

THE OBSERVER

The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

VOLUME 42 : ISSUE 105

THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2008

NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

Ticket not punished for election violation

Freshman Zach Reuvers failed to get each campaign poster approved by Judicial Council

By STEVE SANTAY
News Writer

The Judicial Council decided not to reprimand Zach Reuvers' sophomore class council ticket on accusations involving the misuse of funds and campaign materials because the accusations did not change or affect the outcome of the election.

Reuvers' ticket lost to Cynthia Weber's ticket, the Judicial Council announced on March 12, nearly two weeks after the run-off election between the two tickets took place on Feb. 28. The Council delayed the release of the results until their investigation of Reuvers' ticket

was finished.

An anonymous source originally told the Judicial Council Reuvers had broken campaigning regulations by spending too much money on flyers and by distributing posters that had not been approved. Judicial Council vice president Daniel Smith would neither confirm nor deny whether Reuvers' competition, the Weber or Hannah Ha tickets, were involved in bringing forth these allegations.

"The Council did meet and determined that one of the two allegations brought forward was valid," Smith said. "However, the committee determined that the outcome of the election was not changed,

so no formal punishment was handed out."

Strict rules that govern student government campaigns allow only \$75 to be spent on flyers. The accusation made against Reuvers' ticket by an anonymous source claimed that they went over this amount.

After reviewing the Reuvers ticket's records, the Judicial Council determined only \$67 were spent in this manner. The allegation was subsequently dismissed.

The ticket was also accused of using unapproved campaign materials, a claim that turned out to be true according to the Council's investigation.

After the primary elections

on Feb. 25, the ticket changed the voting date on its posters to read Feb. 28, in order to encourage sophomores to vote the run-off election. The Reuvers ticket, however, did not get approval from the Judicial Council to make this change to its posters.

A similar issue had been raised earlier in the campaign.

The day before the primary elections, a complaint was raised against Reuvers for handing out unapproved campaign materials. While most of the posters his ticket used carried the approval stamp from the Judicial Council, a few were overlooked. Some of the

see CAMPAIGN/page 4

NASA uses ND designs on shuttle

Experiments by Dennis Jacobs aboard Endeavor

By BECKY HOGAN
News Writer

Science research enthusiasm at Notre Dame has recently intensified as the NASA space shuttle Endeavor — launched Mar. 11 — carried with it a set of experiments designed by one of Notre Dame's own professors.

Dennis Jacobs, University vice president and associate Provost, designed the experiments for outer space testing purposes. Jacobs is also a professor of chemistry and biochemistry at Notre Dame.

"We are placing one hundred or so materials outside the international space station for a period of a year to learn under different environments how different materials will either hold up or be damaged to the point where they no longer function," Jacobs said.

The experiments are part of the Materials International Space Station Experiment (MISSE), a collaboration that aims to explore how materials degrade in the low-earth orbit spacecraft environment.

Jacobs said the experiments will test materials such as Teflon in order to aid in the development of next-generation light-weight polymers that could be used in designing satellites.

"The goal of the experiments is to understand better

see SHUTTLE/page 6

STUDENT SENATE

Anti-discrimination resolution debated

Senators disagree over proposal to add sexual orientation to University's equal opportunity clause



Social Concerns Committee chair Karen Koski, center, discusses adding sexual orientation to Notre Dame's non-discrimination clause.

By CLAIRE REISING
News Writer

Student Senate resumed discussion on a resolution that proposes to add sexual orientation to Notre Dame's non-discrimination clause.

The Senate, however, could not vote on the resolution at yesterday's meeting because not enough members were present for quorum.

The proposed resolution supports this change in the non-discrimination clause for several reasons. It states that the Catechism of the Catholic Church opposes

discrimination of homosexual persons. The resolution further claims that other American Catholic Colleges, such as Georgetown and Kings College have added sexual orientation to their non-discrimination clauses.

Although the senators did not vote yesterday, several controversies arose in the discussion, such as possible ramifications of a non-discrimination clause and the necessity of Student Senate's involvement in the issue.

Fisher senator Stephen Bant and Keenan senator Gus Gari debated over the

see SENATE/page 3

Mendoza reclaims No. 3 BusinessWeek ranking

By BECKY HOGAN
News Writer

The Mendoza College of Business has reclaimed its No. 3 ranking of the nation's top business schools for undergraduates according to BusinessWeek magazine's Mar. 10 issue, jumping four spots from its 2007 ranking.

Notre Dame's College of Business previously held the No. 3 spot in 2006, its highest ranking to date.

Mendoza is exceeded only by the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School and the University of Virginia's McIntire School of Commerce, who occupied the top two spots, respectively.

"I would say we've actually been performing this way before there was a ranking, and we haven't tried to change anything to get a higher ranking," said Carolyn Y. Woo, Martin J. Gillen Dean of Business. "We are always trying to improve, but it's not because of rankings ... whenever we see new opportunities or weak spots we try to attend to these."

Woo said that Mendoza's high national ranking can be attributed to several factors including rigorous academics, job placement success after graduation, the strong alumni network and the College's emphasis on ethics.

"The ranking isn't important

see MENDOZA/page 4

Huddle Mart sells healthy snacks

LaFortune store stocks up on gluten-free, organic, soy-based products

By MEG MIRSHAK
News Writer

The Huddle Mart in the LaFortune Student Center, recently added a shelf of gluten-free, dairy-free, organic and soy food products the first week of March.

The products were added in response to requests from students with food allergies and other special dietary needs.

The new products occupy a rack where DVD and movie rentals were displayed before being removed over winter break. According to Huddle Mart staff, the movie rentals did not bring in enough rev-



DAN JACOBS/The Observer

The Huddle Mart has increased its assortment of healthy snacks to meet the demands of students with food allergies or on diets.

see HUDDLE/page 3

INSIDE COLUMN

Franchise

Sam wandered out of bed, awoken to the fourth straight day of shouting. "I am too taking the car tomorrow," screamed Claire, Sam's older daughter. "No, you're not, and you know you're not," snickered Claire's brother, Howie, the youngest of Sam's three kids. "That's Ethie's time."

Claire was tall and full and green, and she used to take the family car almost every weekend afternoon and brought back seats full of friends home at night. She was a good daughter. Ethie was meek and shy and brown, sitting home with her bread in front of the TV every night. She was a despondent girl.

Things had been like that for a while, and Sam knew he was part of a problem. After years of favoring his more industrious daughter, he began to pity Ethie and her jealousy. But what to do? Then it came to him.

Howie had just turned 14, Ethie was 16 and just got her license, and Claire was 18. "No need for me to make the decision," Sam thought. "Howie's fairer than I could ever be. Why don't I let him decide?"

"Easy, Dad," Howie said. "You work late on Fridays. Let Ethie have the car on Saturday and Claire have the car on Sunday. No swaps, no trades, no nothing. Everyone can plan accordingly."

Sam immediately accepted and properly promulgated the law. Quickly, Ethie grew. She went to the mall, she found friends, she mingled, she drove people places, she had a life — and people cared about her. She took the car to the gas station, had it washed and changed the oil.

Claire changed. She fought with her parents, fought with Ethie and, most of all, fought with Howie. He put the rules in place, and now she had a speck of the social life that she used to.

That's the way it was until Tuesday, when a delegation of Claire's friends asked if she could drive them on early Saturday morning to the big hall an hour away to watch a special showing of "The Day of Reckoning." It was a once-in-a-lifetime type thing. Claire peeked to see if anyone was around. She said sure: She would just wake up early, break the rules and take the car before anyone got up.

When she hung up, she turned and saw Howie's face: "No you won't."

For three days, the shouts went back and forth. Ethie didn't like what Claire was doing — it was a threat to her newfound social status — but she didn't say much; the screeches came from Howie and Claire. By Friday night, Claire figured she would simply quiet down and call Howie's bluff.

She tiptoed to the kitchen Saturday morning, snatched the keys off the counter and slowly turned the door to avoid the squeaks. She opened the driver's door, and it seemed like no one was watching and no one cared.

Claire inserted the key into the ignition and waited for the turn to start the car. She couldn't make a full rotation.

She tried again. Nothing. When she quietly lifted the hood, she knew something was missing.

"Dad!" she screamed. "Someone stole the car battery!"

Out came Howie.

"That would be me," he said flatly. "You knew the rules and you tried to break them. How would it be fair to Ethie if I let you break the rules you both have to live by?"

Claire found a certain sanctimony with which to respond.

"The rules weren't fair to begin with."

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

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

Ken Fowler

Senior staff writer

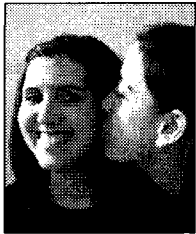
QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHO IS WINNING IN YOUR MARCH MADNESS BRACKET?



Mark Flannigan

sophomore
Keough

"St. Mary's Mountaineers, because they can't win anything else."



Kayla Bateman

junior
Breen Phillips

"Pitt, because PITT is IT."



Ted Kratschmer

sophomore
Zahm

"Memphis. My formidable gut tells me this."



Megan Savage

junior
Breen Phillips

"Clemson, because my bracket makes a lot of racket...kind of like tennis. WHACK!"



From left, sophomores Caroline Hawes, Chelsea Slaggert and Beth Neiman protest the Iraq War on Fieldhouse Mall Wednesday.

OFFBEAT

Japan appoints cartoon ambassador

TOKYO — Japan has created an unusual government post to promote animation, and named a perfect figure Wednesday to the position: a popular cartoon robot cat named Doraemon.

Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura appointed the cat an "anime ambassador," handing a human-sized Doraemon doll an official certificate at an inauguration ceremony, along with dozens of "dorayaki" red bean pancakes — his favorite dessert — piled on a huge plate.

Komura told the doll, with

an unidentified person inside, that he hoped he would widely promote Japanese animated cartoons, or "anime."

Sisters: eBay pulled corn flake auction

CHICAGO — Two sisters from Virginia who are selling a corn flake shaped like the state of Illinois on eBay say the online auction Web site canceled their listing.

"Something really dramatic just happened with our corn flake," Melissa McIntire, 23, of Chesapeake, Va., said Tuesday, explaining that the sisters received an e-mail

from eBay saying the state-shaped cereal was in violation of the site's food policy.

But the flake is back. The sisters say the Land of Lincoln twin they discovered in a box of Kellogg's Frosted Flakes is still available after all.

McIntire and her 15-year-old sister Emily said they've relisted the flake on eBay, but this time they're auctioning a coupon redeemable for it, instead of the cereal itself. Bidding on Wednesday was at \$255.00.

Information compiled by the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

There will be Confession at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart today at 11 a.m. and at 7 p.m.

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated today at 5 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

There will be screenings of the film "Persepolis" tonight at 7 and 10 in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

There will be Confession at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart tomorrow at 10:30 a.m. and at 6:30 p.m.

A procession to follow the Way of the Cross will depart from the Alumni Hall chapel tomorrow at 10:45 a.m. The procession will pass through the Grotto and will continue along the banks of St. Joseph Lake.

The celebration of the Lord's Passion will begin tomorrow at 3 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

There will be Confession at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart Saturday at noon and at 3 p.m.

The women's lacrosse team will play Loyola-Maryland Saturday at 1 p.m. at the Moose Krause Stadium.

The Paschal Vigil will begin Saturday at 9 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

Easter Mass will be celebrated Sunday at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and noon in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

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

LOCAL WEATHER

	TODAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	EASTER	MONDAY
HIGH	42	37	35	37	45	48
LOW	25	20	29	23	25	30

CORRECTIONS

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

Senate

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legitimacy of the resolution.

Bant disagreed with the resolution, arguing that it may be seen as an endorsement of homosexual activity and cause the Church and donors to criticize the University.

"The University enacting this kind of policy has a lot of unforeseen ... negative repercussions that we can't even begin to imagine," he said. "It's going to upset people, whether we like it or not."

Gari argued back, saying that senators should not let donors' opinions control their actions.

"As far as bishops [or alumni donors] getting mad at us, I don't think that should be taken into consideration," he said. "I think that as student leaders, we should be exercising our own independent thought and judgment."

Additionally, Bant feared that a nondiscrimination clause would open the University to liability, increasing the possibility of a lawsuit against Notre Dame for discriminating someone based on sexual orientation.

"I don't think that the University is actually is going to be sued for actively discriminating against people, but I think people can use loopholes and use things given to them to make cases out of things that were not the issue," he said. "It's unfortunate, it's the way the American legal system works, but it's true, and it can happen."

Some members did not want liability to be the Senate's main concern.

Outgoing chief executive assistant Sheena Plamoottill said she believed that supporting the Church's teachings on tolerance and fighting for minorities on campus are more important goals.

"I think it's dangerous to think that liability should be the most important issue here," she said. "Even more than liability, tolerance should be thought about."

Currently, Notre Dame abides by "The Spirit of Inclusion," which was set forth by du Lac and is not legally binding, according to Molloy. This clause, according to O'Neill senator Matt Molloy, condemns harassment of any kind.

The proposed resolution states that adding sexual orientation to the non-discrimination clause would give legal protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation, according to

Molloy.

Molloy, who co-drafted the resolution with Pangborn senator Denise Baron, said that the issue first arose in 1998 when both the Faculty and Student Senates passed a similar resolution. The administration did not change the non-discrimination clause.

Although the Student Senate already had passed resolutions about the non-discrimination clause, Molloy said that the current senate must show that it still supports the issue.

"We want to be able to take to [the administration] a recently passed resolution to say that we still care about this," he said.

Bant said that passing another resolution is a "complete waste of [the Senate's] time"

and did not believe that the Senate would have much influence.

"We did it last year and it was also done in 1998, and nothing happened," he said.

"I think that it's a little naïve to believe that passing a similar resolution today will have any different effect than it did last year."

Howard senator Erdina Francillon said that despite the administration's lack of support, the Senate has the responsibility to support Notre Dame's minorities and to fight for this resolution until its goal is fulfilled.

"I think that the strongest act that we as a Senate can take is to pass this every year... until we get the attention of the administration, get the attention of the Church, so people in higher positions than we are can realize that this is an issue we care about," she said. "We should take that rejection as a challenge."

Francillon also said she was disappointed that the Senate did not vote on the resolution when Molloy and Baron introduced in at the February 27 meeting. The Senate had voted to amend the resolution after Bant said he found that Holy Cross College does not include sexual orientation in its non-discrimination clause as the amendment says.

Molloy said that after further research was inconclusive, the Senate replaced Holy Cross College with Georgetown University. However, Baron said that the amended clause "was not the crux of the resolution."

The Senate plans to vote on this resolution at next week's meeting, which will be the last meeting of the current term.

Contact Claire Reising at creisin2@nd.edu

Huddle

continued from page 1

venue for the space they occupied.

Jim LaBella, General Manager of the Huddle Mart who helped implement the changes, said that there has been an increase in the number of students requesting gluten-free and natural grocery products.

Jocie Antonelli, the manager of nutrition and safety for Notre Dame Food Services, made suggestions to LaBella based on comments from students with vegan, dairy-free and gluten-free diets.

Antonelli assists students with special dietary needs in the campus dining halls — adding special products in the Huddle Mart is the first attempt of Food Services to accommodate needs at the multiple food locations across campus.

"So many students with gluten-free diets had trouble finding things on campus they could snack on. The new products give them more options on campus to eat," Antonelli said.

If students did not have a car to shop for food off-campus, they had to seek alternatives like care-packages sent from home, ordering food online or personal shopping by

Antonelli, she said.

LaBella spoke with a distributor of natural foods, and the distributor also made recommendations on what products would sell and meet the students' needs at Notre Dame.

The response to the new products has been "very good," and he will continue to order health food and natural grocery items that cater to students' needs but added that the Huddle Mart cannot have products so specific that they will not sell.

"I am asking people who have allergies to let me know if there are other items missing. I think having a variety of products that serve everyone is a positive all the way around," LaBella said.

Among the new items for sale, pita chips, microwavable noodle and rice bowls and snack bars have been popular, LaBella said.

One student who benefits from this improvement is freshman, Michelle Gaseor who has an autoimmune disorder called Celiac Disease, which limits her diet to gluten-free foods. She cannot eat products containing wheat, barley, oats or rye.

If a person suffering from Celiac Disease, also known aseliac sprue, or gluten sensitive enteropathy (GSE), consumes food containing gluten, the villi in the small intestine are dam-

aged, preventing them from properly absorbing nutrients, according to the Celiac Disease Foundation's website. This can lead to more long-term health problems such as osteoporosis and lactose intolerance, among other health issues according to the website.

"I wasn't able to use [my Flex Points] on anything healthy. I'm pretty happy with the new products," said Gaseor, referring to the money allotted with her Student Meal Plan.

Before the Huddle Mart began carrying the new products, Gaseor was forced to store a large supply of gluten-free snack bars that she brought from her home in her dorm room. Gaseor is now able to buy snack bars, pasta meals, and cookies in the Huddle Mart.

She added that the prices at The Huddle Mart are also helpful to her. While shopping for foods that will accommodate a gluten-free diet, Gaseor has learned to compare prices and said that she will continue to shop at the Huddle Mart where the prices on gluten-free foods are not significantly higher than other stores.

"The Huddle Mart prices are pretty competitive, which is nice," Gaseor said.

Contact Claire Reising at creisin2@nd.edu



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Mendoza

continued from page 1

us in the sense that it changes our actions or the way that we look at ourselves. But if you ask whether a lot more people know how good we are the answer is 'yes,' Woo said.

"This year we paid more attention to companies that recruit our students so they know to expect that a survey will be coming to them," Woo said. "We are always looking at reasons to improve, but not in response to rankings."

According to the BusinessWeek ranking, the median annual starting salaries for Mendoza graduates rose to \$53,500, a nearly 10 percent increase from the previous year.

The survey also said that students commented that Notre Dame's "die-hard alums and an emphasis on ethics separated Mendoza from the pack."

"When students commented on ethics, that means more to me than being No. 3," Woo said.

The BusinessWeek ranking

also places Mendoza as the top Catholic business school in the nation. It is followed by Boston College's Carroll School of Management at No. 14 and Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business at No. 19.

"Our motto is that we will be faithful to Catholic teachings, integrity, ethics, responsibility to society and the common good," Woo said. "We have always stood on a dual mission of academic excellence and faith. We want our students to exceed but to exceed in the right way," Woo said.

Although enrollment usually fluctuates from year to year in the College of Business, Woo said that enrollment has continued to increase in the past three years, although she was not sure that this could be attributed to the rankings.

The Mendoza College of

"We are always looking at reasons to improve, but not in response to rankings."

Carolyn Woo
Dean of the Mendoza
College of Business

Business currently enrolls 1,626 undergraduate students in the departments of accountancy, finance, management and marketing.

BusinessWeek based its ranking on nine sources including median starting salaries for graduates, the number of graduates admitted to top MBA programs, faculty-student ratios, average class size, the percentage of students with internships and the number of hours students spend weekly on class work.

Despite its strengths, Junior Hajime Sargent believes that Mendoza still has room for improvement.

"One weakness that I think Mendoza has is just being in South Bend. I would like to see more opportunities in the community to gain practical experience," he said.

Sargent said he thinks the BusinessWeek ranking is "ultimately just a number."

"I think the rank gives us more opportunity to be recruited, but on the day to day level, as long as you're engaged in challenging program, I think there would still be a way to stand out [regardless of ranking]," Sargent said.

Sargent said that he feels Mendoza has prepared him aca-

demically for several business fields.

"They offer a lot of opportunities for interdisciplinary advancement ... I'm a marketing major, but I am also educated in wide background of accounting," Saergent said.

Senior Brian Cavers said that he feels Mendoza has prepared him for the business world once he graduates.

"We practice real world examples with case studies...and we analyze a company just as you would be doing in a job," Cavers said. "I feel confident that once I get a job ... Mendoza will have prepared me."

Contact Becky Hogan at
rhogan2@nd.edu

Campaign

continued from page 1

posters that circulated the campus — though the Council had approved their content — were prohibited because they had not been individually stamped.

The Judicial Council could not say if the source of this particular allegation is the same one as the two later claims.

Reuvers and Steven Ouyang, who ran together for president and vice president respectively, said that while they tried to focus their campaign on the issues that matter to the electorate, they lost valuable campaign time answering to the allegations against them.

"It is unfortunate that some people felt it was necessary to bring such negativity into this election," Ouyang said. "The spirit of the elections is about what in the end gets done for

the class and not about minute details that do not affect the voters."

Reuvers echoed his words, adding that he was surprised to see the degree to which some people went to damage his campaign.

"When it comes down to it, this is a sophomore class council election and I am surprised some people took this as far as they did," he said.

He also said that the timing of the accusations led him to believe they were planned to hurt his chances of winning.

"It was a funny coincidence that the first allegation came right before the primary and the second the day of the run-off," he said.

Many freshmen said the accusations influenced their choice of ticket.

Contact Steve Santay at
ssantay@nd.edu

"The spirit of the elections is about what in the end gets done for the class and not about minute details that do not affect the voters."

