already at the Final Four — the site of it, anyway.

This weekend Notre Dame (3-0) heads to San Antonio for the University of Texas-San Antonio Dome Rally at the Alamodome. The Irish don't want to get too far ahead of themselves, but the city of River Walk is right where they want to be in December.

"We still have a lot to work on, obviously," sophomore setter Ashley Tarutis said.

Though they will face two top-10 teams in No. 8 Southern California (2-2) and No. 6 Florida (5-0) as well as Big 12 foe Oklahoma (4-1), the No. 19 Irish won't consider a tournament championship an upset.

"[Last weekend's success] gave us a lot of confidence to be able to play with a lot of highly ranked teams," said Tarutis, who made The Inn at

see RALLY/page 21

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

MEN'S X-C

Crusader Invitational

Today

Younger Irish runners traveling to Valparaiso for meet.

page 20

SMC VOLLEYBALL

Wooster College Invitational

Today-Saturday

Belles hope to improve 1-4 start to season.

page 20

ND WOMEN'S GOLF

Notre Dame Invitational

Saturday-Sunday

Irish set to host 17-team field at Warren Golf Course.

page 18

SMC GOLF

Notre Dame Invitational

Saturday-Sunday

Belles ready to compete in Notre Dame's tournament.

page 18

SMC SOCCER

Saint Mary's at Hope College

Saturday

The Belles travel to Holland, Mich. to battle rival Flying Dutch.

page 17

MLB — NL

Giants slugger Barry Bonds could finally return to action this weekend.

page 17

IRISH INSIDER

Friday, September 9, 2005

THE
OBSERVER



ARRAY OF OPTIONS

Tight end Anthony Fasano is one of the seven Irish players who caught passes at Pittsburgh.

Notre Dame hopes it can successfully spread the ball around again at the Big House Saturday.

ND-Michigan always memorable

ESPN Classic has the game circled on its calendar every year — the game when Rocket Ismail returned two kicks for touchdowns. The game when Desmond Howard struck the Heisman pose in the end zone. The game when Harry Oliver lined up for an impossible 51-yard field goal, then booted it through the uprights. It's winged helmets vs. golden helmets. Hail to the Victors vs. The Victory March. The Big House vs. The House that Rock Built. It's a game of names. Tim Biakabutuka and Autry Denson. Elvis Grbac and Kevin McDougal. Butch Woolfork and Michael Stonebreaker. Bo Schembechler and Lou Holtz. It's Version 2005 of Notre Dame-Michigan. One of the most competitive, colorful and dramatic series in college football kicks off tomorrow and everyone is



Mike Gilloon
Sports Editor

thrilled. Everyone that is, but the teams themselves. Irish tight end Anthony Fasano says it's nothing unusual, simply the second game of the year. So does his teammate Rhema McKnight and Irish coach Charlie Weis. Hot air? Maybe. But if the Irish hope to play well in Ann Arbor, Fasano and Co. must treat Michigan as just another game. Getting too hyped will blur Notre Dame's focus and make an upset of the No. 3 Wolverines even tougher. Weis, who will coach in his first Notre Dame-Michigan game tomorrow, summed up his squad's outlook best. "You have to treat every week the same," Weis said. "You understand the significance of rivalries between different schools. But if you ever treat any team differently, you're just setting yourself up for a fall." Weis showed against Pittsburgh he knows a little bit about coaching. And his attitude will help the Irish

tomorrow. But for followers of Michigan, Notre Dame and sports in general, tomorrow is the closest college football comes to theater. Since 1978 — when the series resumed after a 35-year hiatus — the average margin of victory has been 6.4 points (not counting, of course, the 38-0 Michigan romp in 2003). Tomorrow should be no different than in recent years, except for one thing: Notre Dame finally knows it can win. Irish quarterback Brady Quinn remarked after last week's game that it is nice to play with confidence, not with the nervousness of the past that caused him to fire footballs over receiver's heads and Travis Thomas to drop them on the ground. Weis said after the Pittsburgh game the players were starting to realize they were better than they thought they were. He's right. They are better than they thought they were — better than last year's team, better than

"You have to treat every game the same ... if you ever treat any team differently you're just setting yourself up for a fall."

Charlie Weis
Irish coach

Pittsburgh and possibly better than Michigan. Yes, Michigan is in the top five as usual, and there's a reason for that. Steve Breaston, Chad Henne, Jason Avant, Mike Hart and the rest of the Maize and Blue are good football players. Very good football players. But the Irish aren't pushovers. They have a Parade All-American offensive line; a running back named Darius Walker who could start for any team in the country; a defensive tackle named Trevor Laws who is only a law degree short of being Chris Zorich; and Quinn. Tomorrow is the biggest game of his three-year career. He was heavily recruited by the Wolverines. Michigan wanted him. But Quinn wanted Notre Dame. Barring injury he's likely to go down as the Irish career-leader in most passing categories. But that means little if he doesn't win the big games — and none are bigger than Notre Dame-Michigan. Enjoy the show.

The opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Mike Gilloon at mgilloon@nd.edu

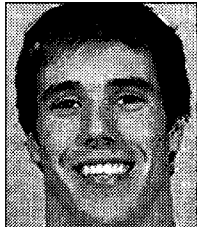
game hype



Charlie Weis
Irish head coach

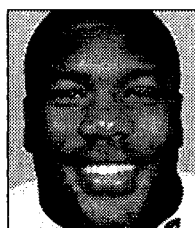
"We still have a lot to prove. There are still a lot of people out there that doubt us."

"Every bit of energy ... we have to put into just trying to beat Michigan."



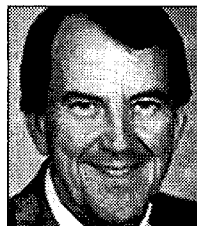
Brady Quinn
Irish quarterback

"[When] a team can play two big games back to back ... [that's] when champions are made."



Brandon Hoyte
Irish linebacker

"We're looking forward to one of the great rivalries we have here at Michigan."



Lloyd Carr
Wolverines head coach

Nine Days of Prayer

and solidarity with our sisters and brothers who have struggled through the trauma of Hurricane

Katrina

A profound word of thanks to the entire Notre Dame community — students, faculty, and staff — who helped to contribute for relief efforts over the weekend.

A nine day period of prayer and solidarity

CONTINUES TODAY, SEPTEMBER 7 through

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6:30 – 6:45PM in the

BASILICA OF THE SACRED HEART

Mass on the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, Thursday, September 15 at 5:15PM, will conclude the nine days of prayer.



Campus Ministry

Spreading the wealth

Irish offense is diverse and effective, but this week will be a true test

By **HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN**
Sports Writer

One play went for negative yards and the rest combined to produce 502 — 227 yards in the air and 275 on the ground.

In last week's 42-21 drubbing of Pittsburgh, new head coach and former New England Patriots offensive coordinator Charlie Weis showcased his offense for the first time on the college level. And against Michigan Saturday, the same offense must be near-perfect for the Irish to have a chance against the No. 3 Wolverines.