Steven Ouyang
freshman

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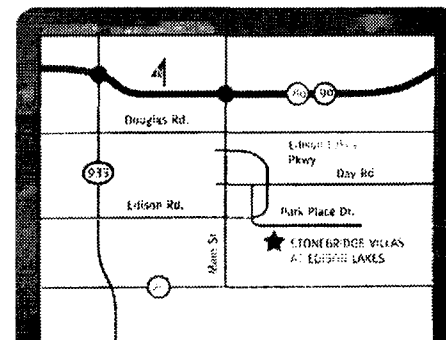
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WORLD & NATION

Thursday, March 20, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Bin Laden to release new message

CAIRO, Egypt — Al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden will be issuing a new message timed to the fifth anniversary of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, a militant Web site with close connections to the group said Wednesday.

"Urgent, very soon by the will of God," read the announcement of the new message "the response is what you see and not what you hear, by the warrior sheik, Osama bin Laden."

Iraq marked the fifth anniversary of the war on Wednesday.

The announcement was text only and showed no pictures of the elusive militant leader.

The message would be bin Laden's first for 2008 and follows up an hour-long, late December audio missive in which he warned Iraq's Sunni Arabs against fighting al-Qaida in Iraq and vowed new attacks on Israel.

Iraq to hold provincial elections in fall

BAGHDAD — Under strong U.S. pressure, Iraq's presidential council signed off Wednesday on a measure paving the way for provincial elections by the fall, a major step toward easing sectarian rifts as the nation marks the fifth anniversary of the war.

The decision by the council, made up of the country's president and two vice presidents, lays the groundwork for voters to choose new leaders of Iraq's 18 provinces. The elections open the door to greater Sunni representation in regional administrations.

Many Sunnis boycotted the last election for provincial officials in January 2005, enabling Shiites and Kurds to win a disproportionate share of power at the expense of the Sunnis — even in areas with substantial Sunni populations.

NATIONAL NEWS

Clinton calls on Obama for new elections

DETROIT — Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton bluntly challenged Barack Obama to agree to new primaries in Michigan and Florida on Wednesday and said it was "wrong, and frankly un-American" not to have the two delegations seated at the Democratic National Convention.

"Senator Obama speaks passionately on the campaign trail about empowering the American people," said the former first lady, who trails her rival in delegates won to date. "Today I am asking him to match those words with actions."

Obama has yet to declare his support or opposition, although his campaign has raised a number of procedural and legal questions about the most recent proposal for an early June primary in Michigan.

13 killed by record floods in Mid West

PIEDMONT, Mo. — Residents of low-lying towns stacked sandbags or grabbed belongings and evacuated Wednesday after a foot of rain pushed rivers and creeks out of their banks in the nation's midsection. At least 13 deaths had been linked to the weather, and three people were missing.

Record or near-record flood crests were forecast at several towns in Missouri. Flooding was reported in large areas of Arkansas and parts of southern Illinois, southern Indiana and southwestern Ohio, and schools were closed in parts of western Kentucky because of flooded roads.

LOCAL NEWS

Gambling now legal in taverns, bars

INDIANAPOLIS — Gov. Mitch Daniels has signed a bill that will allow taverns and bars to offer pull tabs and other low-stakes gambling.

Proponents of the bill say it could help bar and tavern owners retain jobs and stay in business, while opponents claim it is another sign that Indiana is addicted to gambling. Daniels had considered letting the bill become law without his signature, but ultimately decided to sign it Wednesday.

"Hoosiers believe in freedom, but also in personal responsibility in the exercise of our liberties," he said in a statement Wednesday. "I sign this bill with misgivings and caution, and the hope that any Hoosiers who choose to risk their money in these games will do so responsibly and with extreme care."

Bush urges U.S. to stay course in Iraq

President won't order further troop withdrawals, praises military success in past year

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Five years after launching the invasion of Iraq, President Bush strongly signaled Wednesday that he won't order troop withdrawals beyond those already planned because he refuses to "jeopardize the hard-fought gains" of the past year.

As anti-war activists demonstrated around downtown Washington, the president spoke at the Pentagon to mark the anniversary of a war that has cost nearly 4,000 U.S. lives and roughly \$500 billion. The president's address was part of a series of events the White House planned around the anniversary and next month's report from the top U.S. figures in Iraq, Gen. David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker. That report will be the basis for Bush's first troop-level decision in seven months.

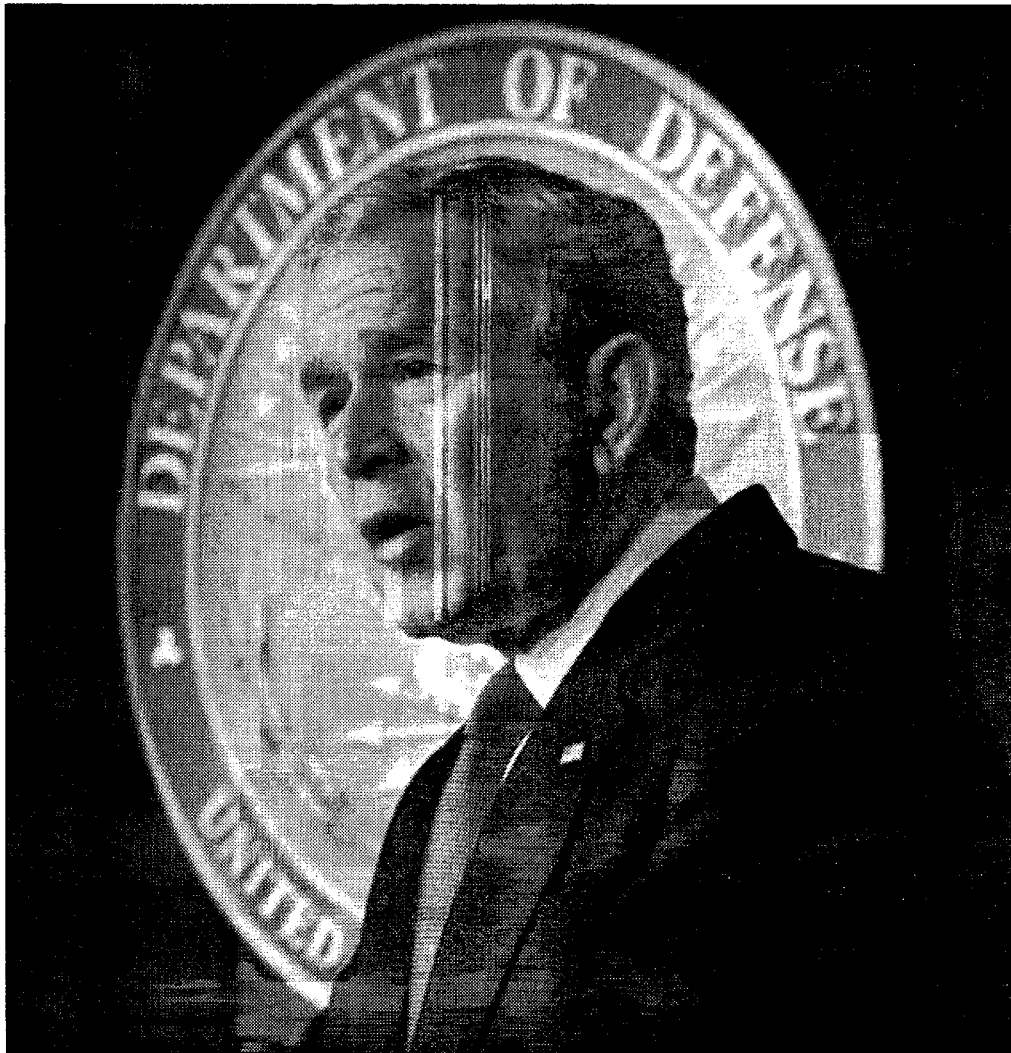
"The battle in Iraq has been longer and harder and more costly than we anticipated," Bush said.

But, he added, before an audience of Pentagon brass, soldiers and diplomats: "The battle in Iraq is noble, it is necessary, and it is just. And with your courage, the battle in Iraq will end in victory."

Democrats took issue with Bush's stay-the-course suggestion.

"With the war in Iraq entering its sixth year, Americans are rightly concerned about how much longer our nation must continue to sacrifice our security for the sake of an Iraqi government that is unwilling or unable to secure its own future," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif. "Democrats will continue to push for an end to the war in Iraq and increased oversight of that war."

Bush repeatedly and directly linked the Iraq fight to the global battle against the al Qaida terror network.



President George W. Bush announced that he has no intention to make further cuts to troop levels in Iraq in a speech Wednesday at the Pentagon.

And he made some of his most expansive claims of success. He said the increase of 30,000 troops that he ordered to Iraq last year has turned "the situation in Iraq around." He also said that "Iraq has become the place where Arabs joined with Americans to drive al Qaida out."

"The surge ... has opened the door to a major strategic victory in the broader war on terror," the president said. "We are witnessing the first large-scale Arab uprising against Osama bin Laden, his grim ideology, and his terror network. And the significance of this development cannot be overstated."

Bush appeared to be

referring to recent cooperation by local Iraqis with the U.S. military against the group known as al-Qaida in Iraq, a mostly homegrown, though foreign-led, Sunni-based insurgency. Experts question how closely — or even whether — the group is connected to the international al-Qaida network. As for bin Laden, he is rarely heard from and is believed to be hiding in Pakistan.

The U.S. has about 158,000 troops in Iraq. That number is expected to drop to 140,000 by summer in drawdowns meant to erase all but about 8,000 troops from last year's increase.

Bush, who has successfully defied efforts by the Democratic-led Congress to

force larger and faster withdrawals, said they could unravel recent progress. "Having come so far and achieved so much, we are not going to let this happen," he said.

He criticized those who "still call for retreat" in the face of what he called undeniable successes.

"The challenge in the period ahead is to consolidate the gains we have made and seal the extremists' defeat," he said. "We have learned through hard experience what happens when we pull our forces back too fast — the terrorists and extremists step in, fill the vacuum, establish safe havens and use them to spread chaos and carnage."

ISRAEL

Security alert, West Bank closed for holiday

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel declared a heightened security alert Wednesday and barred Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip from entering the country, fearing Hezbollah guerrillas might try to carry out a major attack during holiday celebrations this week.

The Purim holiday coincides with the end of a 40-day mourning period for Hezbollah commander Imad Mughniyeh, who was killed in a car bombing in Syria last month. Israel denied involvement, but the Lebanese guerrilla group blamed Israel and vowed revenge.

The alert came amid new signs that Israel is moving closer to a

cease-fire with Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip. Israeli defense officials said Amos Gilad, a senior Defense Ministry official, traveled to Cairo on Tuesday for talks with Egyptian mediators. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitive nature of the talks.

The army said the closure would remain in effect through Sunday night, preventing thousands of Palestinian workers and merchants from entering Israel. Most come from the West Bank, but small numbers of merchants from the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip are allowed in.

The closure won't affect Palestinians needing treatment at Israeli hospitals, and cargo crossings will keep operating, a military

spokesman said on condition of anonymity, citing policy.

While Israel typically imposes closures during major holidays, when schools are closed and public areas are crowded with travelers, security officials are warier since the Mughniyeh killing. Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said police canceled vacations for officers and brought in extra forces to guard festivities, which started at schools Wednesday.

The Islamic mourning period for Mughniyeh ends this weekend. Hezbollah is believed to have close ties with Palestinian militants in the West Bank, who in the past have carried out attacks during Purim, a holiday when young children dress up in costumes.

Shuttle

continued from page 1

how materials are eroded or degraded in the lower-earth orbit spacecraft environment," he said.

The MISSE-6 experiments will give researchers a better understanding of the conditions in the lower-earth orbit, as well as clarify misconceptions about outer space.

"Most people think of space as a vacuum — that there's nothing there... But the lower-earth orbit is 250 miles above the surface of the earth and it's actually a very hostile environment," Jacobs said. "The kinds of collisions that happen when a shuttle moves at 1,500 miles per hour are so energetic that a material exposed to this environment is often under attack by the elements."

Jacobs also said that this hostile environment is not protected by an ozone layer, causing intense ultraviolet light to affect the space station, an occurrence that could be potentially harmful to the various materials used in making satellites.

To test these factors, materials are exposed to different elements by placing modified controls on the materials, according Jacobs.

Additionally, Jacobs said that small data recorders have been installed which

collect and record information about the samples every 20 minutes throughout the yearlong period.

Not only will the space experiments help to identify environmental effects on materials, but they will also determine whether space environment simulations that have been taking place in Jacob's lab are accurate.

"We've been doing experiments in our lab at Notre

Dame that we think simulate the space environment," Jacobs said. "This experiment will be an opportunity to compare our simulation of the space environment with the reality of space."

Jacobs' research team has been working with six other universities on the MISSE-6 experiment, including the University of Chicago, the University of Illinois, the University of Pittsburgh,

Montana State University and Utah State University.

"We were invited as a team to see if we would like to launch the MISSE-6 experiment," Jacobs said. "Notre Dame stepped up in a big way to spearhead the effort."

After approximately one year, the materials will be retrieved and examined to assess the cumulative effects of the lower-earth orbit environment.

"Experiments like this are wholly consistent with the University's mission to contribute to the advancement of knowledge," Jacobs said. "We hope that our contributions have an impact and that those advancements lead to an increased understanding of materials in the space environment."

Contact Becky Hogan at rhogan2@nd.edu



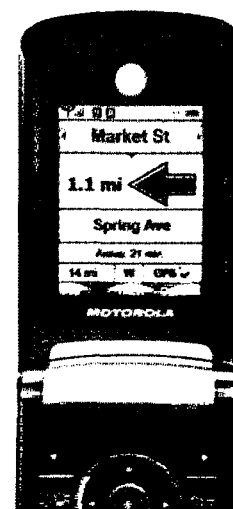
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Happy 20th Mary Kusek!

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MARKET RECAP

Stocks

Dow Jones 12,099.66 -293.00

Up: 962 Same: 83 Down: 2,386 Composite Volume: 1,204,261,107

AMEX 2,186.41 -82.40
NASDAQ 2,209.96 -58.30
NYSE 8,549.50 -276.94
S&P 500 1,298.42 -32.32
NIKKEI (Tokyo) 12,260.44 +296.28
FTSE 100 (London) 5,545.60 -60.20

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
S&P DEP RECIEPTS (SPY)	2.48	-3.31	130.32
FINANCIAL SEL SPDR (XLF)	-2.64	-0.67	24.75
POWERSHARES (QQQQ)	-2.47	-1.07	42.26
VISA Inc. (V)	0.00	0.00	56.50

Treasuries

10-YEAR NOTE	-2.58	-0.089	3.362
13-WEEK BILL	-27.78	-0.250	0.650
30-YEAR BOND	-2.47	-0.107	4.222
5-YEAR NOTE	-2.62	-0.063	2.343

Commodities

LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	-4.94	104.48
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-59.00	945.30
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-1.98	74.55

Exchange Rates

YEN	98.8200
EURO	0.6401
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.0121
BRITISH POUND	0.5039

IN BRIEF

Blood thinner contaminant identified

WASHINGTON — U.S. health officials have identified a contaminant in batches of the blood thinner heparin associated with 19 deaths and are trying to determine how the chemical got into the drug.

The lots of heparin, whose key ingredient was imported from China, were recalled Feb. 28, and Food and Drug Administration officials said Wednesday that no new deaths have been reported since that time.

Dr. Janet Woodcock, head of the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, said the contaminant is oversulfated chondroitin sulfate, a chemical that does not occur naturally.

Chondroitin sulfate is a natural compound that occurs widely and is used as a dietary supplement but the oversulfated version has not been widely studied.

"We cannot rule in or out whether this was accidentally or deliberately introduced into the product," Woodcock said, "We are investigating how it got in."

The FDA has also initiated testing of imported heparin entering this country and Woodcock said the agency feels "doctors and patients now can be confident that the product on the market has been tested and is safe."

Market erases most of Tuesday's gains

NEW YORK — Stocks pulled back sharply Wednesday, erasing most of the previous session's big gains as investors grew concerned about the possibility that banks remain vulnerable to further problems from soured debt. The Dow Jones industrial average fell nearly 300 points after rising 420 on Tuesday.

Some retrenchment was to be expected after the previous day's huge advance. But the decline also reflects investors' continuing uneasiness about the world's financial system and the U.S. economy.

Talk swirled about whether further write-downs are in the offing after Merrill Lynch & Co. filed a lawsuit against a company involved in a debt transaction with the investment bank. Merrill claimed in the litigation that Security Capital Assurance Inc. owed it up to \$3.1 billion after backing out of financial transactions.

Limits on mortgage firms loosened

Mandatory cash cushion for Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac to be reduced by one-third

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — By making it easier for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to raise funds and back nearly \$2 trillion in home loans this year, the government is making its role in steadying the economy decidedly more hands on.

That strategy is moving the Bush administration toward activist government solutions and away from its traditional free-market leanings. Behind the push: a housing crisis and credit-market calamity that have spread fear through global financial markets and made it tough for consumers and businesses to borrow.

Analysts worry that the opening for Fannie and Freddie could put too much financial risk on the backs of the mortgage-finance companies, which have taken multibillion-dollar hits from the foreclosure wave and have been hungry for capital.

Until a few months ago, administration officials voiced similar concern. They said that allowing the companies to take on more debt could threaten the global financial system, citing the pair's recent massive accounting scandals.

Although an independent regulatory agency put the plan in place, it wasn't without some significant stage setting by top-level Bush officials.

It was the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight that announced Wednesday the plan to quickly inject an additional \$200 billion of financing for mortgages, which will require Fannie and Freddie to raise substantial new funds. But President Bush's Treasury secretary, Henry Paulson, was said to have played a role in bringing



Luis Garcia, a victim of predatory mortgage company Lifetime Financial, sits in his home in San Bernardino, Calif. Tuesday. The firm was shut down Tuesday by the state of California.

about the move, as he did in the rescue buyout of investment firm Bear Stearns by rival JPMorgan Chase — which was orchestrated and backed up by the independent Federal Reserve.

Under the plan, the mandatory cash cushion for Fannie and Freddie — now nearly \$20 billion for the two — will be reduced by a third. OFHEO, which oversees the government-sponsored companies, said the goal is to free up money to help new home buyers take out loans and existing

homeowners refinance into more affordable mortgages.

The loosening of the mandated capital collars, which had been hinted at in late February, is a policy turnaround for the government.

"Everything is now on the table. Actions that would have been inconceivable from the administration's point of view just weeks ago are mainstream today," said mortgage industry consultant Howard Glaser. "The administration is not going to shoot anything down that might help stabi-

lize the mortgage market given the current environment."

Glaser was a federal housing official in the Clinton administration.

Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., who has long been critical of the administration's response to the housing crisis, saw recent moves as tardy and tepid. "They're beginning to put their toe in the water," he said in an interview Wednesday. "They're still a day late and a dollar short, but at least they're looking at it."

Government doing little to help economy

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Any present optimism may be premature.

The sagging economy could keep slumping, despite one-day stock market rallies, aggressive intervention by the Federal Reserve and efforts by Congress and the White House to put more money in consumers' pockets.

Economic fundamentals are dreary and there is only so much the government can do to make things better before making things worse.

Even those applauding the recent moves by the Fed and the administration say the economy has taken hits from which it will be hard to recover.

"This is a serious combination of events, the housing slump and the credit crunch, at the same time," said Alice Rivlin, founding director of the Congressional Budget Office and former vice chairman of the Fed.

Still, she is guardedly hopeful. "The Fed is very aggressive and imaginative

and has really taken very strong action, primarily to get the credit markets functioning again. And that's good."

But she said it may take more action by the administration and Congress and there may be "a need to put more public money into this."

Former Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan calls today's financial problems "the most wrenching since the end of the second World War."

The economy is replacing Iraq as the main worry of election-year voters. This shift has put the administration in crisis management mode and led to increasing calls to action by the presidential contenders.

The Fed has cut its key short-term rate six times since September. That includes a three-quarter percentage point reduction Tuesday, to 2.25 percent. Policymakers hinted that more cuts may be in store.

The central bank has shoveled tens of billions of dollars into credit mar-

kets. It invoked Depression-vintage authority over the weekend to engineer the fire-sale takeover of Bear Stearns to keep the 85-year old investment house from going under.

More than 130 million households soon will begin receiving rebate checks under a \$168 billion economic aid plan.

On Wednesday, the administration relaxed restrictions on mortgage-finance giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, allowing them to make up to \$200 billion more in loans. The White House also is negotiating with Democrats, who run Congress, on plans to head off hundreds of thousands of home foreclosures.

But there are risks.

Too much government intervention, some economists suggest, may prolong the day of reckoning when housing and credit markets hit bottom, while adding hundreds of billions to the national debt, now edging closer to \$10 trillion.

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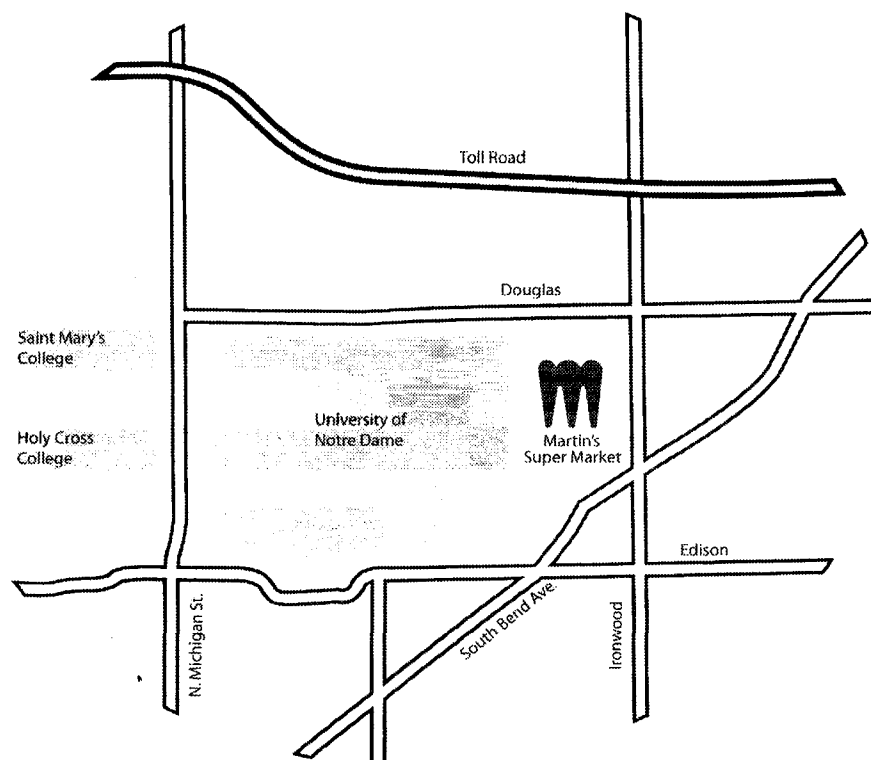
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In wrecks, sturdy cars delay victims' rescue

Study reveals emergency crews struggle to cut through modern autos' reinforced steel frames

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Capt. Clint Roberts makes his living cutting accident victims out of hideously mangled vehicles, but even he could hardly believe it when two people in a 2007 midsize car survived a head-on crash with a full-sized pickup last year.

The Ford Fusion's reinforced steel construction probably saved the lives of the 18-year-old driver and his 16-year-old passenger. But Roberts said it gave his Hillsborough County Fire Rescue crew fits as they tried to free them last November.

Because hydraulic cutters couldn't shear the roof posts, rescue workers had to turn to heavy-duty electric saws, replacing blade after blade as they dulled on the rugged material.

"It was just beating the snot out of the tools," adding minutes and delaying medical treatment, Roberts said.

There is no question that today's cars save lives by cocooning motorists in reinforced alloys, impact-absorbing crumple zones and as many as a dozen air bags.

But in interviews with The Associated Press, rescue officials and experts from around the United States said the new technology is also hindering extrication of injured people, increasingly forcing crews to work deeper into the critical "golden hour" between accident and treatment by emergency room doctors. On many 2005 and later cars, an extrication that once took 10 or 15 minutes can now take twice that or longer.

To catch up, counties and cities are spending tens of thousands of dollars — if they can afford it — to buy more powerful equipment that can cut through newer cars' reinforced steel and the lighter, tougher exotic metals used in roofs, posts and doors.

Then there are obstacles that endanger rescuers' safety. Pressurized gas canisters that inflate air bags can explode if pierced by cutting tools. Rescuers can be blown from cars when air bags suddenly inflate. Hidden battery cables in hybrid cars can deliver a powerful shock.

To protect themselves, workers now have to peel away the ceiling and interior plastic to see what's underneath before they can even start cutting.

Experts cannot say for certain whether the delays in getting these victims to the hospital have resulted in people dying. But that's the fear.

"We build more fire stations, we make faster fire trucks, we've got helicopters to get you to the hospital," said Roberts, an expert who teaches extrication to colleagues around Florida. "But what's slowing us down are these vehicles that are harder for us to get into."

The problem has rescue workers scrambling to update their tools and explore different ways to attack cars with their cutters, spreaders and saws. Some agencies with equipment more than a few years old are arriving at acci-

dent scenes and finding out that it will no longer do the job.

"Because their shearing materials had been so successful for so many years, some agencies hadn't developed a Plan B," said Tom Hollenstain, who works to educate rescuers about new auto technology at the State Farm Insurance vehicle research center.

Leading hydraulic-tool makers such as Hurst Jaws of Life — whose namesake George Hurst introduced the first hydraulic extrication tools for auto racing in the early 1970s — must keep putting more oomph into their equipment, making it heavier and more expensive. A single Hurst cutter and power unit runs about \$25,000. Add hydraulic spreaders and other tools and the price rises quickly.

A fire crew in Bonita Springs, Fla., discovered the problem last year when it rolled up on a 2007 Lexus that had overturned. Hydraulic cutters only a few years old wouldn't shear the strengthened steel roof posts, so the crew had to move quickly to cut other parts of the car. A job that should have taken a few minutes required 20 minutes of cutting and sawing to remove the driver.

Assistant Chief Ken Craft said the incident led the department to buy new heavy rescue tools costing \$54,000 — a sizable expense for a city of around 40,000.

"If the automakers roll out something new next year, we could be right back where we were at," Craft said. "That's the problem we're confronted with."

Mike Ader, a volunteer firefighter in Rockville, Md., recalled the layered-steel roof post from a 2008 Toyota Camry that wouldn't budge under the blades of a hydraulic cutter after a broadside crash Jan. 2. The patient, whose injuries were serious but not life-threatening, finally had to be maneuvered around the post.

Ader used two types of saws and numerous blades to remove the post after the patient was removed. The department quickly decided to buy a new, more powerful cutter.

The flip side, of course, is that more people are surviving horrific crashes that would have killed them just a few years ago.

The Fusion's passenger, for example, was hurt but conscious and joking with Roberts as the crew worked to get him out. The driver of the other vehicle — a 2001 Ford F-150 pickup — was dead at the scene.

With about three people hurt in car crashes every minute in the United States, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration spokesman Rae Tyson said he is comfortable with the trade-off. Rescue workers, he said, will have to work harder to keep up with technology, just like everybody else.

"The fatality rate for passenger vehicles is the lowest in history," Tyson said. "That, to me, is a pretty good news story."

Father faces 4 years in prison

Bogus posting fueled racial conflict between victim and shooter's son

Associated Press

RIVERHEAD, N.Y. — A black father was sentenced to two to four years in prison Wednesday for fatally shooting an intoxicated white teenager during a racially charged confrontation with two carloads of young people at the end of his driveway.

The parents of victim Daniel Cicciaro Jr., 17, were irate after learning that John White did not receive the maximum sentence of 15 years in prison.

White, 54, was convicted in December of second-degree manslaughter and a weapons charge.

"Nice message it sends to society that as long as you're black and there's a problem at the end of your driveway you can grab an illegal handgun and shoot someone in the face and get away with it," an infuriated Daniel Cicciaro Sr. told reporters while dozens of supporters sobbed nearby.

"Well, let's see what happens when Aaron White gets shot, and see how the laws are," Cicciaro said, referring to White's 19-year-old son.

Defense attorney Frederick Brewington said Cicciaro's remarks appeared to be a threat and demanded an investigation. Prosecutor Thomas Spota said the matter was referred to police, and the Whites were assigned extra protection at their home.

"I've always remained remorseful about this incident," White told the judge.

White was led away in handcuffs, but his attorneys immediately filed an appeal and bail was set at \$200,000

late Wednesday, said attorney Paul Gianelli. He was expected to remain jailed overnight.

At the trial, the defense invoked the nation's violent racist past in arguing the shooting was justified, referring to the teenagers as a "lynch mob."

White testified that he was trying to protect his family on a hot August night in 2006 when he got an unregistered pistol from his garage after a group of angry white teenagers

turned up at his house to fight his son. He claimed the handgun discharged accidentally, killing Cicciaro.

The conflict was fueled by a bogus Internet posting claiming Aaron White wanted to rape a female friend of one of the white teens.

Cicciaro, who had a blood-alcohol reading above the legal limit for driving, was just 3 inches from the pistol when he was shot in the face, a medical examiner testified.

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THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

page 10

Thursday, March 20, 2008

THE OBSERVER

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OFFICE MANAGER & GENERAL INFO
(574) 631-7471

FAX
(574) 631-6927
ADVERTISING
(574) 631-6900 observad@nd.edu

EDITOR IN CHIEF
(574) 631-4542
MANAGING EDITOR
(574) 631-4541 obsme@nd.edu

ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR
(574) 631-4324
BUSINESS OFFICE
(574) 631-5313

NEWS DESK
(574) 631-5323 obsnews.1@nd.edu
VIEWPOINT DESK
(574) 631-5303 viewpoint.1@nd.edu

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POST OFFICE INFORMATION

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

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

POSTMASTER:
Send address corrections to:
The Observer
P.O. Box 779
024 South Dining Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556-0779

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Garden variety scandals

Being from New Jersey, state pride has never really been my thing. Don't get me wrong, I love my state, and if I can ever afford to live there in a place other than my parents' house I'd certainly love to. But for all the things to love about New Jersey, from Bruce Springsteen to the three-time Stanley Cup winning New Jersey Devils to diners at nearly every mile mark on every major highway, it just never occurred to me to think of New Jersey as better than any other state. The school system is only, as the state's commercials tell me, "one of the top two in the nation."

I think the lack of enthusiasm might have to do with the fact that the Garden State is rather dominated by the lurking giant right above, New York. All my life I've watched sitcoms on New York television affiliates, I've listened to New York radio stations and read New York newspapers. I've even rooted for New York sports teams, like the Giants and Mets (I'm not much of a hockey fan). However, there has always been one area in which I have always considered New Jersey vastly superior to the Empire State, and though recent headlines might make some reconsider the rankings, I for one refuse to relinquish New Jersey's claim as the home of the most corrupt and scandalous state politicians in the country.

The immoral acts engaged in by Eliot Spitzer at the Emperor's Club, the details of which are fresh enough in the public conscious as to spare their retelling here, are appalling. A rising star in the Democratic Party has crashed, and a life's work spent prosecuting those who broke the law is irredeemably tarnished. In addition to all this, the Spitzer case has once again

shown how we in America, in the words of Daniel Patrick Moynihan, are "defining deviancy down." Here is a man who commits adultery with a prostitute, violating the sacred trust of marriage, and the only thing anyone seems to want to talk about is whether or not Spitzer should have paid the extra few thousand to move up from a four-diamond hooker to a seven.

Coupled with the Spitzer scandal is the news which broke just a few hours after David Paterson's inauguration as the new governor. After a scandal on the magnitude of the Spitzer affair, New Yorkers may understandably have been looking for a calm transition, and for promises of a cleaner and more responsible government. So of course, nearly the first thing Gov. Paterson does is tell the first reporter he can find that he spent almost three years in relationships with women other than his wife. Presumably, the fact that money was not exchanged makes Paterson a champion of the people.

However, I fear that the media and you, the media-influenced public, might be too caught up in the here-and-now, and be somewhat forgetful of the not-so-far-from-here-and-now. After all, it has only been four years since the governor of my proud state resigned in order to get in front of the story about how he hired his completely unqualified gay lover to be his Homeland Security adviser at a yearly salary of \$110,000 a year, despite the fact that Louis Freeh, the former head of the FBI, volunteered to do the job for free. Gov. McGreevy apparently thought that the fact that Golan Cipel was from Israel would be enough to satisfy everyone in the state that he was qualified to advise the governor in the event of a terrorist attack. Like in the Spitzer case, there was the pathetic spectacle of McGreevy and his

wife standing together at a podium, refusing to directly answer questions or fully admit wrongdoing. But here's where New Jersey's expertise in all matters salacious comes into play: Rather than just resigning effective shortly thereafter, McGreevy announced that his resignation would not take place for three whole months. Why? Why, to deny the voters of New Jersey the chance to choose his replacement in a special election, of course! You see in New Jersey, we only let the voters decide who should be in office when all other alternatives have been exhausted.

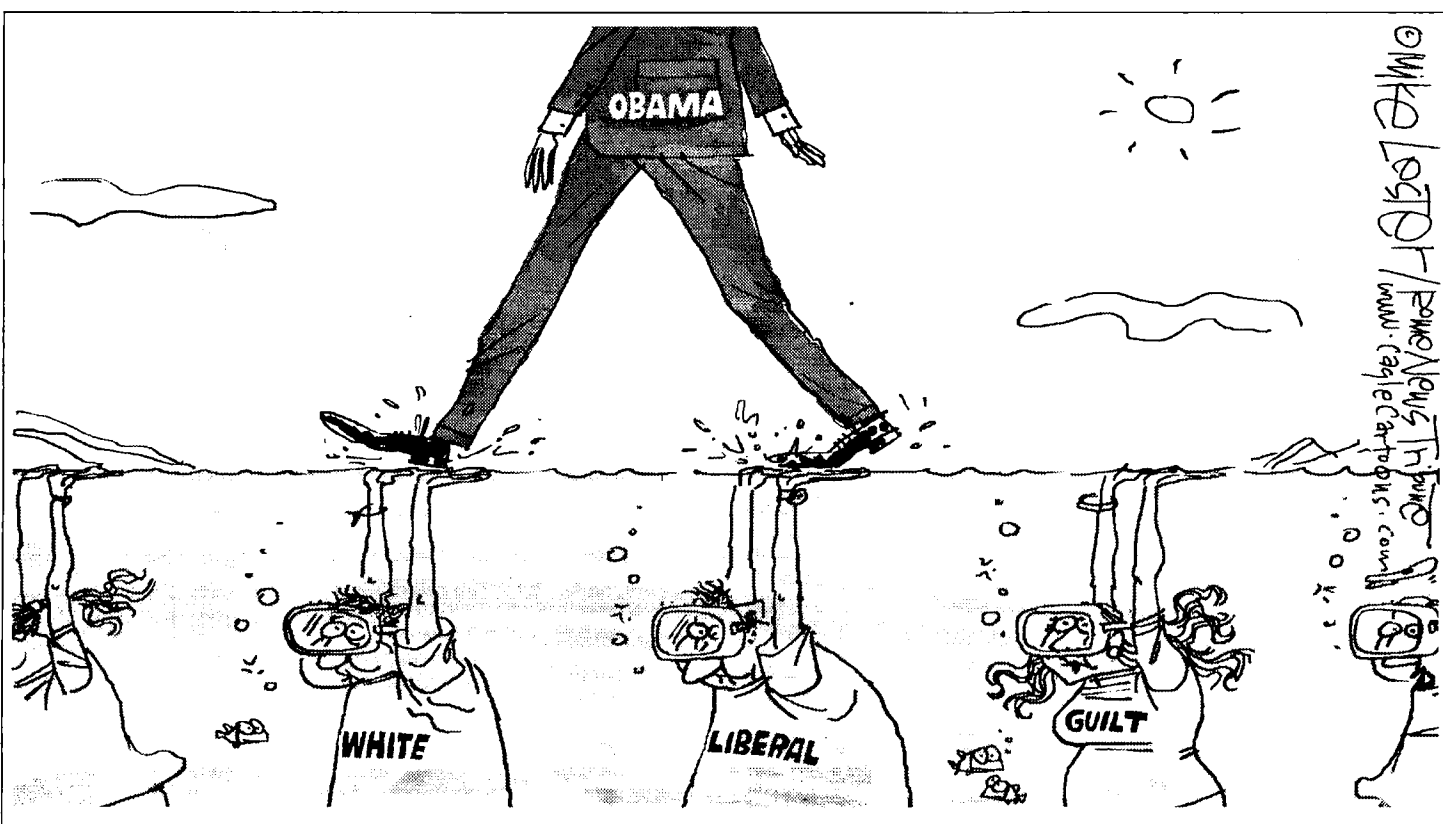
I don't think I've ever been prouder of my home state than I was the other day when former Gov. McGreevy, now of all things a divinity student in an Episcopal seminary, in an effort to keep the scandal-crown in New Jersey, said not so fast New York. You see, he wasn't just cheating on his wife with a state employee, no. He was having wild sex parties which involved his wife.

Honestly, it's like McGreevy was standing up and saying, just try and top that, Paterson. Or maybe he was just trying to publicly embarrass his wife before the upcoming custody hearing over their daughter Jacqueline, while also trying to depress sales of her book. Either way, it makes my heart stir with pride to be from New Jersey, where we have perfected career-ending scandal.

John Everett is a senior English major. He is thought to be somewhere between 21 and 45 years of age. He is armed only with a sharp wit and is considered cantankerous. If you have any information regarding his whereabouts, please contact jeverett@nd.edu

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

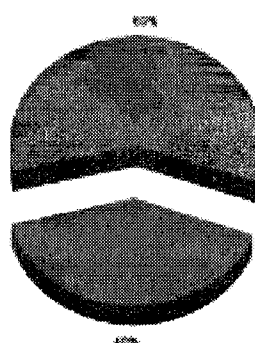
EDITORIAL CARTOON



Who will go further in the NCAA basketball tournament?

● Men's Basketball - 60%

● Women's Basketball - 40%



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It's never too late to be who you might have been."

George Elliot
English novelist

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Protesters out of line

Yesterday I was walking to class with my boyfriend, who was wearing his Army uniform, when we came upon a protest against the Iraq War on Fieldhouse Mall near Lafortune. My boyfriend stood tall, looked forward and walked past the protesters without uttering a word. We were immediately followed by a young man holding a sign that said "Support the Troops, Not the War" who "thanked" him for his service and yelled at him to come join the protest later in the day.

It was a slap in the face to my boyfriend, since some of the other protesters held signs complaining of Iraqi deaths brought about by American soldiers and demeaning the administration that has supported the troops throughout the war. At this point, my blood boiled, and I began to wonder whether this so-called supporter of the troops really knew what it meant to show support?

Members of ROTC and those in the armed forces today made a choice to join the service. They were not drafted. To believe that they would stand in protest of something that they have chosen to dedicate their lives to is insulting and ignorant. To claim that you support people while standing in protest of what

they risk their lives for is absurd.

So, I would like to challenge all of those who make similar claims of "support" to put down your signs and actually do something worthwhile for a change. If you truly support the troops, spend the time you waste idly standing with a sign preparing a care package for a soldier. Get a name and address on Anysoldier.com and send a card or an e-mail thanking them. It is, after all, soldiers who have fought and died to guarantee your right to stand in protest and ridicule the very causes that they risk their lives for. If any of you would like to put your words of support into action I would be happy to pass along the addresses of my boyfriend, and all other junior cadets in Army ROTC, who will be spending most of this summer training in Fort Lewis, Washington away from their friends and families. I know they would prefer you to show your appreciation with letters and packages as opposed to your distorted version of "support" that is, in fact, a mockery.

Meghan Sweeney
senior
Farley Hall
March 19

Yatarola shows the way

Ed Keenan is clearly a lost soul careening down a path of corruption. In his article "Obama most likely not the Antichrist" (March 19), Keenan bashes Greg Yatarola, the final bastion of faith and reason here in The Observer, for having nothing "original" or "relevant" to say about the destructive monstrosity that is Barack Obama, calling Yatarola's words "absurd."

Need I remind you all that this is just the sort of derision endured by the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for his defense of the poor, diseased, and Republican. In fact, one notices that the inane idol worship that follows Obama everywhere he goes is just the opposite of what the brilliant Yatarola faces on this campus. The insightful commentaries of this modern prophet are dismissed by nearly all students in the same way as by Keenan.

Yet though he is inevitably responded to with great hostility by the Notre Dame student body, Greg the Great trucks on, writing article after article to The Observer, taking time out of his real-world day to try to lead the students of his alma mater to the light. Thank God for alumni who are so involved.

If Barack Obama is the Antichrist, which I have no doubt he is, then Yatarola is clearly the second coming of our Savior. His battles against the insanity of change in Washington, hopes for healthcare and disgusting views about abortion which Obama may or may not hold is valiant, and yet we crucify this great man all over again.

The time has come. The Evil One has emerged from his lair in the United States Senate to devour us all. Yet our last light and hope shines through the Viewpoint section of the Notre Dame Observer, a beacon for all pious men to follow. You unbelievers have only death to look forward to. The Yatarapture will soon descend upon us. You will be left behind, only to be slaughtered in the great Obama-Yatarola battle in the valley of Megiddo. May God have mercy on your fascist souls, if you can even claim to have them. The Word of Yatarola. (You say: Thanks be to Greg).

Andy Gray
sophomore
Siegfried Hall
March 19

Catholicism vs. nationalism

I believe Jay Rowley ("Sheen doesn't deserve Laetare Medal," March 17) is confusing two areas of an American Catholic's life: nationalism and Catholicism.

The war in Iraq was called unjust by the Vatican under John Paul II, and Benedict XVI reiterated a call for the end of the war on Sunday. Is the end of this war not the major goal of Not In My Name and ANSWER? Sheen may not be acting in ways that seem supportive to the United States, but that may be because supporting U.S. policy may not be the most Catholic thing to do.