In the air

Irish quarterback Brady Quinn thrived last week, completing 18-of-27 passes for 227 yards and two touchdowns.

He also rushed for a career high 49 yards on five carries.

The third-year starter is just settling into the offense under Weis. Saturday will present another test.

In 2003, Quinn threw ten passes at Michigan Stadium, gaining experience in Notre Dame's 38-0 loss. And he knows the over 110,000 fans will present a challenge for his offense.

"I think the biggest thing is you've got to make sure everyone is relaxed and focused, because communicating back and forth between the o-line, the wide receivers, everyone on the field is going to be the biggest key," Quinn said at his press conference Wednesday. "Obviously, there's a lot that can happen when the noise level goes up. Guys start losing their focus and let other things become a focus, so that's going to be the biggest factor — making sure guys are relaxed and focused."

Quinn was the starter last season when the Irish beat Tennessee at Neyland Stadium, one of college football's loudest places to play, but he also remembers two years ago when the crowd noise affected the Irish at "The Big House."

"Two years ago at Michigan the crowd noise was pretty heavy there, obviously, with 110,000 that had to play a big factor," Quinn said. "It was one of those situations where I think our team had to resort to silent counts. We adjusted pretty well with it at Tennessee last year, but not so well at Michigan two years ago."

But if Saturday is anything like last week, the junior will have plenty of options in the air. Last week he completed passes to seven different receivers, with tight end Anthony Fasano leading the way.

"It means you have a lot of options [throwing to seven receivers]," wide receiver Rhema McKnight said. "If you have a lot of options, people don't really know who you're going to. It keeps a lot of defenses off balance."

Junior receiver Jeff Samardzija had a 19-yard diving touchdown catch in the second quarter, the first of his career. And three of Quinn's

completions went to running back Darius Walker, who also had his first career touchdown reception — a 51-yard screen pass in the first quarter.

"It's a part of the game that has really increased in me as far as skill level goes," the sophomore Walker said. "Being able to catch the ball out of the backfield is something that a running back needs to do ... and it keeps the defense on their toes."

Even Weis was pleased with that play on Saturday.

"I think maybe my favorite play of the whole game, besides running it in the red zone, was the posse that was in front of Darius on that screen pass," Weis said Tuesday. "All three receivers were there; linemen were there; tight ends were there. I mean, everybody was there, and it brings a smile to the coaches' faces when you see that many guys hustling until the play is over."

McKnight, who had three catches for 51 yards last week, said the receivers can be a solid group.

"I feel we have the opportunity to go out and be the best receiving group in the nation," the senior said. "And the way we go about doing it is [by] preparing ourselves during the week and hopefully performing on Saturdays."

Brady Quinn
Irish quarterback

On the ground
As much as Walker likes to catch the ball, his main task is to run, and run he does. The sophomore ran for 100 of the Irish's 275 yards rushing Saturday. He was joined in the backfield by Rashon Powers-Neal, Asaph Schwapp and Travis Thomas.

Walker's vision, however, is what makes him stand out, and Weis recognizes this. "Obviously we don't want to take too many risks as far as

going east and west on the field," Weis said. "We always prefer to be going north and south. Sometimes if you have a running back with great instincts, you have to let him play."

And Walker said when he plays, he lets his instincts take over.

"I think out there on the field you just have to feel it," he said. "It's not really something you think about when you're out there running. But I know when the game is over the coaches will let you know if you're doing too much east-west."

Powers-Neal, meanwhile, scored more touchdowns last week in one game than he has in his career — three, to be exact. The senior ran for 41 yards on eight carries and caught one pass.

But now it's No. 3 Michigan, and Walker, who burst onto the scene last season with 115 yards rushing and two touchdowns against Michigan in Notre Dame's 28-20 victory, said this week is no different for him.

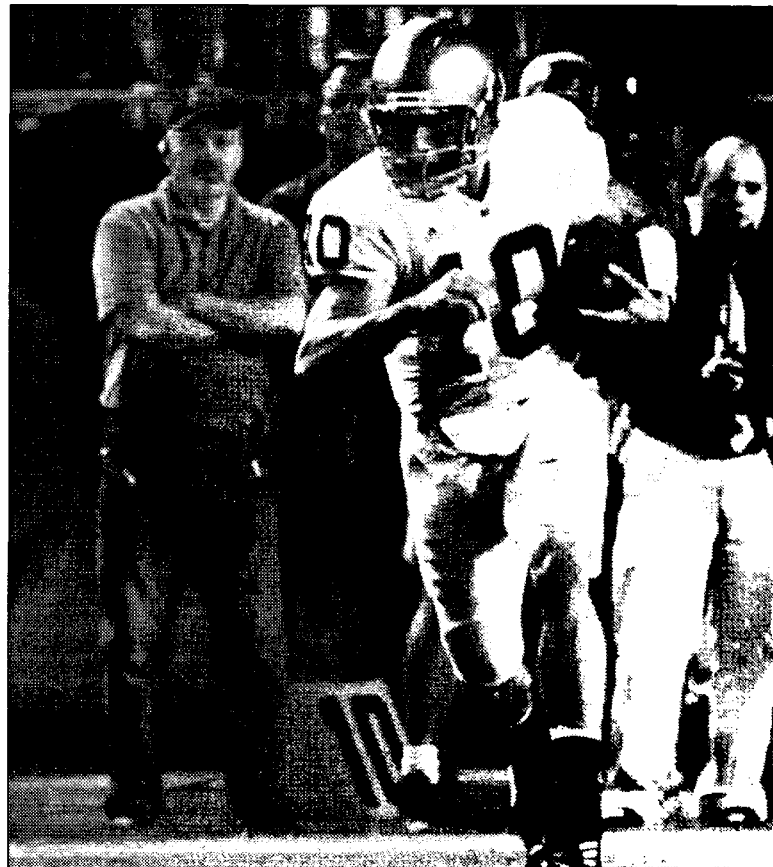
"We have our goals set of what we need to do to go out there and be productive and to be successful," Walker said. "This Michigan game is no different from another game."

In the trenches

On Saturday, the rotation of four inside offensive linemen — Bob Morton, Dan Stevenson, Dan Santucci and John Sullivan — seemed to work well. The line, including Ryan Harris and Mark Levoir, was moving upfield and following the ball all game. Something the Irish coaching staff has put great emphasis on.

"We try to get that done in practice, make that a habit for them in practice and hopefully that carries over to the game," offensive line coach John Latina said.

"I thought our kids chased downfield and were downfield on some screen plays making some blocks."



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Irish quarterback Brady Quinn scrambles during Notre Dame's 42-21 win over Pittsburgh last week.

The rotation of four is not only talented but experienced. All four saw significant playing time last season, and the non-starter, Sullivan, was a starter in 2004.

Harris was also a starter last season. And Latina said having that group rotating is a plus for the Irish.

"We felt like all along that we have four inside guys that we feel really good about," he said. "They are all very capable of playing for us and that's a good thing. You wish you had more than what we have, because the more guys you can play, the fresher you stay and the better the situation is."