At the beginning of Mass on Sunday we heard of the day when everyone thought that the militant Messiah had come, riding into Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives. But later that same Mass we heard this Messiah say, "for all who take the sword will perish by the sword."

I commend Notre Dame for choosing Martin Sheen as a recipient of the Laetere Medal for his inspiring story of rediscovering his faith, his voice against "the sword" and in support of the weak and poor. And perhaps it is in spite of the fact that he doesn't place the same importance on all three parts of our motto, but I'm guessing not.

Matt Rissler
grad student
off campus
March 17

Deeper issue must be addressed

The recent Health and Body Image Conference held at Notre Dame may have succeeded in raising awareness of eating disorders, but it hardly succeeded in pinpointing the issues underlying them.

A distorted body image is not the fundamental problem, but only a manifestation of the true issue. At their root, eating disorders are a mechanism for coping with extreme anxiety and self-hatred. Our societal fixation on a certain (unrealistic) standard of physical perfection may give the anxiety a vehicle to inhabit, but in absence of a deeper psychological pathology, this ideal will not develop into the obsessive behavior that characterizes an eating disorder. (It is well worth recalling, here, the clinical name — anorexia nervosa — loss of appetite due to nerves).

Addressing eating disorders, then, involves not merely asking, as Valerie Staples did, "What situations here have contributed to your view of food, weight and body image?" Rather, it involves asking instead, "What situations have cultivated in you feelings of deficiency or self-doubt?" This line of questioning reveals that eating disorders arise not in a society that prizes merely physical perfection, but one that judges the individual on scholarly, financial, athletic and personal success — to the point of reducing the human

person to a résumé of these accomplishments.

The anxiety of never feeling good enough — in any realm — contributes to the development of an eating disorder. If the University truly wishes to address eating disorders, the solution is not to hold a conference highlighting a supermodel as the keynote speaker.

Ultimately, the University must reevaluate the kind of mental health that is fostered on this campus. More immediately, the University must prioritize making high quality counselling more available to the student body.

While it is possible to find this at the counselling center, it is also true that the center is chronically unable to meet student demand, consigning some to their waiting list and churning others through at a rushed pace or in a limited number of sessions. Hiring more counselors to supplement the doctoral interns won't eradicate eating disorders on campus, but it will increase the possibility that those who wrestle with them will receive adequate care.

Emily Stetler
grad student
off campus
March 19

PERSPECTIVE: MARCH 24, 1980

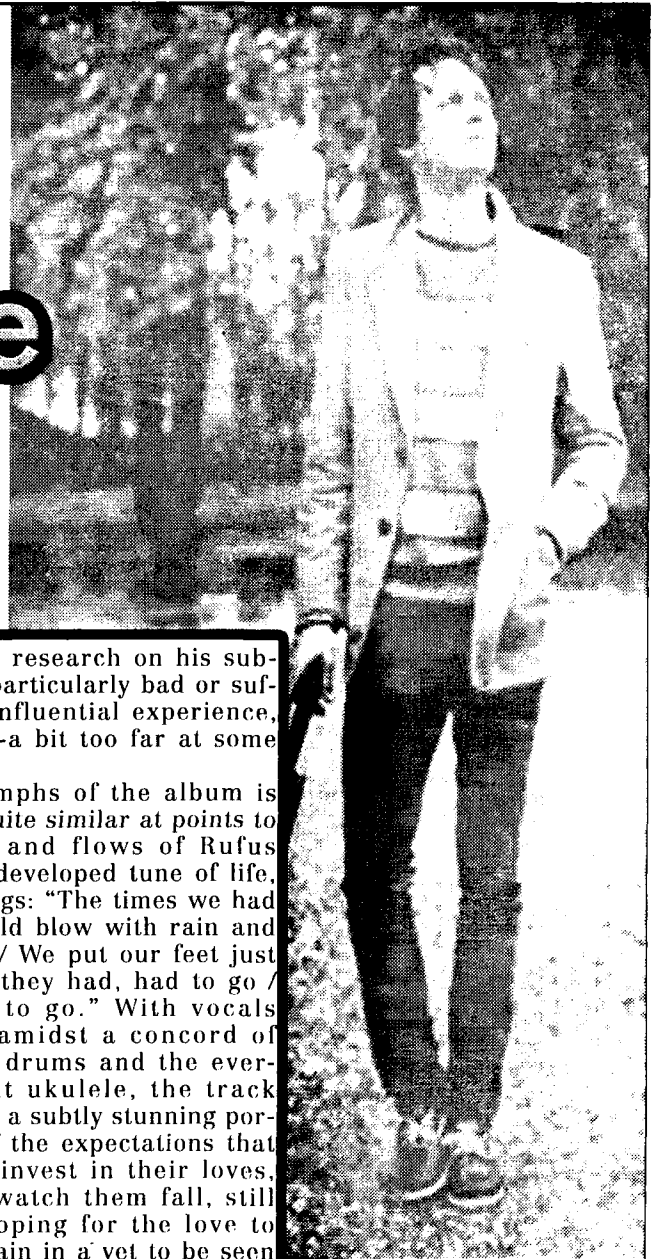


Softball, friends, and beverage are sure signs that spring is coming. (photo by Phillip Johnson)

THIS SPACE FOR RENT

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

Beirut Brings International Influence to Lush Indie Pop



By JAMES COSTA
Scene Writer

At the age of only 19, Zach Condon, a.k.a. "Beirut", crafted one of the most precocious debut records of any American artist in recent memory. Defined by Eastern European and Balkan influences, the album "Gulag Orkestar" weaves a decidedly mature tale of hope, loss and the constant renewal of life as is found when one appreciates the dueling roles of new influences amidst the permanence of memory.

Considered part of the indie scene, Beirut has flown under the radar of many casual indie fans. His rich and emotive voice carries most of the songs, with various instruments including the ukulele and the trumpet augmenting the many textures and feelings that he brings to each tune.

A minor problem with the record is the fact that it is written with such heartfelt enthusiasm for the lives and experiences of those in Eastern Europe, the Balkans and Russia. It's a sound technique and Condon succeeds in conveying a sense of the experience faced by those whose stories color his songs. But, since he grew up in the western United States and spent most of his time making the record in Western Europe, it is unlikely that many of the stories he tells are so much from lived experiences as they are from

His rich and emotive voice carries most of the songs, with various instruments including the ukulele and the trumpet augmenting the many textures and feelings that he brings to each tune.

meticulous and thorough research on his subjects. The songs are not particularly bad or suffer from lack of actual influential experience, but they seem to stretch a bit too far at some points.

One of the major triumphs of the album is "Postcards From Italy." Quite similar at points to the vocal fluctuations and flows of Rufus Wainwright, it is a fully developed tune of life, love and death. Beirut sings: "The times we had / Oh, when the wind would blow with rain and snow / Were not all bad / We put our feet just where they had, had to go / Never to go." With vocals laced amidst a concord of horns, drums and the ever-present ukulele, the track creates a subtly stunning portrait of the expectations that lovers invest in their loves, all to watch them fall, still ever-hoping for the love to rise again in a yet to be seen day.

One of Beirut's most obvious strengths is his ability to write lyrics that are not overly involved and sprawling. Unlike many indie artists who construct songs that rely on vast stories weaved within each individual track, Condon allows the words equal footing with the music. Yet he also manages the balance the two elements of words and music so they support each other as individual yet superbly integrated elements of each track. This effect is best seen on tracks like "The Canals of Our City," "Mount Wroclai" and "Postcards From Italy." Indeed, his astute and measured use of each element of the song allows for the best songs to stand out as absolute gems while letting the more average ones still achieve their own power and effect in a manner that is usually only seen in the best songs on other artists' records.

The track "Scenic World" offers perhaps the most prettily pop sound on the record. Amidst the onset of horns and layered vocals, Condon sings: "I try to imagine a careless life / A scenic world where the sunsets are all breathtaking." It's a beautiful moment on a wholly beautiful record from a young man who is fast becoming one of the most magical and affecting artists making music today.

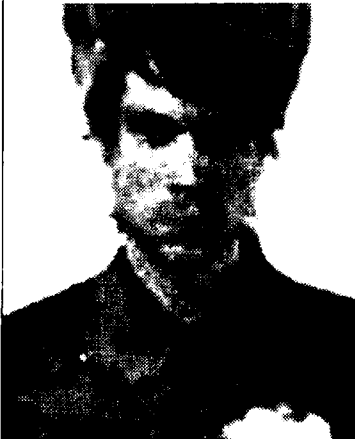
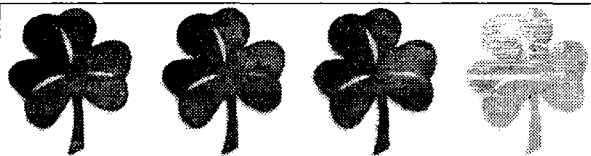
Contact James Costa at jcosta1@nd.edu

Gulag Orkestar

Beirut

Label: Ba Da Bing

Recommended Tracks: "Postcards from Italy," "Scenic World" and "After the Curtain"



IRISH INSIDER



Thursday, March 20, 2008

THE
OBSERVER

BACK AT THE DANCE

After losing in the first round last season, Notre Dame vows to make a deep Tourney run this year.

COMMENTARY

Irish poised for deep NCAA run

It's time to get back to work. After dispatching most of their Big East regular-season opponents in business-like fashion, the Irish should get the job done this weekend in the NCAA Tournament.

But that doesn't mean Notre Dame has an easy road ahead of it. After the Irish finished in a tie for second place in the conference, they were "rewarded" with a trip to a city two time zones

away to take on a George Mason team that knows a few things about winning in March Madness. If they take care of the Patriots, the Irish will then likely take on either Washington State or Winthrop.

The players know they can't mention where the Irish would head if they could notch two wins in Denver, but Notre Dame fans can speculate. If the team is still on its feet for the Sweet Sixteen, the Irish would earn another cross-country trip, this time to take on North Carolina in its backyard in Charlotte, N.C.

The potential matchup with the Tar Heels might not really seem like a reward for the players but that would be plenty of fun for fans. Can't you just imagine a sweaty, wide-eyed Dick Vitale going hoarse while talking about a Harangody-Hansbrough matchup? "It's the Sweet Sixteen. It's the two best big men in the country, baby!"

I'm giddy just thinking about it. If the Irish take care of business this weekend, they will find themselves in one of the biggest games

in program history.

I know I'm getting ahead of myself. But not as ahead as you might think - expect the Irish to come out on fire this weekend. The Colorado air might not help Notre Dame's offense like it does baseball hitters but that doesn't matter. Luke Harangody has had a week to think about his early foul trouble and a 13-point finish in the team's early exit in the Big East tournament. That's in addition to the meager four points and one rebound he posted in last year's one-and-done in the Big Dance.

"I wish the game could come a lot sooner than Thursday," Harangody said.

So despite sleeping in an unfamiliar bed for a few nights, the Irish big man should be even more intense than usual in the first round. George Mason is a physical squad but its frontcourt won't be able to hang with Notre Dame's. A potential second-round matchup with Washington State or even Winthrop would be a bigger test for the Irish but it would also be a good warm-up for a contest with you-know-who.

The Irish know what's at stake this year. They are no longer the wide-eyed Tournament rookies they admitted to being last year.

"We're here to do a lot more than we did last year," Harangody said.

The Irish haven't played since their early exit from the Big East tournament.

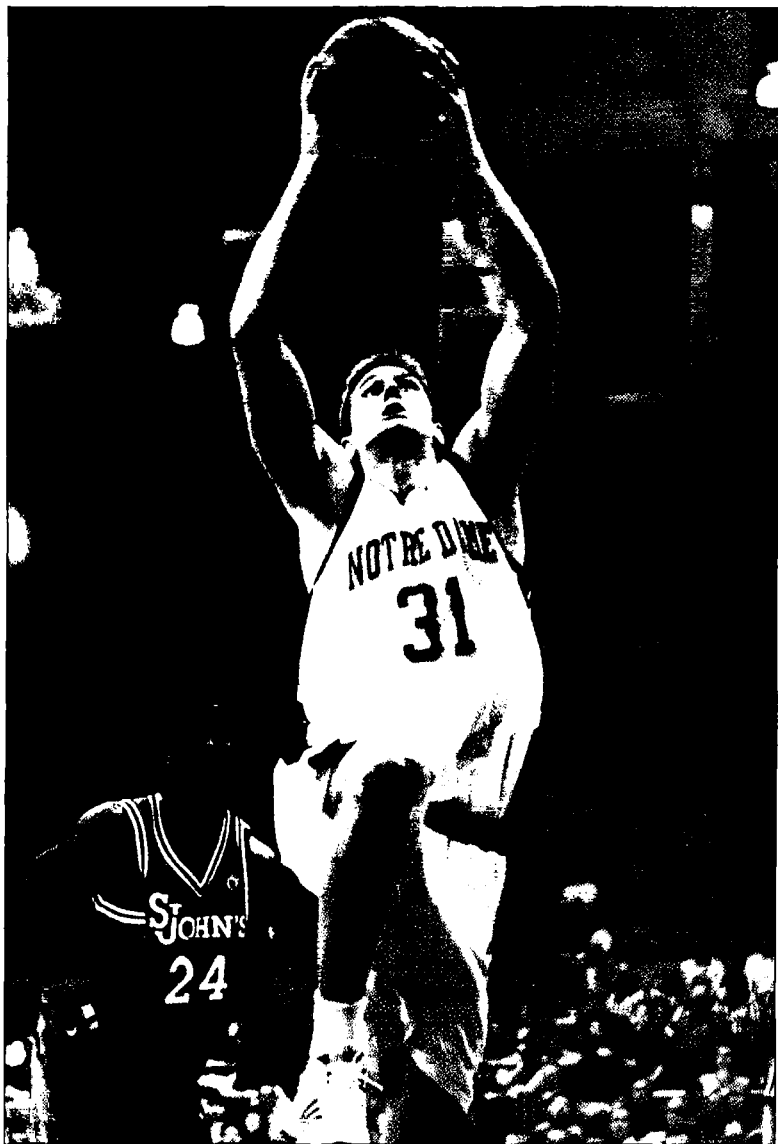
They're eager to get back to work.

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

Contact Fran Tolan at ftolan@nd.edu.



Fran Tolan
Associate Sports Editor



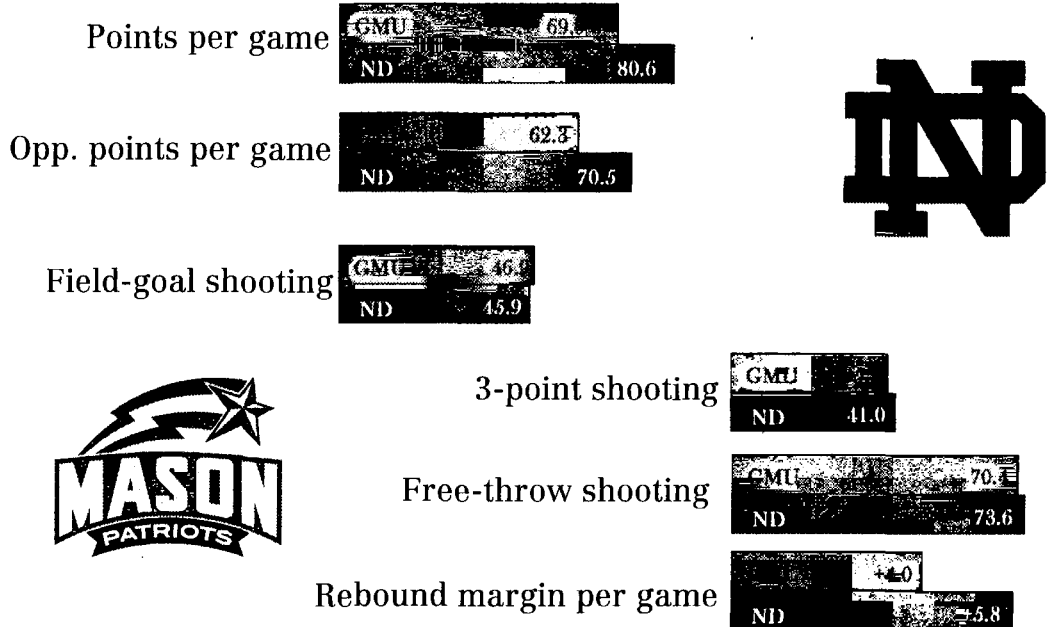
Irish senior forward Rob Kurz goes up for a dunk in Notre Dame's 68-55 win over Saint John's March 10.

2008 NCAA East Regional

1		Friday, 7:10 p.m.	
16			Sunday
8		Friday, 9:40 p.m.	
9			
5		Thursday, 9:50 p.m.	
12			Saturday
4		Thursday, 7:20 p.m.	
13			
6		Friday, 7:10 p.m.	
11			Sunday
3		Friday, 9:40 p.m.	
14			
7		Friday, 2:45 p.m.	
10			Sunday
2		Friday, 12:15 p.m.	
15			

Crunching the numbers

SEASON STATISTICS



Facing Cinderella

George Mason, a Final Four team two years ago, commands respect as a first-round opponent

By CHRIS KHOREY
Senior Staff Writer

For the second straight year, Notre Dame suffers a severe deficit of Tournament experience relative to its first-round NCAA Tournament opponent.

The No. 5 seed Irish, who lost the only game they played in the Big Dance in the last four years, take on No. 12 seed George Mason in the Pepsi Center in Denver, Colo., today in the first round of the NCAA's East Regional.

In 2006, as a No. 11 seed, the Patriots made a surprising run all the way to the Final Four. Their Cinderella run created a new college basketball tradition — pundits now start searching for "This Year's George Mason" as early as December.

According to many, last year's "This Year's George Mason" was Winthrop, the small South Carolina college that has been a perennial favorite in the Big South conference.

The Eagles, a No. 11 seed, also happened to be Notre Dame's first round opponent. They beat the Irish 74-64 before losing in the second round.

One year later, the Irish are determined to erase the memories of losing to "This Year's

George Mason" by defeating this year's George Mason.

"You get there and you settle in and you go to practice and then you're playing and you lose and it's over," Irish forward Zach Hillesland said of the loss to Winthrop. "That was not a good feeling, especially because you play your whole season to build that resume and get to the tournament."

This year's George Mason

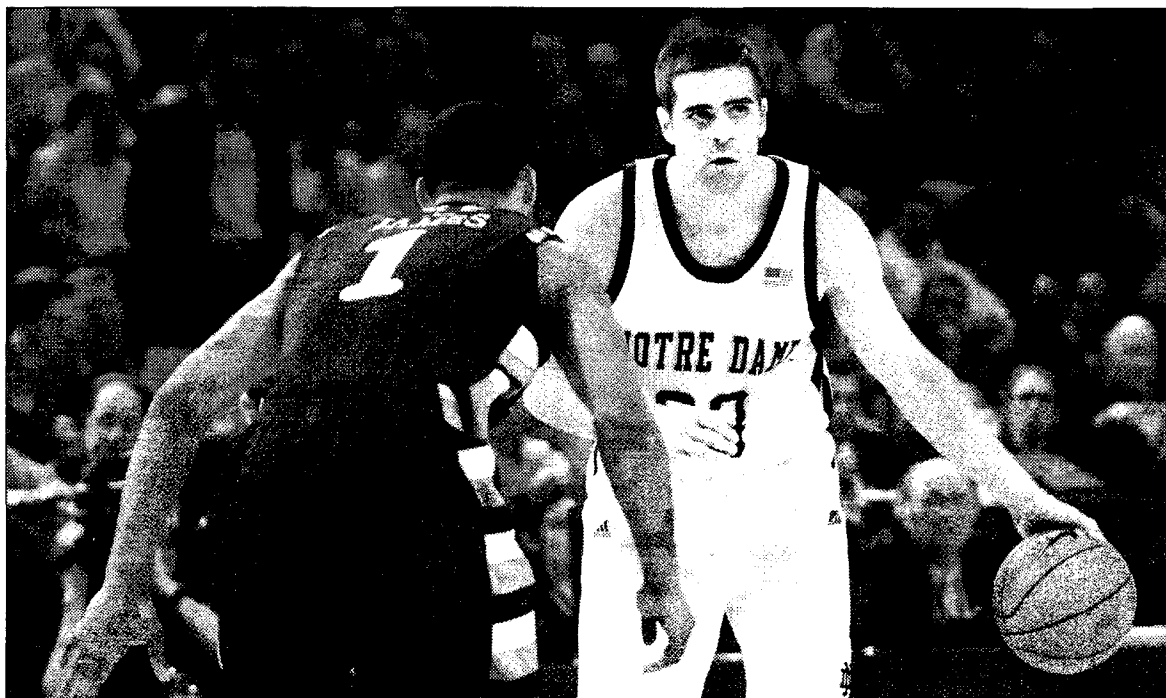
The Patriots followed up their national semifinal appearance by missing the 2007 NCAA Tournament.