We like that situation we have."

A true test

This week the Irish offense will be forced to deal with the

noise at Michigan Stadium. Weis had his team practice silent snaps earlier in the week, in addition to simulating noise so they couldn't hear each other in the huddle.

"The Big House' is 'The Big House', but there's ways to prepare for it," Samardzija said. "I think we're pretty adjusted to it. We go week-in and week-out with crowd noises in big stadiums, so I think we'll be fine with it."

And McKnight doesn't care what happened in the past with Michigan — he is focused on Saturday's game only. "At this point I'm not concerned about what happened last year, the past two years, last week," he said. "All I'm concerned about is beating Michigan this year."

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvanhoeg@nd.edu



MATT SMEDBERG/The Observer

Irish running back Darius Walker focuses on the ball during practice Wednesday. Walker ran for 100 yards in the win over Pittsburgh.

by the numbers

The year Notre Dame last won in Michigan Stadium. The No. 11 Irish defeated the No. 3 Wolverines, 27-23. **1993**

28 Career TD passes by Brady Quinn, tied for fifth in Irish history with Heisman Trophy winner Angelo Bertelli.

Consecutive games Michigan has won at home against all opponents. **16**

1887 Year of the first contest between Notre Dame and Michigan. The Wolverines won, 8-0.

First downs the Irish recorded last week, the most since tallying 34 against Georgia Tech in 1997. **33**

29 First downs Michigan recorded last week against Northern Illinois.

Notre Dame's national rank in both all-time victories and winning percentage. **2**

1 Michigan's national rank in both all-time victories and winning percentage.

Notre Dame
Fighting Irish
Record: 1-0
AP: 20
Coaches: 23



Charlie Weis
head coach

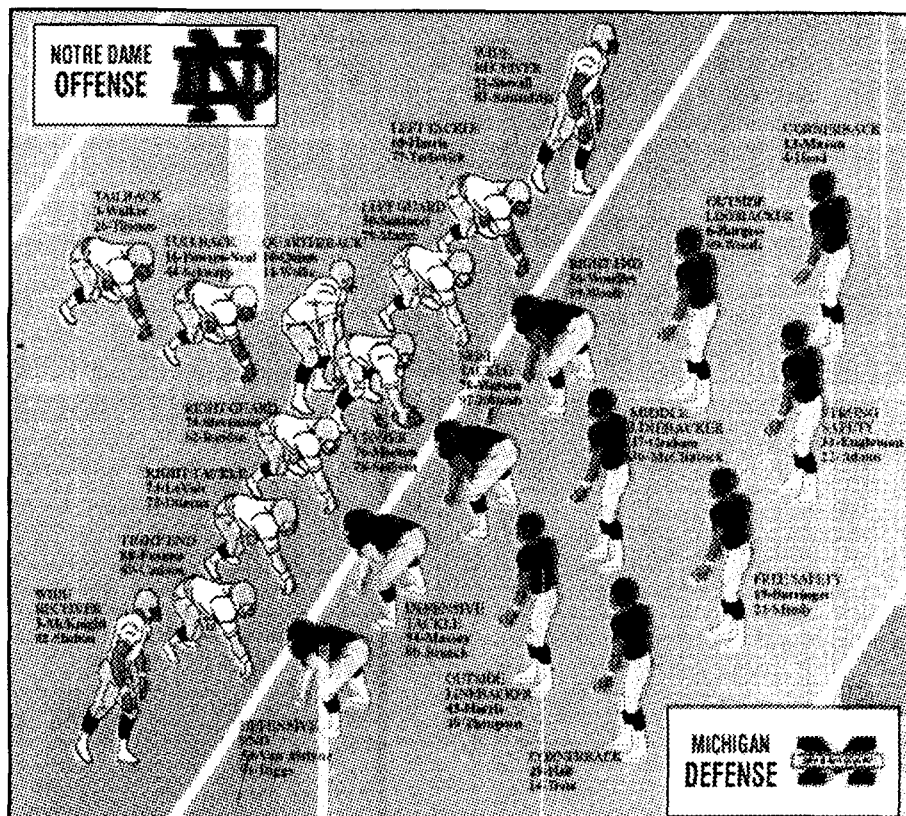
Charlie Weis
first season at
Notre Dame
career record:
1-0
at Notre Dame:
1-0
against
Michigan: 0-0

Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	YR
1	D.J. Hord	WR	6-1	198	FR
3	Darius Walker	RB	5-11	200	SO
4	Anthony Vernaglia	DB	6-3	221	SO
5	Rhema McKnight	WR	6-1	215	SR
6	Ray Herring	DB	6-0	199	FR
7	Darrin Bragg	WR	6-1	192	SO
8	Junior Jabbie	RB	6-0	188	SO
9	Tom Zbikowski	DB	5-11	203	JR
10	Brady Quinn	QB	6-4	231	JR
11	David Grimes	WR	6-0	170	FR
12	Marty Mooney	QB	6-2	207	SR
13	Evan Sharpley	QB	6-2	207	FR
14	David Wolfe	QB	6-2	196	FR
15	Leo Ferrine	DB	6-0	186	SO
16	Rashon Powers-Neal	RB	6-3	238	SR
17	Geoffrey Price	P	6-3	186	SR
17	Dan Gorski	QB	6-3	196	FR
18	Chinedum Ndukwe	DB	6-2	219	JR
19	D.J. Fitzpatrick	K/P	6-2	206	SR
20	Terrail Lambert	DB	5-11	188	SO
21	Maurice Stovall	WR	6-5	222	SR
22	Ambrose Wooden	CB	5-11	197	JR
23	Chase Anastasio	WR	6-2	203	JR
23	W. David Williams	DB	5-10	170	SO
24	Brandon Erickson	WR	6-0	178	SO
25	Nate Schiccato	DL	6-2	237	SR
26	Wade Iams	DB	5-9	188	SO
26	Travis Thomas	RB	6-0	215	JR
27	David Bruton	DB	6-2	187	FR
27	John Lyons	RB	6-1	205	JR
28	Kyle McCarthy	DB	6-0	189	FR
29	LaBrose Hedgemon	DB	5-9	190	JR
30	Mike Richardson	DB	5-11	193	SR
31	Jake Carney	DB	6-0	187	SR
32	Jeff Jenkins	RB	6-0	232	SR
32	Alvin Reynolds	DB	5-10	180	SO
33	Justin Hoskins	RB	5-10	186	SO
34	Tommie Lee	DB	6-2	200	JR
35	Ashley McConnell	RB	6-0	247	JR
35	Tim Kenney	DB	6-0	180	JR
36	Brandon Harris	DB	6-0	198	SR
37	Junior Jabbie	DB	5-11	190	FR
37	Matt Mitchell	DB	5-8	187	SR
38	Nick Possley	WR	6-1	183	SO
39	Brandon Hoyte	LB	6-0	236	SR
40	Maurice Crum, Jr.	LB	6-0	220	SO
41	Scott Smith	LB	6-3	234	FR
42	Kevin Washington	LB	6-1	231	FR
43	Anthony Salvador	LB	6-2	233	SR
44	Asaph Schwapp	RB	6-0	250	FR
45	Carl Gioia	K	5-10	183	JR
45	Rich Whitney	DB	6-2	213	JR
46	Corey Mays	LB	6-1	234	SR
47	Mitchell Thomas	LB	6-3	240	JR
48	Steve Quinn	LB	6-2	220	JR
49	Matt Augustyn	FB	6-3	220	JR
50	Dan Santucci	OL	6-4	290	SR
52	Joe Brockington	LB	6-1	212	JR
53	Joseph Boland	LB	6-2	242	SR
54	David Fitzgerald	OL	6-4	293	SR
57	Nick Borsetti	LB	6-4	238	JR
57	Dwight Stephenson	DL	6-2	252	JR
58	Abdel Banda	LB	6-1	220	SO
59	James Bent	OL	6-2	265	SR
60	Casey Cullen	DL	6-1	238	JR
61	J.J. Jansen	LS	6-3	242	SO
62	Scott Raridon	OL	6-7	304	SR
63	Jeff Tisak	OL	6-3	305	FR
66	Derek Landri	DL	6-3	263	SR
68	Ryan Harris	OL	6-5	288	JR
69	Neil Kennedy	DL	5-11	260	SR
71	James Bonelli	OL	6-5	280	SR
72	Paul Duncan	OL	6-7	292	FR
73	Mark LeVoi	OL	6-7	311	SR
74	Dan Stevenson	OL	6-6	292	SR
75	Chris Frome	DL	6-5	268	SR
76	Bob Morton	OL	6-4	292	SR
77	Michael Turkovich	OL	6-6	290	FR
78	John Sullivan	OL	6-4	298	JR
79	Brian Mattes	OL	6-6	285	SR
81	Rob Woods	WR	6-2	208	SR
82	Matt Shelton	WR	6-0	172	SR
83	Jeff Samardzija	WR	6-5	216	JR
84	Michael O'Hara	WR	5-10	180	SR
85	Joey Hibben	TE	6-4	243	FR
85	Mike Talerico	TE	6-5	255	SO
87	Marcus Freeman	TE	6-3	245	SR
88	Anthony Fasano	TE	6-5	255	SR
89	John Carlson	TE	6-5	255	SR
90	Brian Beidatsch	DL	6-3	294	SR
91	Craig Cardillo	K	6-0	174	JR
92	Derrell Hand	DL	6-3	301	FR
93	Dan Chervanick	DL	6-1	259	SR
94	Justin Brown	DL	6-3	247	SO
95	Victor Abiamiri	DL	6-4	260	JR
96	Bobby Renkes	K	6-0	195	JR
96	Pat Kuntz	DL	6-2	267	FR
98	Trevor Laws	DL	6-1	293	JR
99	Ronald Talley	DL	6-4	261	SO

NOTRE DAME
2005 Schedule

Sept. 3	at Pittsburgh - W
Sept. 10	at Michigan
Sept. 17	MICHIGAN ST.
Sept. 24	at Washington
Oct. 01	at Purdue
Oct. 15	USC
Oct. 22	BYU
Nov. 5	TENNESSEE
Nov. 12	NAVY
Nov. 19	SYRACUSE
Nov. 26	at Stanford



COACHING

Charlie Weis' honeymoon stay with the Irish was extended after the 42-21 win over Pittsburgh. His offensive knowledge is unmatched, especially at the college level. This is his biggest test yet — no Notre Dame head coach has won in Michigan Stadium since Lou Holtz in 1993.

Lloyd Carr is 96-29 in his 11th year as head coach at Michigan. Before that he spent 17 years as a Wolverine assistant and his experience shows — he boasts a 59-6 record in the Big House. He has led Michigan to nine straight New Year's Day bowl games.

Carr has dropped just six home matchups during his career at Michigan. Weis has been a college head coach for a grand total of one game. Though the Irish looked prepared last week, Carr's experience being in charge gives Michigan the advantage.

QUARTERBACKS

Brady Quinn looked every bit the star he is expected to be when he went 14-of-16 in the first half against the Panthers. He connected with seven different receivers last week for 227 yards. This is his third year at the helm of the Irish offense but his first under Weis.

Sophomore Chad Henne is back after a breakout freshman season when he amassed 2,743 passing yards and tied a school record with 25 scoring passes. Last week he was 20-for-31 with 227 yards and two touchdowns. Senior Matt Gutierrez is the backup.

Quinn and Henne are two of the most talented quarterbacks in the country. Henne has some of the best receivers in the nation to throw to. But Quinn is tough, used to the pressure and has Weis' shrewd playcalling to fall back on.

IRISH RUSHING

Darius Walker will start for the Irish after racking up 100 yards and two touchdowns on 20 carries against Pittsburgh. Rashon Powers-Neal scored a career-high three touchdowns at full-back last week, and his straight-ahead attitude complements Walker's flashy style.

Michigan surrendered 211 yards and two scores last week against Northern Illinois. Tackle Gabe Watson and end Pat Massey return as starters for the Wolverines but accounted for only four total tackles Saturday as the squad gave up 4.3 yards per rush.

The Irish line is one of the most experienced ever at Notre Dame. They dominated Pittsburgh last week and hope to do the same to Michigan. Walker will impress fans with another standout performance like his two-touchdown debut against the Wolverines in 2004.

IRISH PASSING

Brady Quinn was efficient last week — a product of his experience and Charlie Weis' playcalling. Fasano, an All-America candidate at tight end, caught four passes for 42 yards against Pittsburgh. Rhema McKnight and Maurice Stovall are solid outlets for Quinn.

Leon Hall is a preseason all-Big Ten cornerback pick and intercepted a pass as Michigan held Northern Illinois to 200 yards and zero scores through the air. The loss of cornerback Marlin Jackson and strong safety Ernest Shazor to the draft will hurt.

The Irish pass offense looked perfect last week in the first half. Quinn will try to spread the receptions around again. Michigan's secondary gave up 200 yards to Northern Illinois and will have problems if they play like that against Notre Dame.

Irish
experts



Pat Leonard
Managing Editor

Michigan provides the ultimate barometer for Notre Dame's progress from last season. Both squads will score a lot in the first half, and the second half will become a slugfest between running games. After the Irish tie the game with a last second field goal, D.J. Fitzpatrick seals the deal in the extra period.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 34
Michigan 31 (OT)



Heather Van
Hoegarden
AME

The Irish will keep this one close, but Michigan's offense is too good. The Wolverines will control the clock on the legs of Mike Hart. Chad Henne will recover from his last outing against the Irish and find tight end Tim Massaquoi enough. Notre Dame puts up a good fight, but Michigan is just too good.

FINAL SCORE: Michigan 31
Notre Dame 14

HEAD

Michigan Wolverines

Michigan Wolverines

Record: 1-0

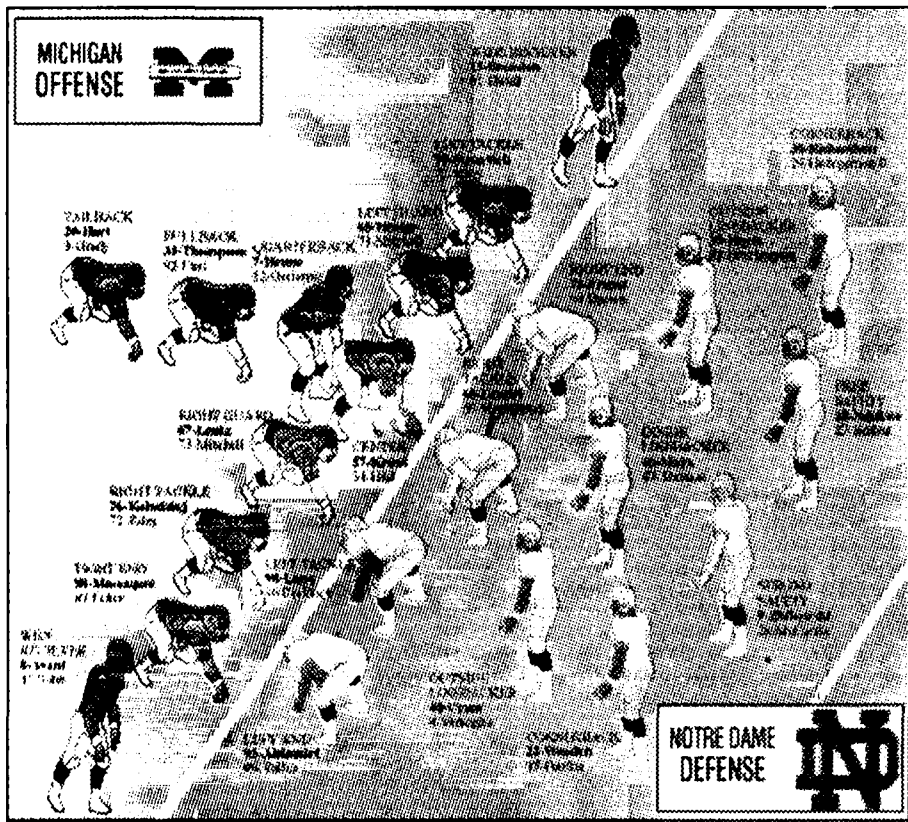
AP: 3

Coaches: 3

Lloyd Carr
11th season at
Michigan
career record:
96-29
at Michigan:
96-29
against Notre
Dome: 3-3



Lloyd Carr
head coach



MICHIGAN 2005 Schedule

Sept. 3	N ILLINOIS - W
Sept. 10	NOTRE DAME
Sept. 17	E MICHIGAN
Sept. 24	at Wisconsin
Oct. 1	at Michigan State
Oct. 8	MINNESOTA
Oct. 15	PENN STATE
Oct. 22	at Iowa
Oct. 29	at Northwestern
Nov. 12	INDIANA
Nov. 19	OHIO STATE

Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	YR.	
2	Shawn Crable	OLB	6-5	247	JR	
3	Kevin Grady	RB	5-9	228	FR	
3	Ross Ryan	P	6-0	206	SR	
4	Darnell Hood	CB	5-11	190	SR	
5	Charles Stewart	CB	6-1	194	SO	
6	Prescott Burgess	LB	6-3	243	JR	
7	Chad Henne	QB	6-2	225	SO	
8	Jason Avant	WR	6-1	213	SR	
8	Matt Wilde	QB	6-2	195	SR	
9	Anton Campbell	S	5-11	198	JR	
12	Matt Guierrez	QB	6-4	232	JR	
12	Landon Smith	WR	5-8	167	JR	
13	Jett Kasil	QB	6-3	223	SR	
13	Grant Mason	CB	6-0	196	SR	
14	Tyrone Jordan II	WR	5-10	186	JR	
14	Morgan Trent	CB	6-0	185	SO	
15	Steve Breaston	WR	6-1	178	SR	
15	Chip Carwright	ILB	6-0	231	SR	
16	Adrian Arrington	WR	6-3	187	SO	
17	James Bloomshurg	PK	5-10	208	SR	
17	Carl Tabb	WR	6-2	192	SR	
18	Antonio Bass	WR	6-0	197	FR	
18	Ben Wright	WR	5-9	182	SO	
19	Willis Barringer	S	6-0	207	SR	
19	Jason Forcier	QB	6-2	214	FR	
20	Mike Hart	RB	5-9	192	SO	
21	Ryan Mundy	S	6-1	204	JR	
22	Jamar Adams	S	6-2	208	SO	
22	Kyle Plummer	CB	5-10	167	JR	
23	Max Martin	RB	6-1	215	SO	
24	Jerome Jackson	RB	5-11	200	JR	
25	Johnny Sears Jr.	CB	6-1	175	FR	
26	Alijah Bradley	RB	5-6	176	SR	
26	Mike Carl	S	6-0	206	SR	
27	Shakir Edwards	DB	6-0	207	SO	
27	Brandon Harrison	CB	5-11	198	FR	
28	Dan Moore	ILB	6-0	226	JR	
28	Chris Richards	CB	5-11	175	FR	
29	Leon Hall	CB	5-11	191	JR	
31	Brandt Englemont	S	5-11	202	JR	
31	Craig Moore	PK	5-10	181	SR	
32	Mister Simpson	RB	6-0	220	FR	
33	Scott Hanel	RB	5-10	207	SR	
34	Jason Ginnell	PK	5-9	183	SO	
35	Brian Thompson	FB	6-2	230	SR	
36	Scott McClintock	ILB	5-11	225	SO	
37	James Logan	DB	5-10	179	SR	
38	B.J. Opong-Owusu	S	5-11	196	SR	
38	Garrett Rivas	PK	5-9	216	JR	
39	Andre Criswell	FB	6-1	248	FR	
40	Obi Oluigbo	FB	6-0	237	SR	
41	Zoltan Mesko	P	6-4	225	FR	
42	Chris McLaurin	LB	6-4	215	FR	
43	Mark Spencer	P	6-0	223	SR	
44	Jason Eldridge	RB	5-8	184	SR	
44	Jim McKinney	RI B	6-3	265	FR	
45	Brad Cusick	WR	6-4	209	SR	
45	David Harris	ILB	6-2	246	FR	
46	Brandon Logan	LB	6-1	218	FR	
49	John Thompson	ILB	6-0	229	SO	
49	Eric Van Beek	LB	6-0	208	SO	
50	Jeremy Van Alstyne	LB	6-4	262	SR	
53	Kyle Myers	LB	6-0	230	SR	
54	Mark Bihl	OL	6-5	303	SR	
56	LaMarr Woodley	OL	6-2	268	JR	
57	Adam Kraus	OL	6-6	311	JR	
60	Patrick Lyall	OL	6-0	289	SO	
60	Dave Moosman	OL	6-5	275	FR	
61	Turner Booth	LS	6-2	260	SR	
62	Jim McAvoy	OL	6-5	275	FR	
64	Grant DeBenedictis	OL	6-5	294	SO	
65	Leo Henige, Jr.	OL	6-4	339	SR	
66	Paul Sarantos	DT	6-3	261	SR	
67	Matt Lentz	OL	6-6	305	SR	
67	Terrance Taylor	DT	6-2	295	FR	
68	Patrick Sharrow	OL	6-4	301	JR	
69	David Schoonover	OL	6-3	297	SR	
70	Jeremy Ciulla	OL	6-4	300	SO	
71	Sean Griffin	LS	6-3	242	SO	
71	Mark Ortmann	OL	6-7	285	FR	
72	Rueben Riley	OL	6-3	304	SR	
73	Alex Mitchell	OL	6-5	319	SO	
74	Brett Gallimore	OL	6-4	309	SO	
75	Corey Zirbel	OL	6-7	305	FR	
76	Mike Kolodziej	OL	6-7	328	SR	
77	Jake Long	OL	6-7	338	JR	
78	Justin Schifano	OL	6-5	295	FR	
78	Gabe Watson	DT	6-4	331	SR	
79	Adam Stenavich	OL	6-5	317	SR	
80	Alan Branch	DT	6-6	311	SO	
81	Doug Dutch	WR	5-11	191	SO	
82	LaTerry Savoy	WR	6-3	200	FR	
83	K.C. Lopata	PK	6-2	190	SO	
83	Mike Massey	TE	6-3	232	SO	
85	Carson Butler Jr.	TE	6-4	245	FR	
86	Mario Manningham	WR	6-1	185	FR	
88	Tim Massaquoi	TE	6-4	248	SR	
89	Tyler Ecker	TE	6-6	251	SR	
90	Tim Jamison	RI B	6-3	250	SO	
91	Rondell Biggs	DE	6-3	270	SR	
92	William Paul	DT	6-3	264	JR	
94	Pat Massey	DT	6-0	284	SR	
95	Marques Walton	DT	6-0	280	SO	
96	Eugene Germany	DT	6-3	255	FR	
97	Will Johnson	OL	6-4	287	SO	
97	Max Pollock	OL	6-1	223	JR	
99	Pierre Woods	OL	6-5	247	SR	