This season, they went 23-10 and won the Colonial Athletic Association championship with a 68-59 win over William & Mary on March 10.

George Mason still features seven players with Final Four experience and is still coached by Jim Larranga, who is now in his 11th season with the school.

"We know the run that they made a couple years ago," Irish guard Kyle McAlarney said. "This is the NCAA Tournament. We have to look at them like a Big East team."

The Patriots are led by senior forward Will Thomas, who, at 6-foot-7, 230 pounds, will probably match up with Big East player of the year Luke Harangody in the low post.



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Irish junior guard Kyle McAlarney dribbles against Marquette guard Dominic James in the Golden Eagles' 89-79 win in the Big East quarterfinals on March 11.

As a sophomore, Thomas was second in rebounding and fourth in scoring on the Final Four team. This season, he is George Mason's leading rebounder with 10.5 per game and second leading scorer with 15.8 points per game.

The leading scorer for the Patriots this season is senior guard Folarin Campbell, who pours in 15.9 points per game. At 6-foot-4, Campbell presents match-up problems for Notre Dame's shorter guards, so Hillesland or junior guard Ryan Ayers will probably guard him.

George Mason shoots just 35 percent from 3-point range as a team, but they make up for it by getting the ball inside to Thomas inside or by Campbell getting into the lane off the dribble.

The Patriots have played three "power" conference teams this season. They defeated Kansas State and South Carolina and lost to Villanova.

This year's Notre Dame

One year ago, Notre Dame was walking off the court in Spokane, Wash., having just seen its season end abruptly after the loss to Winthrop.

"We had to think about it all offseason and it's something that has driven us all season long," senior captain Rob Kurz said.

None of the players on the Notre Dame roster had played in the NCAA Tournament prior to last season. This season, Kurz said, the Irish are much more prepared for the atmosphere.

"We learned a lot from last year, like how to prepare mentally better," Kurz said. "Having gone through the experience, we know what to expect now. I

think that's a big key for us."

Although seven current Notre Dame players saw time in the Winthrop game last year, one who didn't was guard Kyle McAlarney. McAlarney was suspended for the spring semester last season for possession of marijuana.

McAlarney said while the NCAA Tournament might be old hat for his teammates, he will try to enjoy his first Big Dance.

"I'm just going to go out there and have fun and go for it," McAlarney said. "That's all I really can do."

Another thing that's new for the Irish this season is the emergence of Harangody, who scored just four points against the Eagles last season. This year, the sophomore is averaging 20.8 points and 10.2 rebounds per game.

For much of the season, Notre Dame was among the top teams in the nation in rebounding margin, but the Irish have struggled on the boards of late, even getting out-rebounded 40-34 by guard-heavy Marquette in their loss in the Big East quarterfinals.

"We have to get back to what we've been doing on the boards," sophomore point guard Tory Jackson said. "In January we dominated on the boards. We have to get back to doing that again."

Rocky Mountain High

In addition to each other, Notre Dame and George Mason will also have to contend with the altitude in Denver, where the thin air makes strenuous exercise difficult on the lungs.

To try to get used to the mountain air, the Irish left Monday night to try to get two

practices in Colorado.

Hillesland dismissed the notion that the altitude will affect the game.

"Everyone has to adjust to it," he said. "It's not going to be a factor."

Jackson, however, said he has heard horror stories about playing at altitude.

"I heard that if you run up and down the court a couple times, you'll pass out," he said. "I'm kind of scared."

The sophomore point guard added that he hopes Notre Dame is in better shape, so that George Mason passes out before the Irish.

"I feel like it might an advantage because they might pass out before we do," he said.

Looking ahead

The winner of Notre Dame and George Mason will take on the winner of Washington State and Winthrop on Saturday.

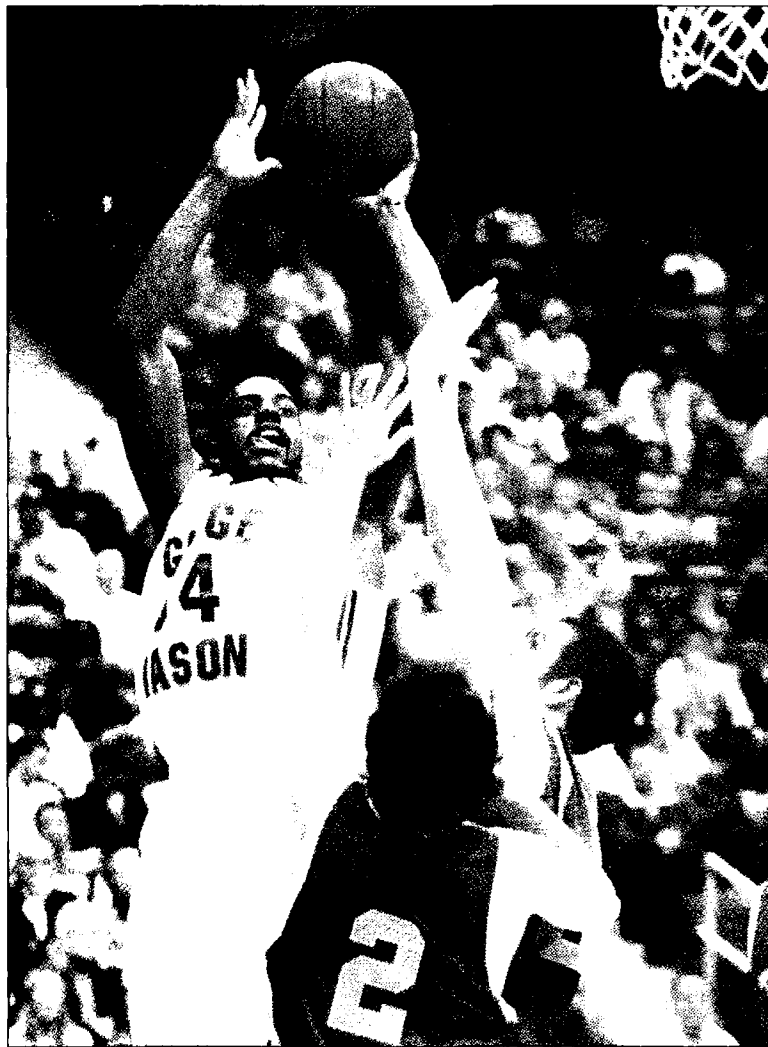
The Cougars are a slow-paced, defensive team that finished third in the Pac-10, and averaged 67.1 points per game offensively and only gave up 57.1 points per game. By contrast, the Irish score 80.6 points per game and give up 70.5 points.

The Eagles won their fourth straight Big South title and will try to pick off their second straight higher seed in the first round of the NAAs. If they do, Notre Dame will get a shot at revenge from last year.

But according to Kurz, Notre Dame is only focusing on the Patriots.

"We have to play fearlessly like we've been playing all year," he said.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu



AP
George Mason forward Will Thomas takes a shot in the Patriots' 68-59 win over William and Mary on March 10.



Fran Tolan

Associate
Sports Editor

All year long, Mike Brey has been telling his team to "dream big dreams." Now is Notre Dame's real chance to do that. After winning a close second-round game, the Irish will not have enough magic left to knock out North Carolina in the Sweet 16. Notre Dame will be in the game until the end against UNC but the Irish will have to shoot the lights out to pull off the upset.

**First Round: W, George Mason
Second Round: W, Wash. State
Sweet Sixteen: L, North Carolina**



Chris Hine

Sports Writer

Notre Dame handles its first two opponents. Thanks to a huge upset (Indiana over North Carolina in the Round of 32), the Irish get the Hoosiers on an off day and advance to the Elite Eight, where they fall for a second time this year to Louisville. Note: My bracket, where money may or may not be at stake, does not reflect this prediction.

**First Round: W, George Mason
Second Round: W, Wash. State
Sweet Sixteen: W, Indiana
Elite Eight: L, Louisville**



Chris Khorey

Senior Staff
Writer

George Mason is a good mid-major team, but that Final Four was two years ago. Winthrop will upset Washington State, giving the Irish a chance at revenge — and they will take advantage. Notre Dame's run will come to an end in the Sweet 16 in a de-facto road game against North Carolina that will feature a classic match-up between Hansbrough and Harangody.

**First Round: W, George Mason
Second Round: W, Winthrop
Sweet Sixteen: L, North Carolina**

Brey's 'high-strung child' keeps teammates loose

Hillesland steps into starting role with unique style of play

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Writer

Don't ask DePaul center Mac Koshwal what happens when Zach Hillesland gets angry.

In Notre Dame's 89-80 over DePaul on Feb. 2, Irish coach Mike Brey lit into Hillesland, saying the junior forward could be playing better defense on Koshwal.

On one particular play in the second half, Koshwal muscled his way past Hillesland for a bucket, prompting Brey to let Hillesland have it as he came down on offense.

"I thought Koshwal dropped step and went through his chest a little too easy there. So, I just kind of commented on that," Brey said with a laugh before practice Monday.

Only Brey's re-telling of the story lacked a few other choice words he had for Hillesland. Whatever else Brey screamed at Hillesland had its desired effect — a few seconds later, Hillesland took Koshwal to the hoop and slammed it home.

"It fired me up, so next time down the floor, I was just ready to boil over and I knew next time I get the ball, I'm going to go to the rack to try to finish," Hillesland said. "... Koshwal was guarding me and I knew he wasn't as quick

as I was, so I gave him a little fake went baseline, help came, went to dunk it and it turned out well. Then, I kind of let some frustration out afterwards."

Hillesland turned to Notre Dame's bench and yelled something, though nobody on the team was exactly sure what he was saying as he ran down the floor like a man possessed.

"I don't know what he yelled, and I don't know if it was English, quite frankly," Brey said. "And if it was, if you had a delay on it, like they do on radio shows, there would've been a lot of delays."

Interactions like this happen occasionally between Brey and Hillesland.

"Zach is my high-strung child," Brey said. "So, with him, every now and then, we can light each other up a little bit. That's one of the reasons he gives us great energy."

Hillesland's energy is one of many attributes he brings to the floor on a nightly basis — the ability to guard anyone on the floor, to rebound, handle the ball, and even a little creativity on the offensive end.

"He's a tricky player, as athletic as he is, sometimes he gets stopped in his dribble and he'll kind of go under the defender and hit a weird, tough shot," Irish guard Kyle McAlarney said. "That's just the way he plays and he's a lot of fun to play with and watch play."

Hillesland does a little bit of everything, and his stats reflect that. Headed into Notre Dame's NCAA Tournament first-round

matchup against George Mason, Hillesland is averaging 6.2 points, 5.1 rebounds, and a little over 2.4 assists per game. But Hillesland's teammates said his biggest contributions can't be measured with numbers.

"There's just so many things he does well," McAlarney said. "There are times when I'll be a little winded and I'll just be like Zach, 'Take the ball up.' He can handle the ball, he's guarding the other team's most athletic guy, rebounds, he'll come down and dunk on you."

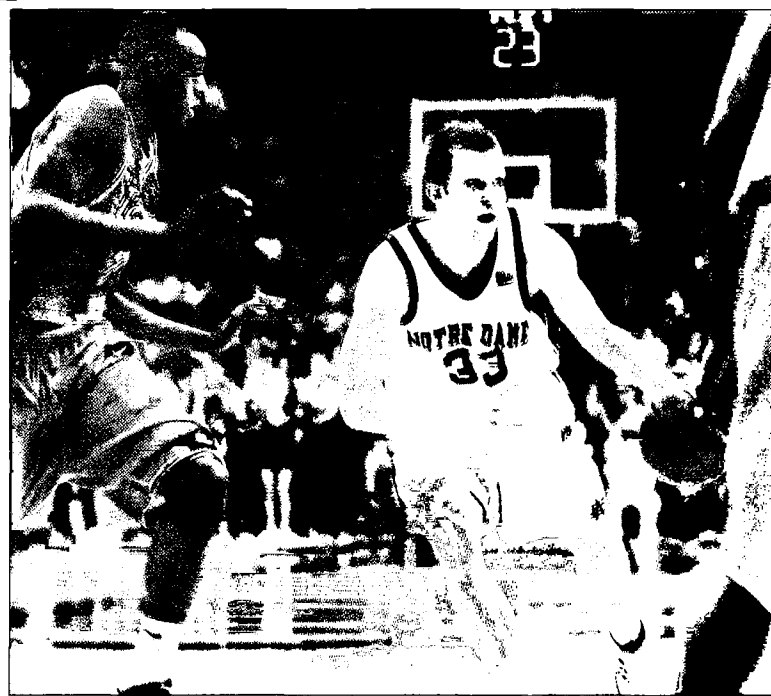
"He's not the best shooter, but you've got to give him a lot of credit, he's improved his mid-range game a lot and on top of that his basketball IQ is really high and he fits into our system really well."

Hillesland and one of his best friends off the court, junior forward Ryan Ayers, also helped keep Notre Dame's team chemistry intact when Hillesland took over Ayers' spot in the starting lineup before Notre Dame's game against Villanova on Jan. 26.

"Certainly, at first, it was kind of an adjustment. There's a certain aspect for him of 'Oh, coach took me out of the starting lineup,' but it wasn't like a demotion or anything. [Coach] was just trying to shuffle it up a little bit," Hillesland said.

After the switch, the Irish won seven of their next eight, and those initial questions Hillesland and Ayers had with the switch disappeared.

"I didn't want his psyche to go down at all," Hillesland said.



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Irish forward Zach Hillesland drives to the basket in Notre Dame's 68-55 win over Saint John's on March 5 at the Joyce Center.

"That was my first concern. But after the first couple of games we played pretty well it kind of faded away and it was going to work out for both of us and the team."

In the end, the switch didn't affect either's playing time significantly. Ayers averaged 26 minutes in conference play while Hillesland averaged 22.7, both figures up slightly from non-conference play, when Ayers started.

As the Irish get ready to play George Mason in the pressure-packed atmosphere of the Tournament, they can count on Hillesland to provide them with a

little laughter, especially if he's angry when playing FIFA on Xbox 360.

"If he loses in a FIFA game, he blames it on the 'stupid glitches in the game,'" McAlarney said. "He'll throw chairs, throw a little temper tantrum."

George Mason might want to make sure Hillesland wins at FIFA before he hits the floor Thursday night — because there's no telling what an angry Zach Hillesland is going to do.

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

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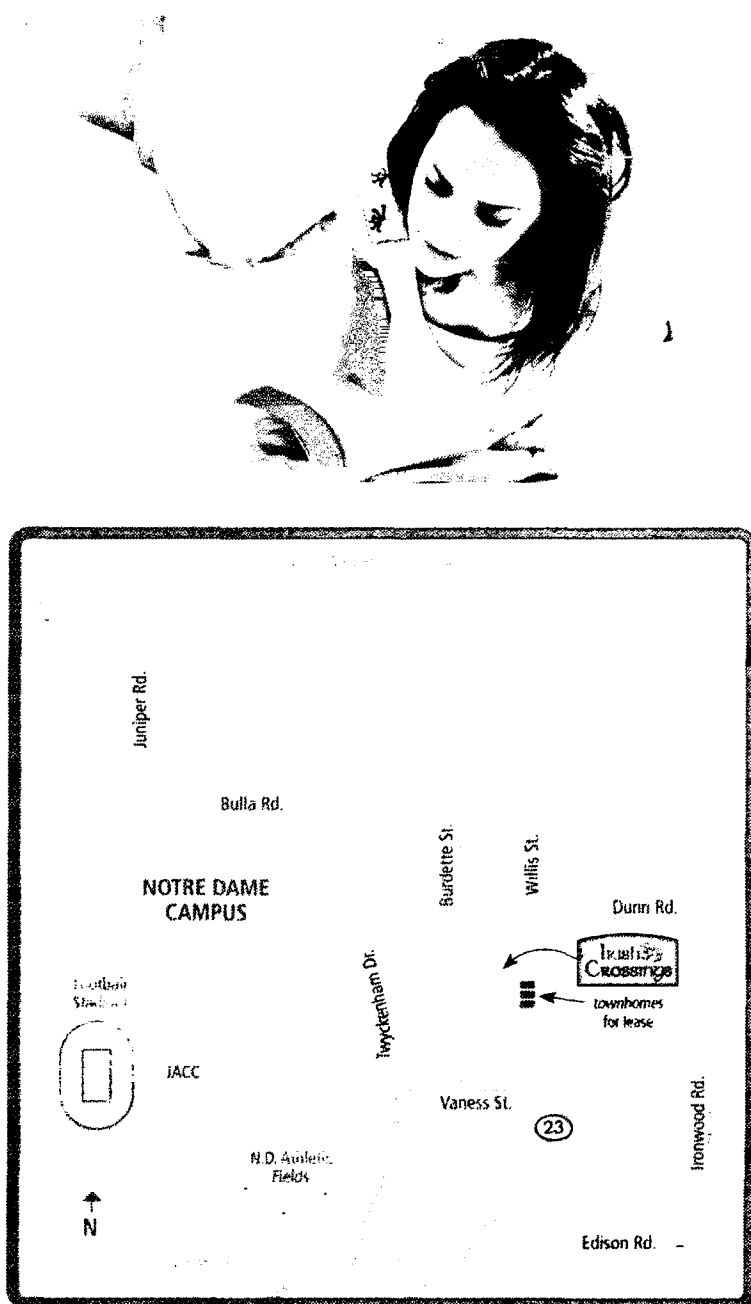
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David Simon Ties Up Loose Ends on "The Wire" in Satisfying Finale

When dealing with creatures as complex and unpredictable as human beings, any artist would be foolish to create cookie-cutter characters who are all good or all bad. That has been the best part of seeing "The Wire" all the way through to its conclusion in the series finale — the show never insulted its fans' intelligence.

T. Edward Andrews

Scene & Heard

Even in a city as defined in as black-and-white terms as Baltimore, the world of "The Wire" painted itself in shades of gray, and that shadowy moral characterization combined with creator David Simon's unwavering commitment to presenting a realistic and gritty street-level view of his city made the show one of the best ever.

Fans following the series wire-to-wire no doubt left the final frame feeling bittersweet. The good guys won some and lost some, as did the bad guys. In the end, while the names changed and the time slipped by, nothing really changed, and that is Simon's message. For every fall of an Avon Barksdale there's the rise of a Marlo Stanfield. For every Wee Bey Bryce you lock up, there are two Chris Partlows and Felicia "Snoop" Pearsons waiting to take his place. And for every Cedric Daniels who sits on the cusp of police commissioner, city politics will see to it that Stanley Valcheks get the job instead.

As Simon said in a letter written to fans of the show and posted on hbo.com: "We tried to be entertaining, but in no way did we want to be mistaken for entertainment. We tried to provoke, to critique and debate and rant a bit. We wanted an argument. We think a few good arguments are needed still, that there is much more to be said and it is entirely likely that there are better ideas than the ones we offered. But nothing happens unless the [expletive] is stirred."

That's the central strand of "The Wire" in as many words — the show withheld making judgments or observations and simply presented things as they are on the streets and back alleys of America's inner cities.

As far as the final episode itself, the conclusion no doubt left the audience surprised and satisfied. Fans of Stringer Bell no doubt must have felt pangs of grief upon seeing the Machiavellian drug kingpin Marlo Stanfield achieve in retirement what Bell dreamed of doing in life — leaving the street behind in favor of a clean career as a legitimate businessman. But Simon knew better than to domesticate his uber-lion into a house cat. Even with an embarrassment of riches earned through dealing death and drugs, Stanfield couldn't resist the allure of the streets and so for him, "giving up the crown" as the king of the streets was a fate worse than death.

Given Simon's somewhat pessimistic if not cynical views on life, fans must have felt surprised to see him spare McNulty and Freamon from prison time, leaving them with only the loss of their jobs instead of their freedom for cooking up a fake serial killer in order to do the real police work budgetary and

political handcuffs prevented them from doing.

Likewise, it appeared that the number-crunching business executives who took over "The Baltimore Sun" would axe Gus, but in the end poor Alma lost her job while the lying con artist Templeton won a Pulitzer Prize.

Without a doubt, the most satisfying moment of the final episode was Slim Charles' point-blank sayonara to backstabbing thug Cheese.

Watching Michael rob Marlo's mentor Vinson of his riches at shotgun point must have brought a smile to Omar fans grieving the loss of their erstwhile hero. Although Michael put in work as part of a trio with cold-blooded murderers Chris Partlow and Felicia "Snoop" Pearson, just as Pearson says before Michael kills her, "[he] was never one of [them]." Watching him become his generation's version of Omar made sense — both men dealt in death, but both had a code.

On the flip side, Omar Little's death earlier in the season made little sense. The man who had a code died in an act of violence, laid low by the vicious street rat Cunard. Fans of Little no doubt took the death of the gay gunslinger hard. Watching the virtuous vigilante get gunned down in cold blood while purchasing a pack of his favorite Newport smokes was tough to watch, but made for poetic justice.

Similarly, watching Duquan descend into drug abuse and homelessness was hard to watch. Of all his friends, Duquan showed the most promise during his brief time in school and the most compassion.