WOLVERINES RUSHING

The Irish held Pittsburgh to only 103 yards rushing — with 51 coming on one play. Trevor Laws and Derek Landri anchor a unit that ranked No. 4 in the country last year against the run. Laws and Chris Frome made their first career starts Saturday.

Mike Hart surprised fans by averaging 117 yards per game last season as a freshman. He is joined in the backfield by freshman Kevin Grady. A big offensive line will help the Wolverines try to improve on their 208 yard per game average of last season.

Hart is an exciting back for Michigan but wasn't particularly spectacular playing against Northern Illinois. Laws and Landri have the potential to be the best Notre Dame interior line in a decade. Abiamiri and Frome will keep Hart bottled up and prevent the big play.

Notre Dame's secondary remains the biggest question mark on the team despite holding Pittsburgh star Greg Lee to only one scoring catch last Saturday. Ambrose Wooden had 12 tackles and Mike Richardson had three against the Panthers.

Chad Henne has many options at receiver. But leading the way is All-American candidate Steve Breaston and team captain Jason Avant. Avant caught nine passes last week for 127 yards and one touchdown. Tim Massaquoi is steady at tight end.

The Irish secondary, despite a strong showing last week, is still young and inexperienced. Avant and Breaston are potent weapons for Henne. If they can find a seam in Notre Dame coach Bill Lewis' game plan, it will be a long afternoon for Wooden and Richardson.

SPECIAL TEAMS

D.J. Fitzpatrick wasn't needed to kick a field goal last week but made all six PATs. His three punts averaged 45.7 yards. Tom Zbikowski looked explosive on his 23-yard punt return. The kick coverage team pleased Weis by tallying a fumble recovery.

Steve Breaston enters the season eighth on the Big Ten career punt return yardage list with 911 yards. Senior Ross Ryan is in his first year as starting punter. He knocked five of seven kickoffs through the end zone last week and also recovered a fumble after his own 41-yard kick.

Fitzpatrick is improving as a punter and Zbikowski has potential to be an electric punt returner. But Breaston is the next in a long line of great Michigan kick returners and his ability to score from anywhere on the field gives the Wolverines an upper hand.

INTANGIBLES

Notre Dame couldn't be any more confident going into Michigan Stadium. The offense performed flawlessly the first half at Pittsburgh and Quinn and Walker look like All-Americans. They would love to lead Notre Dame to its first win in the Big House in 12 years.

Michigan is the No. 3 team in the nation and has an all-star backfield with Hart and Henne. Lloyd Carr has only lost six times at home in his career, and returner Steve Breaston has the ability to fire up the crowd with a special teams touchdown.

Notre Dame is hot and wants to prove it is one of the top teams in the nation. And the lower ranked team has won five of the past eight matchups. However, Michigan's home field advantage and Henne's smart, heady play gives the Wolverines an edge.

NOTRE DAME

MICHIGAN

ANALYSIS



Mike Gilloon
Sports Editor

The current excitement level around Notre Dame football rivals the atmosphere during the 11-1 season in 1993 — also the last year the Irish won in Ann Arbor. Quinn efficiently throws for 200 yards and two touchdowns as Walker keeps the Wolverine defense on its toes. Fitzpatrick kicks the game-winner in a tight one.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 38
Michigan 35



Matt Puglisi
Associate
Sports Editor

Year after year, Michigan finds itself ranked among the nation's elite. And time after time, the Wolverines produce solid seasons, yet fail to reach lofty expectations, losing games they expected to win. It happens again this weekend as Notre Dame's trip to the Big House will be a big success.

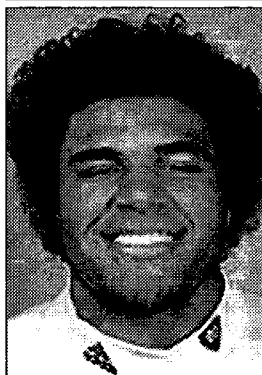
FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 34
Michigan 24

Irish experts

Sizing up the Irish and the Wolverines

AVERAGE PER GAME	NOTRE DAME'S OFFENSE VS MICHIGAN'S DEFENSE	MICHIGAN'S OFFENSE VS NOTRE DAME'S DEFENSE
total yards gained	502	447
total yards allowed	411	323
rushing yards gained	275	208
rushing yards allowed	211	103
passing yards gained	227	239
passing yards allowed	200	220
kick return yards gained	35	48
kick return yards allowed	32	80
punt return yards gained	23	0
punt return yards allowed	1	0
yards per punt	45.7	41.0
punts blocked	0	0
turnovers lost	1	1
turnovers recovered	5	2
total points scored	42	33
total points allowed	17	21
Notre Dame yards penalized	94	
Michigan yards penalized	31	

KEY MATCHUP



NOTRE DAME
DEFENSIVE LINE

Notre Dame tackles Trevor Laws, above, and Derek Landri plugged the interior last week to hold Pittsburgh to 103 yards rushing.