Over the course of seasons four and five, we saw one of his friends, Namond Bryce, make it out of the self-fulfilling prophecy for black youth living in the drug-infested crime- and war-zone of America's inner cities. We also saw one of his friends, Randy Wagstaff, who didn't.

We saw the rise of a promising young politician in Tommy Carcetti, only to see him fall into the muck of the politics of governance and its half-truths and storytelling even as his star continued to rise all the way to the governor's chair.

We saw Wee Bey again, linked up with Chris Partlow in the chain-linked confines of Jessup's Prison yards. We saw two murderers, one charismatic, one cold-blooded, both locked up for all of eternity for his crimes.

The audience had the privilege of meeting white people, black people, gay people, straight people, gangsters with good hearts and policemen with bad ones. Most importantly, it all looked, felt, smelled, tasted and talked like the real deal.

David Simon built the city from the street up, put all the pieces together and showed us how they work. He built a fictitious Baltimore that looks, feels and breathes like a real city. In the end, fans will remember that they were sad to say goodbye not because they didn't like how things turned out, but that they ran out of time to stay and visit his world.

The views expressed in Scene & Heard are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of The Observer.

Contact T. Edward Andrews at tandrew1@nd.edu

NBA

LeBron scores 30 to lead Cavs over Pistons

Wizards shut down Howard, ride Jamison to win over Magic; Nets beat Hawks to tie for final East playoff spot

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — LeBron James scored 30 points, moving closer to becoming Cleveland's top career scorer, and the Cavaliers reminded Detroit that they're still the team to beat in the East with an 89-73 win over the Pistons on Wednesday night.

James came in needing 35 points to pass Brad Daugherty as the Cavs' scoring leader. The NBA's leading scorer will likely break the mark on Friday when Cleveland hosts the Toronto Raptors in a potential first-round playoff preview.

Zydrunas Ilgauskas added 20 points and Wally Szczerbiak 10 for the Cavaliers, the defending Eastern Conference champions. However, despite its trip to the NBA finals last season, Cleveland is viewed by many as longshot behind Boston and Detroit.

James, though, may eventually have something to say about that.

Rasheed Wallace scored 16 points and Richard Hamilton 14 for the Pistons, who were held to 63 fewer points than they scored in a 136-120 win over Denver on Tuesday.

It was Detroit's first visit to Cleveland since losing Game 6 of last season's Eastern Conference finals, a series defined by James' 48-point tour-de-force in Game 5 at Auburn Hills, Mich. Detroit has already clinched a spot in this year's playoffs, the Cavs are closing in on a berth and it's possible the teams, who have

built a healthy rivalry, will meet again sometime this spring.

James examined a boxscore as he walked out of the locker room before the start of the third quarter. He must have noticed that he had only tried 10 shots, but that he was getting help from Ilgauskas, who missed seven games with a back injury, as well as Szczerbiak, Ben Wallace and Delonte West — all acquired in an 11-player trade last month.

Szczerbiak, who has struggled with his shot since coming over, scored two baskets early in the fourth to help the Cavs open a 10-point lead and Ilgauskas made consecutive jumpers as Cleveland eventually pushed its lead to 16.

In the closing seconds, the crowd chanted "MVP" before James capped the win with a jumper with four seconds left.

Wizards 87, Magic 86

The Washington Wizards didn't like the idea of Dwight Howard getting two of his NBA-leading 60 double-doubles against them this season. They weren't crazy about all his dunks, either.

So, Washington keyed on Howard on Wednesday night, and it worked.

Antawn Jamison had 31 points and 11 rebounds and Orlando's All-Star center was limited to three points and 14 rebounds in the Wizards' win.

"Our big guys really took the challenge to make it difficult for him," Jamison said. "Not to get him bouncing around and

dunking and Supermanning and all that stuff. We really wanted to prevent as many points in the paint as possible and have them beat us from outside."

It was Hedo Turkoglu's birthday, and the forward scored a career-high 39 points. He even had a chance to win the game: Turkoglu took an inbound pass with 5 seconds left, but his driving layup was short and officials didn't call a foul.

"It was kind of a tough angle for me," Turkoglu said. "I didn't want to settle for a jumper, because right before that they fouled me."

Howard sat much of the game in foul trouble, finishing with three points and 14 rebounds. The All-Star turned the ball over four times and shot 1-for-6, failing to score from the field until the fourth quarter. He had 10 rebounds before halftime, but picked up his fifth foul with about 9:30 left in the fourth.

"I was on the bench — that was their defensive stop right there," Howard said. "People can beat up on me and nothing happens. But when I touch somebody I get calls."

Wizards coach Eddie Jordan credited 7-foot Brendan Haywood with shutting Howard down. Haywood finished with 10 points and 11 rebounds.

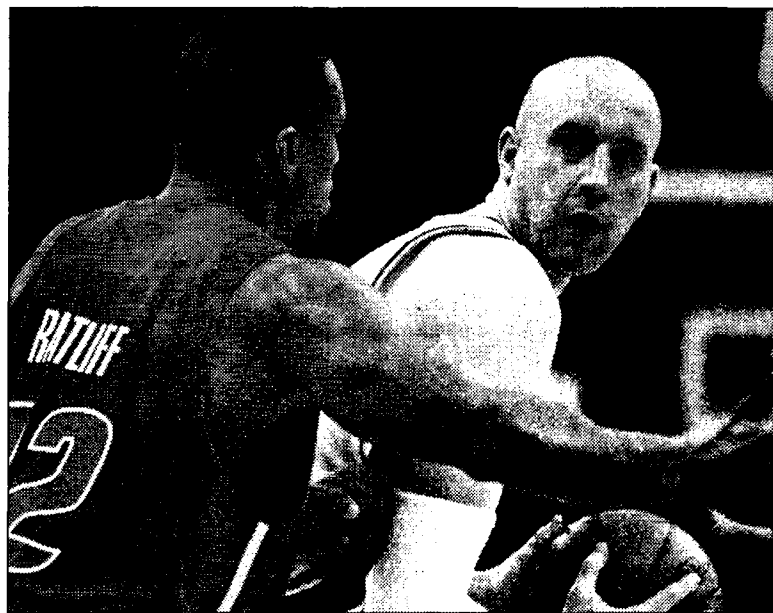
"We have Brendan, who can match him eye-to-eye, which is pretty rare in this league when you have a veteran center who can meet Dwight eye-to-eye and knows how to really play him," Jordan said.

Washington trailed most of the first half, but crept out of a seven-point deficit in the third quarter. The team took its first lead since the opening minutes on Jamison's 9-foot hook, and extended it to 57-52 on another of the All-Star's hooks 2 minutes later.

The Wizards kept it until 3:05 left in the fourth quarter, when Keith Bogans put Orlando ahead 81-80 with a 3-pointer. The teams stayed within three the rest of the way.

DeShawn Stevenson, who played 2 1/2 seasons for Orlando, scored 14, while Caron Butler had 11 points and nine rebounds.

The Wizards gave Orlando a good chance to win after being called for a shot-clock violation on their last possession. With a one-point lead, Butler took the ball at the top of the key and waited as the clock ticked. When he finally made his move, Howard met him in the lane



Cavaliers center Zydrunas Ilgauskas looks to pass around Pistons center Theo Ratliff in Wednesday's 89-73 Cleveland win.

and swatted Butler's floater.

It set off a scramble for the ball, during which the clock ran out.

Orlando got two chances to inbound with 9 seconds left. Turkoglu caught the first, but had the ball knocked out of bounds. The next time, with 5 seconds left, Turkoglu was swarmed by Washington defenders and threw up a prayer that didn't go.

"I thought we got it to him in a good spot, and I thought he was just going to get space, which he had, and raise up and shoot it," Magic coach Stan Van Gundy said. "But he tried to be real aggressive and go to the basket, and just didn't get a good shot. It's disappointing, but I don't really second-guess going to him at the end. He was about the only guy that had anything going tonight."

Nets 125, Hawks 117

Whatever it takes, Vince Carter has decided to take the New Jersey Nets to the playoffs.

Facing a must-win game with Atlanta on Wednesday night, Carter had a season-high 39 points and 10 rebounds and carried the Nets into a tie with the Hawks for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference with a victory.

"We laid an egg last night, as far as energy and effort," Carter said, referring to a bad loss in Chicago. "I just wanted to put my mark on the game in the beginning tonight, whatever that meant. I wanted to be aggressive and make plays."

Carter, who blew on his fingers after shots to show the

crowd how hot he was, hit 17 of 26 shots from the field and added eight assists in more than 43 minutes of action.

"That was vintage Vince Carter," Nets coach Lawrence Frank said. "He was phenomenal."

Richard Jefferson added 33 points and Devin Harris had a career-high 26 points and nine assists despite playing on a sprained ankle as the Nets had a season-high point total in winning for eighth time in the last 10 home games.

"Vince had a great game," Hawks coach Mike Woodson said. "You can't take anything away. He played at a high level. Jefferson played at a high level, as well as Harris. They had three key guys that really made shots."

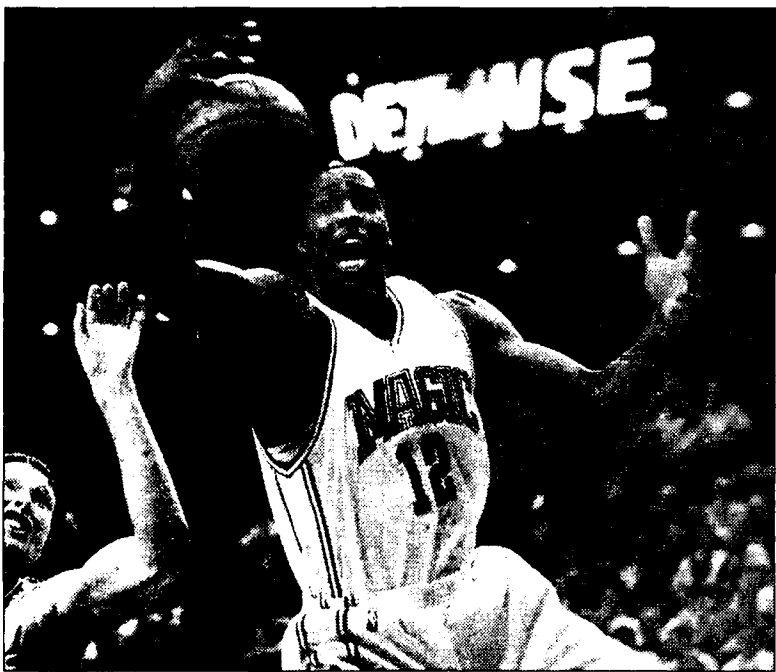
New Jersey also won the season-series with Atlanta 3-1, which means it has the tiebreaker should they finish tied. Both teams (29-39) have 14 games left.

"These last games, there are no excuses," said Jefferson, who was 10 of 17 from the field. "We need everybody mentally focused and ready. This was an amazing game in terms of what was at stake. There was the tiebreaker and all that stuff."

Both teams fought hard."

Joe Johnson had 24 points to lead six Hawks in double figures. Rookie Al Horford added 20 points and 15 rebounds, while Josh Smith had 20 points.

"We have to tighten up," said Johnson, who was in foul trouble in the second half. "I think they wanted it more than we did in the second half."



Orlando center Dwight Howard grabs a rebound Wednesday in the Magic's 87-86 victory over the Wizards.

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The Goon Squad is coming for you, Jaaaaaaayayay.

Happy birthday Jon. God, you're good looking.. Love, your Gonzaga Bros

It was the accepted practice in Babylon 4,000 years ago that for a month after the wedding, the bride's father would supply his son-in-law with all the mead he could drink. Mead is a honey beer and because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the honey month or what we know today as the honeymoon.

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

AROUND THE NATION

Thursday, March 20, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

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NCAA Women's Tennis ITA Rankings

rank	team	last wk.
1	Georgia Tech	4
2	Northwestern	3
3	Stanford	1
4	Georgia	6
5	North Carolina	14
6	Florida	5
7	Miami	9
8	UCLA	2
9	California	7
10	Baylor	11
11	USC	8
12	Vanderbilt	10
13	Fresno State	12
14	NOTRE DAME	19
15	Duke	15
16	William & Mary	13
17	Pepperdine	17
18	Clemson	16
19	Arizona State	18
20	Wake Forest	20
21	Tennessee	21
22	Florida State	22
23	VCU	23
24	Arkansas	NR
25	Michigan	24

NCAA Men's Tennis ITA Rankings

rank	team	last wk.
1	Virginia	1
2	Ohio State	2
3	Georgia	3
4	Mississippi	4
5	Texas	5
6	UCLA	6
7	USC	7
8	North Carolina	8
9	Baylor	11
10	Duke	10
11	Florida	14
12	NOTRE DAME	12
13	Illinois	9
14	Tennessee	13
15	Oklahoma State	15
16	Florida State	16
17	Wake Forest	17
18	LSU	18
19	Michigan	19
20	Alabama	20
21	VCU	21
22	Pepperdine	22
23	Tulsa	23
24	Rice	24
25	Texas A&M	25

around the dial

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Georgia vs. Xavier
12:20 p.m., CBS

Temple vs. Michigan State
12:30 p.m., CBS

Kentucky vs. Marquette
2:30 p.m., CBS

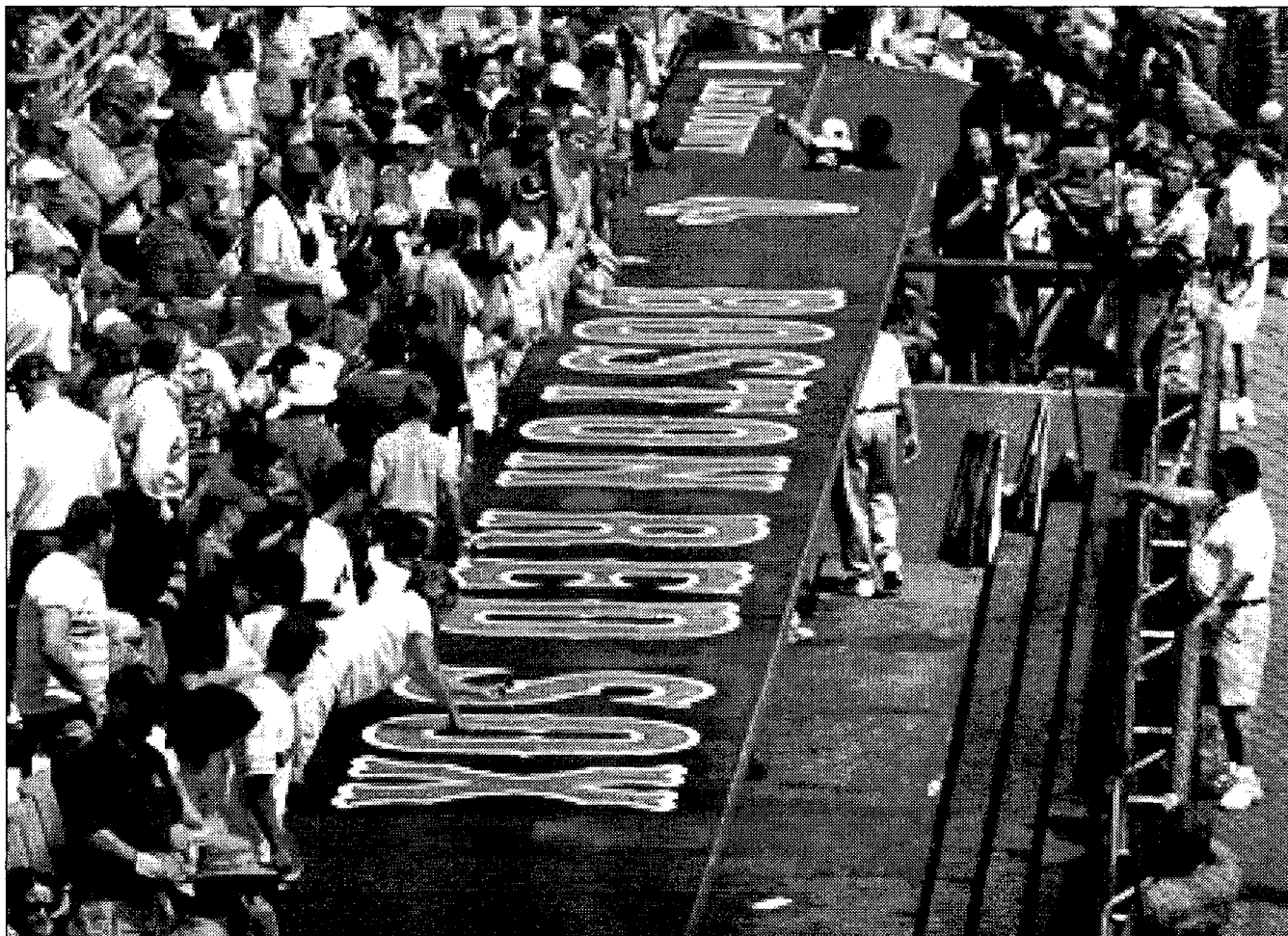
Baylor vs. Purdue
2:50 p.m., CBS

Kansas State vs. USC
7:10 p.m., CBS

Winthrop vs. Washington State
7:20 p.m., CBS

Arizona vs. West Virginia
9:40 p.m., CBS

MLB



Fans react to Boston's empty dugout during their scheduled game against the Blue Jays in Fort Myers, Fla., on Wednesday. Sox players refused to take the field unless their coaches and other staff are paid for their season-opening trip to Japan.

MLB pays coaches after Sox

Associated Press

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Fans at City of Palms Park were ready for Boston's final spring training game in Florida. The Red Sox weren't.

In an extraordinary move, Boston players voted to boycott a nationally televised exhibition and Wednesday afternoon's flight to Japan for next week's season-opening series against Oakland, upset that coaches weren't going to receive the same \$40,000 payments negotiated for players by their union.

A couple of hours later, all was resolved, and the

Red Sox took the field one hour late for a 4-3 loss to Toronto before a crowd of 7,868.

Across the country in Phoenix, Athletics players also considered a boycott. They didn't take batting practice and held five team meetings before following Boston's lead and deciding to play. An Oakland split squad lost 6-1 to the Los Angeles Angels in front of 7,940 fans before leaving for Tokyo.

"The players just stepped up and they did what I think was right," Boston bench coach Brad Mills said.

Major League Baseball

agreed to pay the managers, coaches and trainers on the trip \$20,000 each from management's proceeds, a person familiar with the agreement said, speaking on condition of anonymity because details weren't announced. The Red Sox agreed to make up the difference to make the amount equal, and to pay some of the other team personnel making the trip, the person said.

"It was a misunderstanding of what agreement was reached between MLB and the MLBPA," Red Sox president Larry Lucchino said. "We said we would step up

and make sure a second pool was created and would seek contributions from all parties."

It had not yet been determined whether Oakland would make additional payments to its staff.

"Everyone connected with the trip will be fairly compensated," baseball spokesman Rich Levin said.

Cancellation of the March 25-26 series at the Tokyo Dome would have been a publicity nightmare for Major League Baseball, which already has had enough bad news during an offseason dominated by performance-enhancing drugs.

IN BRIEF

Virginia Tech's leading rusher Ore kicked off team

Virginia Tech running back Branden Ore, the Hokies' leading rusher in their charge toward the 2008 FedEx Orange Bowl, has been dismissed from the team.

"During recent meetings with Branden Ore, we have decided that it would be best for Branden to pursue other opportunities," coach Frank Beamer said in a statement released by the school Wednesday. "Branden has had many great moments here at Virginia Tech, and we wish him well in the future."

Beamer did not offer details for Ore's removal, but according to people with knowledge of the situation, the coaching staff simply grew impatient with Ore's lackadaisical attitude and lack of commitment to the team. The Hokies waited for Ore to mature for more than two seasons and gave up after he failed to reach what once seemed to be enormous potential.

Yankees' Chamberlain will open season as reliever

TAMPA, Fla. — Joba Chamberlain will begin the season in the New York Yankees' bullpen.

"We think that's where he fits best right now," manager Joe Girardi said Wednesday.

For much of spring training, Chamberlain was a contender for a spot in the starting rotation. He was a starter in college and the minors before New York switched him to a relief role last year and called him up in August to boost its shaky bullpen.

When asked if Chamberlain would go back to the setup role he thrived in as a rookie last season, Girardi refused to be specific. But he did say Chamberlain would pitch late in games.

"He's a back-end guy. That's how I'm going to classify him," Girardi said.

Dodgers' Garciaparra out with broken hand

PHOENIX — Nomar Garciaparra has a broken bone in his right hand, and the Los Angeles Dodgers' third baseman might not be ready for Opening Day.

Garciaparra had an MRI on Wednesday in Los Angeles that revealed a microfracture. The Dodgers do not consider the injury to be as serious as a complete fracture of a bone, and expect to know more once the 34-year-old is examined Thursday by the team's medical staff in Arizona.

A two-time AL batting champion, Garciaparra was hit by a pitch March 7 and has had pain in his hand ever since, making it difficult to swing a bat. He's had two X-rays and two MRIs, neither of which showed any structural damage in the area where he was struck.