Left end Victor Abiamiri tallied six tackles and one sack against the Panthers. Abiamiri's pressure of Michigan quarterback Chad Henne could make the difference in the game.

Ends Ronald Talley and Justin Brown filled in nicely in backup roles last week — each recording two tackles.

Senior Brian Beidatsch brings experience and depth in a reserve role.



MICHIGAN
OFFENSIVE LINE

Michigan's offensive line is big, athletic and experienced.

Fifth year seniors Adam Stenavich, above, Leo Henige and Matt Lentz anchor a unit averaging 317 pounds per man.

Center Adam Kraus spearheaded the line as they enabled back Mike Hart to rush for 117 yards and one touchdown last week against Northern Illinois.

Tackles Stenavich and Mike Kolodziej will need to hold their ground and protect quarterback Chad Henne from the grasp of Abiamiri and fellow Irish end Chris Frome.

FRIDAY 9/9

Bill Deasy

Bill Deasy is a singer-songwriter who has opened for artists such as Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen, Patty Griffin, John Mellancamp and Norah Jones. His songs have been recorded by The Clarks, Michael Stanley, Kim Richey, Howard Jones and Martina McBride.



8 PM

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Live Band Karaoke

SATURDAY 9/10

Powers-Neal adapts well to position change

By MATT PUGLISI
Associate Sports Editor

When asked to play dual roles, most athletes find themselves constantly rearranging their thought process.

Not Irish fullback/running back Rashon Powers-Neal.

"[My mentality] doesn't change at all," he said.

So what exactly is he thinking when the Irish enter the red zone?

"Just get it in the end zone," Powers-Neal said. "Get it in there as soon as possible."

Mission accomplished.

Carrying the ball eight times against Pittsburgh

Saturday — many of them inside the Panthers' 10-yard line — Powers-Neal's strong goal line sense was on display.

The fifth-year senior pounded his way to pay dirt on three different occasions, tying his career rushing touchdown total in less than half a game.

But after seeing time at fullback each of the past three years, Powers-Neal wasn't sure what to expect heading into the 2005 season.

"I didn't really know how much I'd be used ... so I just stayed open and ready for any situation," Powers-Neal said.

"All I could do was go out there and continue to work hard and do my best."

Eager to improve, Powers-Neal pushed himself through summer workouts.

He focused on increasing his power while maintaining quickness.

And the hard work paid off.

Playing either running back or fullback depending upon the situation, Powers-Neal is finding himself in the middle of the action.

And every time he takes the field, he's becoming a little more confident he can handle the responsibility that accompanies playing two positions.

"I'm pretty comfortable with [the dual role]," Powers-Neal said.

"Each day I'm

getting more comfortable with it. It's tough trying to learn everything and trying to get all the plays down, but it's also a lot of fun to be able to go out there and just contribute and help the team any way possible.

"I'm just enjoying it right now."

A punishing blocker, Powers-Neal has been instrumental in opening holes for fellow running back Darius Walker.

But Powers-Neal said blocking for Walker isn't as demanding as one might expect.

"My thing is just to get onto my guy and stick onto him, and Darius will do the rest," Powers-Neal said. "He'll make

me look good."

As valuable as he is at fullback, Powers-Neal offers an effective change of pace from the sharp, cutting style of Walker.

"I think that [Darius and I] bring a lot of the same things, but he kind of makes things happen, and I'm just more of a downhill runner," Powers-Neal said.

"I just run hard."

A quiet leader, Powers-Neal provides an example for the team's younger players — traits that will undoubtedly come in handy when the Irish take the field in front of over 110,000 fans at Michigan Stadium.

"Not too many people have played in the Big House before, so I just try to tell the younger guys to stay calm," Powers-Neal said.

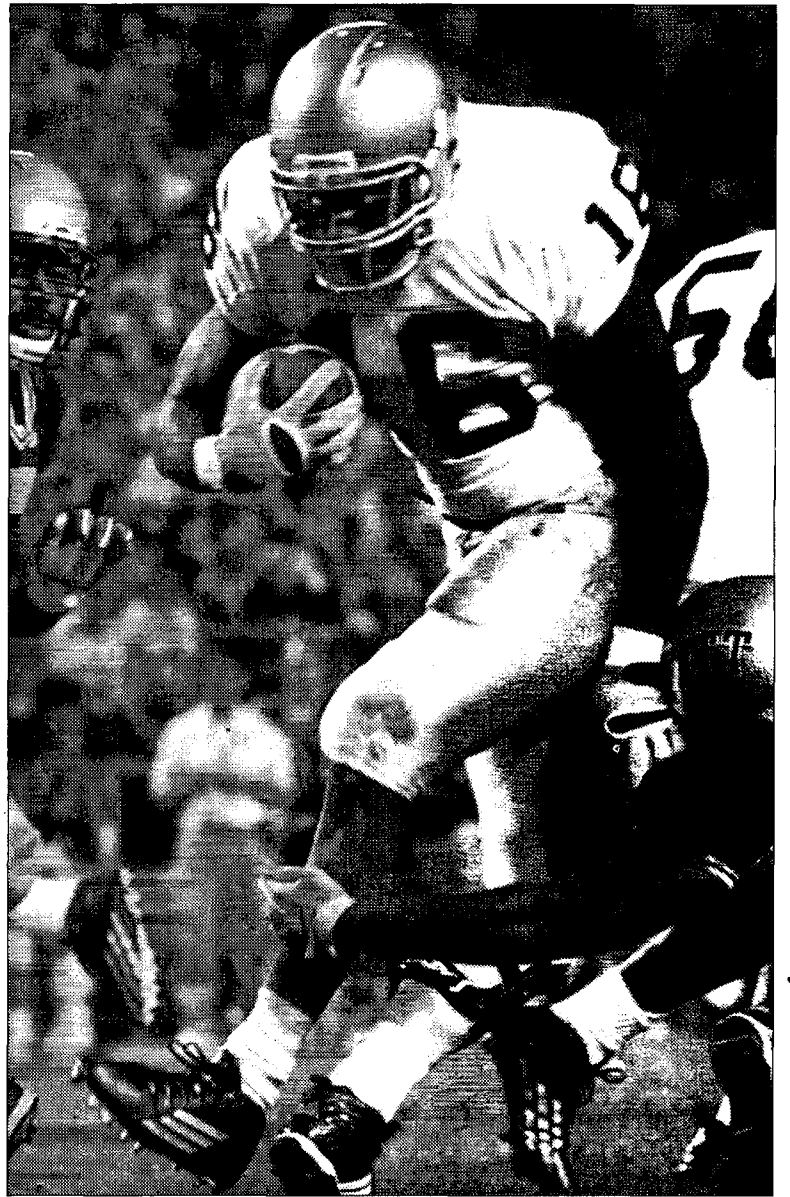
"I try to bring experience to all the other players."