"We'll see where Nomar's at in another week or so, and in the meantime, we'll continue to see if we can figure out [a replacement] from within or outside," general manager Ned Colletti said.

NHL

Vanek nets hat trick as Sabres top Lightning

Dawes, Rangers beat Devils 2-1 in shootout; Blackhawks' Khabibulin shuts out Caps in first start of month

Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Stung by the cascade of boos that rained from the crowd at the end of the second period, Sabres forward Thomas Vanek gave Buffalo fans something big to cheer about in the third.

Vanek scored three consecutive goals in less than 8 minutes, including the winner with 6:46 remaining, as Buffalo scored six third-period goals in a 7-4 win over the Tampa Bay Lightning on Wednesday night.

"It's a good thing they stuck around," Vanek said, referring to the fans after helping the Sabres rally from a 4-1 deficit. "We didn't make it easy for us, but it's good to know we can come back."

Besides winning their third straight and overcoming a three-goal deficit for the first time since a 5-4 win against Toronto last March 23, the Sabres also stayed firmly in playoff contention. Buffalo inched to within a point of idle Philadelphia, which holds the Eastern Conference's eighth and final playoff spot.

The Sabres also jumped back into ninth place, a point ahead of Washington after the Capitals' 5-0 loss at Chicago later in the evening.

Jason Pominville had two goals and two assists and Jochen Hecht also scored twice in the third period of a game the Sabres initially had no business winning after mustering just 16 shots through 40 minutes.

"These games are always fun," Pominville said. "I think we enjoyed it, I'm sure the fans enjoyed it, but it's not the way we wanted to win."

It's not the first time Buffalo overcame a deficit in sweeping the four-game season series against the Lightning. The Sabres twice rallied from two-goal deficits to beat Tampa Bay, including their last meeting, a 4-3 overtime decision on Feb. 20, when Vanek also scored three times.

No need to remind the Lightning, who are in last place in the East in part because of their difficulty to finish games. Tampa Bay has now been outscored 104-67 in the third period, and lost 19 games when leading or tied entering the final frame.

"You can write the same story as the last time we were here: Third-period collapse," said Martin St. Louis, who had a goal and assist. "It's a bad feeling."

Vincent Lecavalier scored twice, including his 39th, and appeared to put the Lightning in full control — up 4-1 — late in the second period when he capped a 2-on-1 rush, converting Junior Lessard's pass.

Back came the Sabres, who scored six times on their final 10 shots, including Hecht's empty-net goal in the waning seconds.

Vanek tied the game at 4 at the 8:25 mark of the third, when he deflected in Derek Roy's shot from the left circle. Vanek then scored the

go-ahead goal five minutes later.

Roy, who finished with three assists, set it up, beating defender Shane O'Brien to the puck in the right corner, and fed Vanek in the high slot. Vanek sidestepped Lessard, and snapped a low shot that sneaked inside the right post past screened goalie Karri Ramo.

"By far, tonight was the best comeback, given the time of year and how important this game was," Pominville said. "This was the best comeback I've ever been a part of."

It was Pominville who started the rally, scoring 5:03 into the third when he poked in Paul Gaustad's centering feed after Gaustad won a faceoff to the left of the Lightning net. Hecht scored 16 seconds later with a snap shot from the right circle after eluding Lecavalier in the corner.

"Everything just went their way," said Ramo, who made 25 saves, but received little support in the third period when the Lightning were outshot 16-4. "Everything just went in the net."

Jeff Halpern, extending his point streak to five games (four goals, four assists), also scored for the Lightning, who had a three-game winning streak snapped.

Rangers 2, Devils 1 (shootout)

For so long, the New York Rangers had no answers for Martin Brodeur and the New Jersey Devils.

Now, even late deficits on the road don't rattle these Rangers.

Chris Drury scored the tying goal with 4:46 left in regulation, and Nigel Dawes beat Brodeur in the shootout to give the Rangers a victory over the Devils on Wednesday night.

New York improved to 6-0 on the season against the Devils and closed within four points of New Jersey, the leader in the Atlantic Division and Eastern Conference.

"We're going to have to beat them sooner or later," said Devils forward Zach Parise, who missed on the final shot of the shootout. "They've gotten a little closer than we'd like them to be. They really played well and limited our chances."

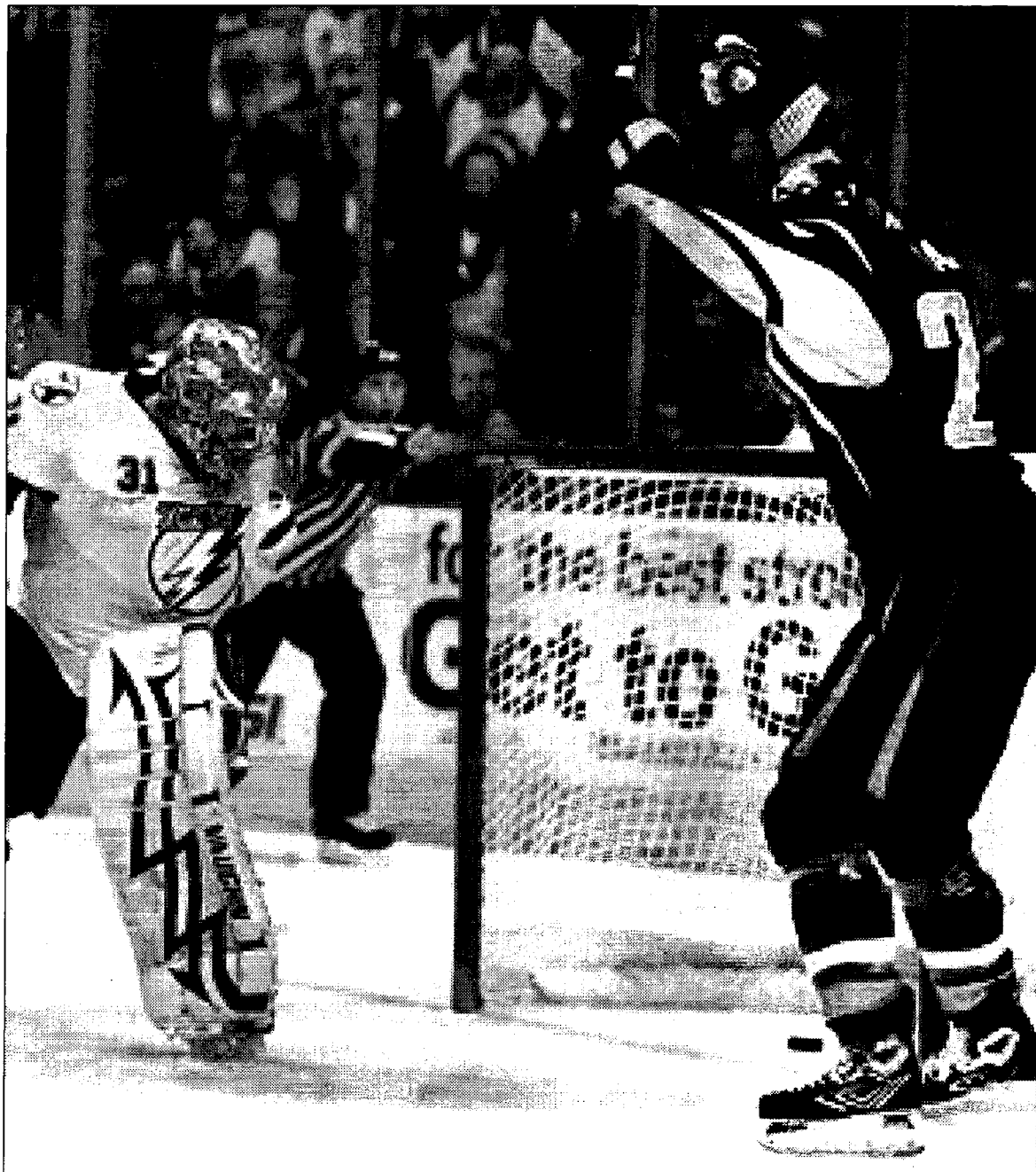
The Rangers appeared to have no chance to dent Brodeur, who was sharp in making 20 saves and was in line for his 97th NHL shutout.

He faced only mild pressure from the Rangers, who rarely got quality scoring chances. Many drives came from sharp angles or were blocked well before they could get in on goal.

Just 18 seconds after the Rangers' fourth failed power play expired, Drury tied it. Ryan Callahan swooped out from behind the net and fed a pretty left-to-right pass that Drury buried behind Brodeur with 4:46 left.

Blackhawks 5, Capitals 0

On a night when the Chicago Blackhawks saluted goalie Tony Esposito, Nikolai Khabibulin came up with a



Sabres wing Thomas Vanek, right, celebrates one of his three goals during Buffalo's 7-4 victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning in Buffalo, N.Y., Wednesday night.

performance the Hall of Famer could appreciate.

Khabibulin made 25 saves in his first start in nearly a month to earn his second shutout this season, and the Blackhawks defeated the Washington Capitals on Wednesday night.

Esposito, the Blackhawks' career shutout leader with 74, was honored and cheered in pre-game ceremonies. As the game wound down, the sellout crowd chanted for Khabibulin, who posted his 38th career shutout.

Khabibulin made his first start since Feb. 20, when he blanked Minnesota 3-0. Following that game, he missed 12 games with back spasms before relieving Patrick Lalime on Sunday.

"When we have a ceremony like this, it's nice to win a game," Khabibulin said. "Even better that it was Tony and even better that it was a shutout."

"The guys in front of me did a good job," he added. "When (NHL scoring leader Alexander) Ovechkin is on the ice, obviously he's a force out there. Usually he has five, six, seven shots and tonight he only had two."

Khabibulin wasn't heavily tested, but made a handful of tough stops.

He made a point-blank pad save on Sergei Fedorov in the final seconds of the first period and a glove save on a rebound by Brooks Laich

midway through the third.

Khabibulin made a spectacular diving glove save on Alexander Semin with just under three minutes left in the third.

"That was a big save, one of the best I've seen all year," Chicago rookie Patrick Kane said.

"It was a great performance by Habby," Blackhawks coach Denis Savard said. "The guys were ready to play and we got the bounces too."

Jason Williams, Jonathan Toews, Yanic Perreault and Patrick Sharp scored in the first period for Chicago, which ended Washington's four-game winning streak.

Rene Bourque also scored for the Blackhawks, who snapped a four-game home losing slide (0-3-1).

The Capitals remained two points behind idle Philadelphia in eighth place in the Eastern Conference.

Washington's Olaf Kolzig made 37 saves

"We had a gear missing and they played well," Capitals coach Bruce Boudreau said. "I just think we had a real stinker. We stunk in the first period."

"I can't say it any more clearly: We were all horrible together."

Fedorov said the Capitals just need to shake off the loss.

"We just have to put it behind us and hopefully we'll bounce back," Fedorov said.

"Right now in our playoff race, it's a crucial time."

Chicago outshot Washington 18-6 in the first period and jumped ahead 4-0.

Williams was credited with the opening goal 1:27 in, after apparently deflecting James Wisniewski's shot from the point. The goal withstood a video review.

Toews made it 2-0 only 1:52 later when he went from the side to the front of the net and swatted in his own rebound.

Perreault fired a high shot past Kolzig's glove at 9:14 to extend Chicago's lead to 3-0. Sharp fired in a rebound with 2:06 left in the first to stretch it to 4-0 after Kolzig made a pad save on Andrew Ladd.

Bourque converted a breakaway at 10:19 of the second to make it 5-0.

Esposito, who played in 873 games for the Blackhawks from 1969 to 1984, posted a team-record 418 wins. His jersey number, 35, is one of five retired by Chicago.

Esposito, selected an "ambassador" by the Blackhawks earlier this season, was joined by his older brother and Hall of Fame forward, Phil, during the pre-game ceremony.

"It's an honor to be here with the new, young vibrant Hawks," Tony Esposito said. "I know they're going to get better and we're all going to fill this building."

NCAA FOOTBALL

Top-rated QB Pryor commits to Ohio State

Associated Press

JEANNETTE, Pa. — Oregon was too far away. Penn State was too rural. Michigan was a close second.

Terrelle Pryor, the highly touted western Pennsylvania prep quarterback, announced Wednesday that he will play for Ohio State next season.

The 6-foot-6, two-sport star — flanked by his parents, two younger siblings and some of his coaches — made the announcement on the auditorium stage at Jeannette Senior High School near Pittsburgh, where Pryor had one of the greatest prep careers in Pennsylvania history.

"If everyone's here," Pryor said to start the news conference, "University of Ohio State." He then unzipped his windbreaker to reveal an Ohio State T-shirt and donned an OSU hat. His parents, Craig and Thomasina, also revealed Ohio State shirts.

Pryor, considered by many scouts to be the top-rated unsigned high school recruit in the country, said he couldn't go wrong with any of the four schools he considered.

But he said the car trip for his family to games in Columbus,

Ohio, is shorter than the flights they would have to take to Oregon. Penn State was too "countryside." And, despite a last-minute push by new Michigan coach Rich Rodriguez, Pryor decided Ohio State is best for him, even though senior Todd Boeckman is the entrenched starter and Pryor felt he would have a chance to start as a freshman at Michigan.

"I can learn from a senior," Pryor said. "And whenever I can get in on some plays, I can make something happen."

Pryor said he didn't make a final choice until Wednesday morning.

When he told Jim Tressel, the coach said, "Welcome to the family."

As for his final call with Rodriguez: "He was still recruiting me, giving me lines," Pryor said. "Coach Rod did his job. He's gonna be a great coach; he is a great coach. He'll make stuff happen [at Michigan]."

Pryor called a Feb. 6 news conference to announce his choice, but then said he hadn't chosen a school after all.

Tressel said he was impressed by that, given that Pryor was trying to help his high school basketball team to a state cham-



Jeannette High School (Pa.) quarterback Terrelle Pryor, the nation's top recruit, announces his decision to sign a letter of intent to play for Ohio State at a press conference on Wednesday.

pionship and was mulling conflicting advice from his friends and family.

Tressel said Pryor felt like "there's a whole bunch of people that are very important in my life who think I should give this some more thought. He respect-

ed them and he loves them. So I think he's grossly misunderstood."

Pryor's advice to other recruits: "Pick early, you don't want to go through it."

Asked about advice from his father and others, Pryor said

simply, "I'm an 18-year-old kid and I feel like a man. I gotta make choices for myself."

One person noticeably absent Wednesday was Charlie Batch, the backup Steelers quarterback and family friend who advised Pryor.

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

First round features duel of freshman stars Beasley, Mayo

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Michael Beasley was standing in a narrow hallway outside the Kansas State locker room. Suddenly, O.J. Mayo appeared at the end of the corridor.

"Yo, Michael!" Mayo yelled. "Juice!" Beasley screamed back.

They shook hands and embraced, these two freshman stars, both of them stopping by the NCAA tournament on their inevitable journey to the NBA.

Don't expect things to be so cordial Thursday when Mayo's Southern California Trojans face Beasley's Kansas State Wildcats in a game oozing with star power, the kind better suited for

the Final Four rather than the opening round of the tournament.

They've been friends since their early teens — unless they're on opposite teams. That's when things get serious. It doesn't matter if it's a pickup game in a deserted high school gym or a pressure-packed NCAA game in a sold-out arena.

"I have no friends on the court," Beasley said.

Mayo confirmed the intensity of their rivalry.

"Hopefully we're going to finish this game," he said, "because usually when we play one-on-one games there's a lot of arguing and fighting. We hardly ever get to finish the games."

If not for a change in draft rules, the two freshmen surely would have been NBA rookies this season. But they were required to spend at least a year in college, time spent honing their games and quickly establishing themselves as two of the country's best players — even if it's for one season only, as everyone expects.

Mayo led the sixth-seeded Trojans (21-11) in scoring at 20.8 points a game, as well as assists, steals and 3-point shooting. Beasley had an even better season at Kansas State, averaging 26.5 points and 12.4 rebounds to contend with North Carolina's Tyler Hansbrough for player of the year honors.

Beasley vs. Mayo. Now that's a matchup everyone can get excited about, even if you're on another team.

"Mayo and Beasley, you've got to give it to them," said Darnell Jackson of top-seeded Kansas, which had its own game to play Thursday against Portland State. "The guys are great players."

Considering their superb skills, it was inevitable Beasley and Mayo would hook up on the AAU and high school all-star circuit. They met when they were 13 or 14 and quickly hit it off.

"After games, we got to meet

each other," Beasley said. "We're the same kind of guys. We like the same kind of things. We pretty much clicked right away."

Mayo is even better friends with another Kansas State freshman, Bill Walker. They're both from Huntington, W.Va., and have known each other since preschool.

"We used to sneak up under our cots at nap time," Walker remembered, breaking into a grin. "We got in trouble together and, after that, we just bonded."

Some thought they would be a package deal coming out of

high school. But, when it came time to choose a college, they couldn't have taken two more divergent paths: Mayo chose the glitz and glamor of Los Angeles, while Walker settled for Manhattan — Kansas, that is.

Just imagine if they both had chosen the Wildcats, and joined with Beasley to form the Fab Three.

"We talked before we made our decisions," Walker said. "He told me that USC was best for his career, and I understood that. Kansas State was best for my career."

USC is the higher-seeded team, but Kansas State should feel right at home. Omaha is only about a three-hour drive from the Wildcats' campus, which should ensure plenty of purple at the Qwest Center.

Trojans coach Tim Floyd clearly is not happy with the selection committee for matching his team against one from a neighboring state.

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TENNIS

Nadal avenges loss to Tsonga at Pacific Life

Associated Press

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. — Rafael Nadal came back to win the final five games and beat Jo-Wilfried Tsonga on Wednesday in an intense, crowd-pleasing rematch of their Australian Open semifinal.

Nadal, the defending Indian Wells champion, avenged his lopsided loss in Melbourne with a scrappy 6-7 (4), 7-6 (3) 7-5 victory in the fourth round of the Pacific Life Open.

After Tsonga, a hard-hitting Frenchman, went up 5-2 in the third set, Nadal held serve the rest of the way and broke Tsonga's serve in the ninth and 11th games to take a 6-5 lead.

With the crowd beginning to cheer even as he set up for the shot, the Spaniard capped the match by slamming an overhead past Tsonga.

The 22-year-old Tsonga, who has vaulted from 212 in the rankings in 2006 to No. 17, upset No. 2 Nadal 6-2, 6-3, 6-2 in the Australian Open semis before losing to Novak Djokovic in the final.

Tsonga played brilliantly at times in the rematch against the 21-year-old Nadal, but mistakes cost him at other times.

After ending a long rally when both hit several outstand-

ing shots, Tsonga ended it with a drop shot that Nadal somehow managed to hit back, then a bang-bang volley that left Nadal lying on the ground at the end of the point. That brought Tsonga back from a 15-40 deficit to deuce in the 11th game, but he quickly followed that with a double-fault, then hit a forehand long to lose the game.

Driving powerful forehands down the lines, Tsonga had 47 winners overall — but made 56 unforced errors. The far more consistent Nadal finished with 27 winners and 27 unforced errors. Tsonga, who had 18 aces when he stunned Nadal in Australia, had 11 against him at Indian Wells, but also double-faulted seven times.

The match lasted 3 hours, 3 minutes, and the crowd seemed rapt, reacting loudly to practically every point. Some fans yelled "Go, Ali!" a Tsonga nickname alluding to his resemblance to boxing great Muhammad Ali, and others screaming, "You can do it, Rafa!"

In other matches, Djokovic advanced with a 6-2, 6-3 victory over Guillermo Canas; Tommy Haas edged Andy Murray 2-6, 7-5, 6-3; and David Nalbandian beat Juan Carlos Ferrero 6-2, 6-2.

PGA TOUR

Tiger looks for sixth straight

Associated Press

DORAL, Fla. — There are 78 players at this World Golf Championship, and one guy playing out of this world.

Tiger Woods is winning at a rate not seen in more than a half-century. Bay Hill was his sixth straight victory around the world among official tournaments, and he is the three-time defending champion this week at the CA Championship.

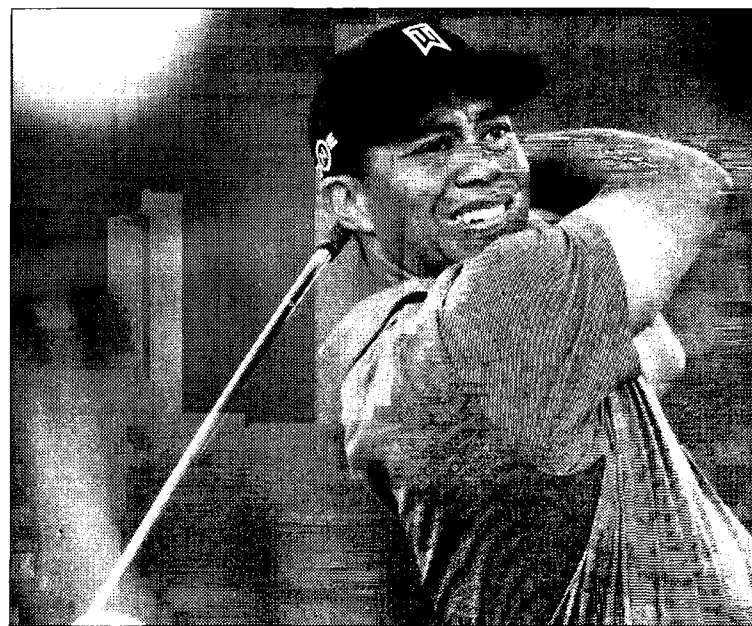
"He inhales so many wins that there's not much breathing room for the rest of us," Stewart Cink said.