As important as last Saturday's game was for Powers-Neal on a personal level and the Irish as a team, Powers-Neal has refused to let the early-season success go to his head.

"I try to just stay level and keep to myself and do the things that I've been doing every week," he said.

"You've got to take each game by itself — last week has nothing to do with this week, so we just have to go out there and play hard."

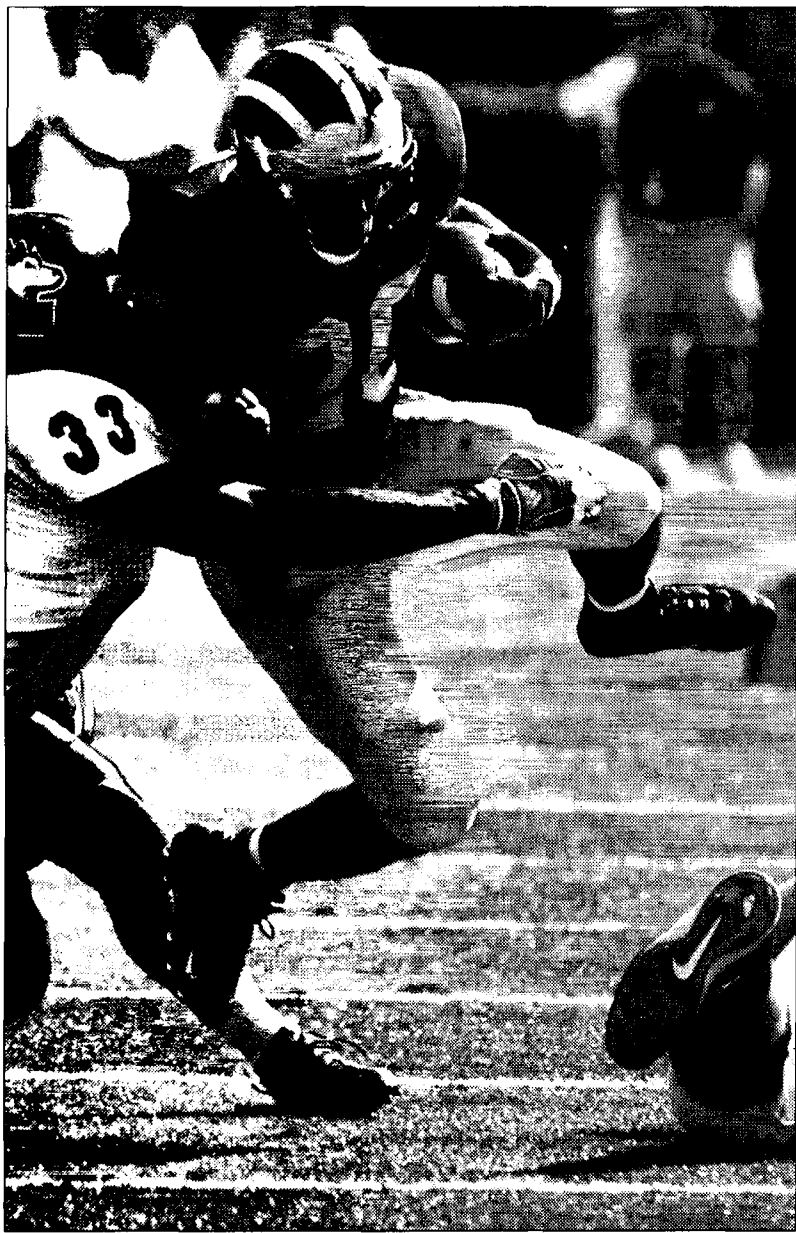
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CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Rashon Powers-Neal breaks a tackle during Notre Dame's 42-21 win over Pittsburgh last week in which he scored three touchdowns.

O-line, running game key Wolverine attack



AP
Michigan running back Mike Hart breaks the tackle of Northern Illinois linebacker Keenan Blalark during the Wolverines 33-17 win last week.

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

While Notre Dame exploded with a 35-point first half against Pittsburgh last Saturday, Michigan was also making a statement of its own.

The Wolverines scored 27 first half points against unranked Northern Illinois on the same day, all but sealing the win early and allowing coach Lloyd Carr to run the ball — and the clock.

"Last year they scored over 30 points a game, and last week was no different scoring the 33," Notre Dame coach Charlie Weis said. "They have a lot of weapons."

Michigan's style of offensive play prioritizes a strong running game which sets up a more experienced, and possibly improved, passing game. Though last season's leading receiver Braylon Edwards (97 catches, 1,330 yards, 15 touchdowns) is departed to the NFL, Michigan retains a solid core on its offense.

Sophomore quarterback Chad Henne, who started all 12 games his freshman season, opened the 2005 season completing 20-of-31 passes for 227 yards and two touchdowns, throwing no interceptions.

Sophomore running back Mike Hart, who saw limited action in Notre Dame's 28-20 victory at Notre Dame Stadium last season (five carries, 17 yards), also holds onto the ball well.

"My biggest concern with Hart is in 283 touches in a row, he has not fumbled the ball," Weis said. "So obviously he's very good at ball possession, which was a critical factor in their win last week."

Michigan did not turn the ball over against Northern Illinois. Hart carried the ball 27 times for 117 yards and one touchdown while freshman and Michigan high school phenom Kevin Grady registered 42 yards on nine carries and a touchdown of his own. Jerome

Jackson — who started last season against Notre Dame and carried the ball 15 times before getting injured — also saw action in the backfield behind Henne.

"Any time you can put two or three guys in there that have different types of abilities, I think it creates issues for the defense," Michigan coach Lloyd Carr said. "You still have to block them, but certainly we've got three guys in there."

To make up for Edwards' departure, veteran wide receivers Jason Avant and Steve Breaston lead the way as Henne's primary targets.

Avant caught nine balls for 127 yards and a touchdown last week, while Breaston grabbed five passes for 42 yards and a touchdown.

Michigan's strength, however, lies in pounding opponents into the ground with the running game. And Notre Dame's strength on defense — last season and this season as well — has been its run defense.

"Defensively, I like their linebackers," Michigan coach Lloyd Carr said. "They're very athletic and they get to the football well."

Linebackers Brandon Hoyte, Corey Mays and Maurice Crum, Jr. will focus more on running backs in Saturday's game than in any matchup the rest of the season, with the exception of facing Navy's option attack.

Hoyte was second on the team in tackles last weekend with nine total, six of them solo and 4? for a loss against a fresh Pittsburgh squad. Weis said Notre Dame will have to adjust on defense because he expects the well-coached Wolverines, like his own Irish team, to show new offensive schemes and plays.

"I'm not expecting just to see what they did last week against Northern Illinois," Weis said. "They are not expecting for us just to do what we did against Pittsburgh."

"I think that we have to both be ready to adjust on the fly."

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