Even a player lined up to get his autograph Wednesday.

Boo Weekley stood behind the 18th green as Woods and Jim Furyk finished an abbreviated practice round at Doral in 30 mph wind. He was holding two flags, from the Arnold Palmer Invitational, which Woods won with a 25-foot birdie on the last hole; and from the Accenture Match Play Championship, which Woods won by a record 8-and-7 margin in the final round.

It was for charity, although the scene spoke volumes.

There is a sense of awe among Woods' peers during a stretch of golf that rivals Byron Nelson's golden season of 1945, when he won 11 straight events and 18 out of 30. And there is determination not to let this domination continue.



Tiger Woods tees off during a practice round Wednesday at the CA Championship in Doral, Fla.

"It's a great time to be playing," Adam Scott said. "It's awfully hard to beat him, but he doesn't play every week. I know he's winning all the time, but he doesn't win every week, either."

Then the 27-year-old Australian paused long enough that he couldn't contain a wry smile.

"There's no proof of that," Scott said. "But we'll try to change it this week."

The bookmakers don't like the chances of the other 78 guys on the Blue Monster at Doral. Woods was listed as a 2-3

favorite on one Web site, staggering odds for a sport in which players have no control over the competition and the hole is only 4 1/2 inches in diameter.

Next in line is Phil Mickelson at 15-1.

There's a reason for that. Woods has won at Doral the last three years, the first two when it was a full-field PGA Tour event.

He has won this World Golf Championship six of eight years, the first five when it was called the American Express Championship and played around the world.

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Wildcats continue tourney streak

Arizona to face Mountaineers in first round in 24th straight appearance

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — One streak is intact. Now, Arizona is in position to extend another dazzling run.

The Wildcats are in the NCAA tournament for the 24th consecutive season, the longest current string in men's college basketball and only three short of the record of 27 set by North Carolina from 1975-2001. If history means anything, then 10th-seeded Arizona has a decided edge over No. 7 West Virginia, its opening-round

opponent Thursday night in the West Regional.

The Mountaineers, after all, are working on a streak of one.

"Obviously, it's a very impressive record," West Virginia center Jamie Smalligan said of Arizona's run, which began in 1985 and includes four Final Four appearances.

A victory by the underdog Wildcats (19-14) would enable Arizona to stretch to 21 its run of successive 20-win seasons, yet another streak unmatched in men's college basketball today.

"That would mean a lot, of course, but more than that, if we win 20 games that means we're on to the next round," guard Jawann McClellan said Wednesday.

Although winning 20 games and reaching the NCAA tournament has become commonplace for Arizona, this has not been a typical year for the Wildcats. Their 14 defeats equals the most by an at-large team since 1985, and their seventh-place finish in the Pac-10 was hardly a source of pride.

Then again, it's hard to imagine Arizona doing much better after all it endured this season. Hall of Fame coach Lute Olson took a leave of absence on Nov. 4, and injuries to Jerryd Bayless and guard Nic Wise forced interim coach Kevin O'Neill to scramble for depth.

"I think it showed the character of our team, how well we handled it," said Bayless,

whose ailing back no longer is an issue.

Because the Wildcats endured, here they are again in the NCAA tournament.

"It was very important to us. It put a lot of pressure on us, the thought that we weren't going to make it this year," forward Jordan Hill said. "We've been through a lot of ups and downs, with the coaching changes and our key players being injured, so we just had to keep our heads up and keep fighting. Once we found out we made it, a weight lifted off our shoulders. Now it's time to get to business."

Even if they had to travel across the country as a No. 10 seed.

"We're just happy to be in the tournament," McClellan said. "Every year, with the scholarships spread out throughout the schools, other schools are getting better. The Pac-10 conference is getting better. So it's not as easy just to make it to the NCAA tournament now. To keep that streak alive, to keep the party going and to keep playing is a great accomplishment for us."

West Virginia (24-10) is not as tournament tested as the Wildcats, but the Mountaineers are convinced their run to the NIT championship last year will prove equally beneficial.

"Winning five games back to back and the last two on a neutral court, we've got enough experience to match what they have," Smalligan insisted.

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NBA

With streak over, Rockets lose second straight

Hornets' Wells scores 25 as Houston commits 19 turnovers; Sixers top Nuggets in Iverson's return to Philly

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — The term "losing streak" suddenly applies to the Houston Rockets, thanks in large part to a player they got rid of at the trading deadline.

Bonzi Wells helped New Orleans hand the Rockets their second straight loss after a 22-game winning streak, scoring 20 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter in the Hornets' 90-69 victory Wednesday night.

Wells denied the trade — which sent him and Mike James to New Orleans for Bobby Jackson — had anything to do with his effort to take over a game that was tied at 59 after three quarters.

"I've been on five different teams so it doesn't really matter," Wells said after helping New Orleans (46-21) pull even with the Los Angeles Lakers atop the Western Conference. "We're really fighting for something here and if you can't get motivated every night you shouldn't be in this league."

David West, returning from a right ankle sprain that sidelined him for two games, had 23 points and 11 rebounds as New Orleans also pulled a half-game ahead of the Rockets for the Southwest Division lead.

Chris Paul had 21 points and 10 assists for the Hornets, who extended their home winning streak to eight while ending the Rockets 12-game winning streak on the road.

Tracy McGrady, who scored only eight points in a 94-74 loss to Boston a night earlier, scored 15 against New Orleans, still well below his nearly 22-point-per-game average.

"We've got to make it easier on him," Houston coach Rick Adelman said. "They are doubling him so hard. They're coming at him all the time. If he gives it up, we have to be able to finish it."

But Houston, which shot 41 percent against Boston, was even worse in New Orleans, finishing at 34 percent in setting a season low for points while tying a season low with only 28 field goals.

"We've got to get ourselves together, but it is getting harder every game," McGrady said.

Luis Scola had 14 points and nine rebounds before fouling out with 3 minutes left. Shane Battier also scored 14, while Dikembe Mutombo and Rafer Alston each scored 10.

Battier noted that Houston's sudden slide may have something to do with the level of competition.

"We played the best team in the league, Boston, at home, then we played the team that has been leading the conference for the majority of the year," Battier said. "We just did not have enough to get over the top the last two games."

Tyson Chandler grabbed 15 rebounds for the Hornets, who were down by 14 in the second quarter before cutting Houston's lead to 44-39 at

halftime.

After New Orleans took a 50-47 lead in the third quarter, Houston countered with an 8-0 run, and Mutombo's dunk put the Rockets up 55-50. The Hornets suddenly couldn't make a basket, getting only one free throw from West during a six-minute span.

New Orleans did not let up on defense, however, and put together an 8-2 run during the last 2:30 of the third quarter to tie it at 59 heading into the fourth quarter.

"We just knew it was a matter of time," Hornets coach Byron Scott said. "The thing I am proud of is that the guys just kept focus on the defensive end. We got more aggressive. We got tougher. We started to get loose balls, deflections, steals, everything ... and I think it kind of ignited us on the other end."

Houston turned the ball over 19 times, leading to 22 Hornets points.

Wells, meanwhile, opened the fourth quarter by scoring nine points on a fast-break dunk as he was fouled, a driving layup and a pair of jumpers during a 13-2 run that gave New Orleans a 72-61 lead.

He went on to hit six free throws during the quarter and added a 3-pointer while turning the game into a blowout.

"I had the luxury of knowing those guys a little bit, practicing with them the last couple years," Wells said of the Rockets. "We played one-on-one so much I kind of knew

the way those guys were going to guard me. ... The coaching staff did an excellent job putting me in position. I'm just happy I finished and did my thing today. It was just a team victory. If it wasn't for the rest of the guys getting me in my spots I wouldn't have been able to do what I did today and I'm just happy we got a victory."

76ers 115, Nuggets 113

Allen Iverson had the ball in his hands and the game on the line, yet couldn't produce the ending he'd hoped for.

Iverson, playing in Philadelphia for the first time since being traded to Denver in December 2006, led all scorers with 32 points Wednesday night. But it was the 76ers who made the big plays down the stretch and spoiled their former MVP's return with a victory over the Nuggets.

"I dreamed it up a certain way, and it was better than that," Iverson said. "Everything was perfect but one thing, and that was not winning the game."

Iverson misfired on a 20-foot jumper and Marcus Camby missed a put-back in the final seconds as the Nuggets lost their second straight and failed to pick up any ground in their bid for a playoff spot in the tough Western Conference.

"I almost had a perfect trip at my home away from home," Iverson said.

Samuel Dalembert scored the decisive basket with 32.9 seconds remaining. When Andre Iguodala lost possession of the ball as he fell, Dalembert was there to grab it and turned for a lay-in.

Andre Miller, acquired by the Sixers in the Iverson trade, scored 28 points on his 32nd birthday and the 76ers reached the .500 mark (34-34) for the first time since opening the season at 2-2.

Even in defeat, the night belonged to Iverson, who

received a hero's welcome from the sellout crowd of 20,674 at the Wachovia Center.

All eyes were on the former 76ers star when he trotted out for pregame warm-ups. The ovation grew louder, and then Iverson made his way to center court, where he dropped down and kissed the 76ers logo.

The affection between the 2001 NBA MVP and the fans intensified throughout the pregame.

When Iverson was introduced, the fans showered him with raucous applause and a lengthy standing ovation. He worked the crowd by putting his hand to his ear and turning to each corner of the arena as the roar grew louder. The applause was only cut short by the introduction of the rest of the Denver lineup.

"It almost got to me," Iverson acknowledged. "It made me feel good. It made me feel appreciated."

Just before the game started, Iverson trotted down the sideline to the Sixers' bench and embraced former coach Maurice Cheeks, the first time the two got together since he was traded 15 months before.

"It felt great for him to do that," said Cheeks, the Sixers coach. "We didn't want to make a scene. I thought everyone was excited about it when it happened."

Cheeks couldn't help but notice the reception for his former star.

"I got to watching him and got a little touched by it," Cheeks said.

While Iverson got the reception he had hoped for, the Sixers got the win.

"We knew it would be emotional," Nuggets forward Kenyon Martin said. "They didn't want to have a player come in and get the love, but lose the game."

Iguodala scored 21 points and Dalembert added 17 points, 12 rebounds and five blocked shots.

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BASEBALL

Irish open conference play

By LORENZO REYES
Sports Writer

After Mother Nature spoiled a two-game opening home stand for Notre Dame, the squad travels to the east coast to face Georgetown in its Big East opener on Thursday.

The Irish will face the Hoyas in a three-game set at Shirley Povich Field in Bethesda, Md., with the series finale on Saturday.

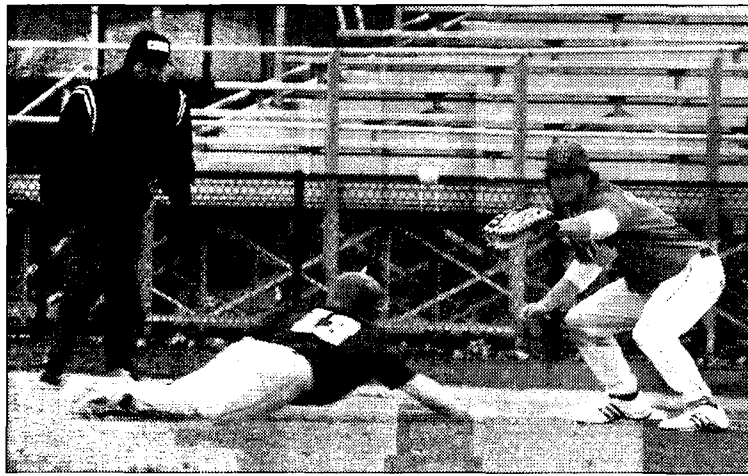
Notre Dame will send junior right-hander David Phelps to the mound to start the first contest of the series, as he searches for his third win of the season. Sporting a 4.01 ERA, opposing batters have had their struggles against him, hitting .239 against the junior.

When the Irish bats step up to the plate, they will face right-handed sophomore Tim Adleman, who sports a perfect 3-0 record coupled with a 3.86 ERA. Adleman uses his tall frame at 6-foot-5 to overpower opposing batters.

In the second game of the series, the Irish will hand the ball over to senior pitcher Wade Korpi as he heads to the mound with a 2-1 record. The lefty is looking for his third straight win on Friday, and a chance to improve his 5.01 ERA.

Battling Korpi will likely be lefty senior Michael Gaggiolo, who is in search of his first win all season. Although he hasn't made his way into the win column, Gaggiolo hasn't made very many mistakes, as evidenced by his 1.12 ERA.

In the series finale, sophomore Eric Maust will take the mound, as the Irish attempt to close out



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Junior Evan Sharpley attempts to tag out a Central Michigan player March 17. The Irish trailed 3-2 when rain halted play.

the series with a win. The righty started his first game of the season against Texas Pan-American, going over six innings and allowing two runs on nine hits.

Facing the Irish will be senior righty Erik Chandler, who has struggled this season with an 0-2 record and an ERA of 8.53.

Sophomore A.J. Pollock is building off his solid freshman campaign, leading the Irish with 20 hits this season. His eight RBIs are tied for fourth highest on the team, but it is his base running that has been helpful in creating runs for the Irish. Pollock is perfect on all seven of his stolen base attempts this season.

Brett Lilley has also been a solid run-producer this season. The senior is second on the team in hits with 16, but leads all Irish batters with 12 RBIs on the year. Lilley has done some run scoring of his own, crossing the plate for a team-high 15 times, six more than the closest Notre Dame player.

Junior Jeremy Barnes com-

pletes the three-headed offensive monster for the Irish with his team-high .333 average that has seen him pick up 15 hits, and 11 RBIs, which are second best on the squad.

The Irish had a frustrating past couple of days this week that saw two games suspended, including the home opener on St. Patrick's Day. Although the second game against Xavier was not even started, the first contest was six innings through before the wintry weather forced umpires to stop play.

Both Central Michigan and the Irish are still awaiting word from the NCAA as to the proper ruling from the suspended contest, but the makeup day of May 12 has been scheduled. After the series against the Hoyas, Notre Dame returns home to Frank Eck Stadium Tuesday for a six-game home stand that starts off against Ball State.

Contact Lorenzo Reyes at
lreyes@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Team travels to Texas in search of road wins

By DAN MASTERTON
Sports Writer

The Irish leave their home court for a two-match road trip to Texas, starting Saturday in College Station, Tex., against the Texas A&M Aggies.

The No. 27 Aggies (8-4) enter the match on a two-game win streak, having mowed down Oklahoma State and Oklahoma in convincing fashion last week.

The Aggies dropped just one match point over the two meetings, but like the No. 24 Irish, Texas A&M has been dominating inferior competition of late.

The three-game win streak Notre Dame (10-7) brings to the match comes from victories against teams boasting solid programs but not top-50 rankings.

Texas A&M poses the toughest test for the Irish since their March 1 5-2 loss to Georgia Tech, the nation's current No. 2 team.

The Aggies' attack is led by Elze Potgieter, ranked as the No. 76 singles player in the country. The sophomore from South Africa does not have an impressive record but faced six straight ranked opponents to start the season.

She went 2-4 over the stretch highlighted by a win over then-No. 11 Melanie Gloria of Fresno State.

Though the Aggies have no other ranked single players or any ranked doubles pairs, they hold the home-court advantage and have lost just once in four home matches for the dual season.

Notre Dame's streak has been a result of solid team play up and down the lineup, and the impressive play by the Irish is being nationally recognized.

Senior Brook Buck and junior

Kelcy Tefft remained in the top spot of the national doubles rankings this week while the sophomore combo of Colleen Rielley and Cosmina Ciobanu entered the poll at No. 50.

Rielley and Ciobanu are an impressive 11-1 for the dual season as a doubles pair and have won four consecutive matches.

On the singles side, Tefft moved up one spot to No. 38, and sophomore Kali Krisik remained in the rankings at No. 114. Ciobanu joined Tefft and Krisik in the rankings this week at No. 105 to give the strong Notre Dame singles attack three nationally ranked players.

Going on the road against a ranked opponent gives the Irish a chance to improve on some apparent weaknesses with respect to their performance so far.

Though three games over .500 for the dual season, the Irish are sub-.500 on the road at just 3-4. Some of the struggles can be attributed to their 1-3 record on a three-game road-trip to start the year against all ranked opponents, but the trip to College Station offers a chance for the Irish to even their road record.

As the NCAA Tournament inches onto the horizon, the Irish will have to start playing better against their tougher competition. Though they beat teams like Hawaii and Western Michigan the way they should have, the Irish are just 2-6 against nationally ranked teams thus far.

Notre Dame looks to improve upon that this Saturday. First serve is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. at the Mitchell Tennis Center.

Contact Dan Masterton at
dmastert@nd.edu

CCHA

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seed. Van Guilder said he thought that being the underdog could actually help the Irish.

"We're going in there entirely different than last year," he said. "[Being the top seed] carries with it a lot of pressure and this year there's not as much pressure."

On Saturday, the Irish will play in either the CCHA championship game or the consolation game against

either Michigan or Northern Michigan. Notre Dame lost both games against Michigan this season, including a 3-2 heart-breaker at Yost Arena on a last-second goal. Against Northern Michigan, the Irish split the season series, winning and losing by scores of 2-1 in Marquette, Mich.

"We're going to be playing high level teams," Jackson said. "So we're going to have a big

challenge ahead of us."

Notre Dame will be playing for more than just the CCHA tournament title this weekend, as the Irish sit squarely on the NCAA tournament bubble. A win this weekend would most likely put them into the field of 16. Jackson, though, said that his team's focus had to be in Detroit.

"I try to convince our team to quit worrying about that," Jackson said. "Because I think that's what got us into trouble in the second half. If we don't focus on our game against Miami, it's insignificant what happens next week."

Van Guilder echoed his coach's "one game at a time" mentality.

"It sneaks in the back of your mind, but this weekend it's all about Friday," he said. "We're not worried about Saturday. We're not worried about the NCAA Tournament. We're not worried about anything but Miami."

Contact Sam Werner at
swerner@nd.edu

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MEN'S LACROSSE

Team travels to Colorado to take on Air Force

By ELLYN MICHALAK
Sports Writer

After defeating Dartmouth 19-7 last weekend, Notre Dame improved its rankings and moved into the No. 5 spot in the nation and the No. 3 spot in the GWLL.

The Irish currently sit behind Quinnipac (6-0) and Bellarmine (6-1) in the conference.

Notre Dame travels to Colorado Springs, Colo., to face Air Force on Saturday. The Falcons are in last place

in the GWLL with a 1-4 record. I the Irish defeated the Falcons 16-4 last season.

"Air Force has struggled a bit so far this season, but when you watch them play they are very athletic that plays very hard," Irish coach Kevin Corrigan said. "They will present a challenge for us."

On Tuesday, the Irish host No. 14 Drexel. Notre Dame defeated Drexel 16-5 last season, but this year the Dragons hold a 6-1 record, with their only loss coming from a close game with No. 3

Virginia.

"They are a very good team. They played Virginia to a very good game and kept them tied until very late in the game," Corrigan said. "Since then they haven't loss. They are good team playing with tremendous confidence right now."

On Saturday, the Irish downed Dartmouth by 12 goals. Senior attack Alex Wharton led the team against the Big Green, scoring a career-high six points with two goals and four assists. He also was named the Great

Western Lacrosse player of the week, and he has seven goals and 12 assists on the season. Wharton is the third Irish player to receive this honor on the season, joining senior goaltender Joey Kemp and junior attack Ryan Hoff, who were both awarded the honor in February.

The Irish quickly jumped out to a 5-0 lead and held the Big Green scoreless throughout the first quarter. Corrigan attributes the win to effective first quarter offense.

"We did something we've done this year a few times,"

he said. "We had long periods of shutting them out which really puts a lot of stress on a team. For the third time this year we held them scoreless in the first quarter, which helps get off to a good start. We also stayed consistent execution offensively as well."

Saturday's game vs. the Falcons kicks off at 2 p.m. The Irish will face Drexel on Tuesday at 4 p.m. in the Moose Krause Stadium.

Contact Ellyn Michalak at emichala@nd.edu

MEN'S GOLF

ND to spend weekend in Tucson

By PETER REISENAUER
Sports Writer

After what may have been their best showing so far this spring, Notre Dame will look to continue its hot play when it travel to Tucson, Ariz., for the National Invitational Tournament at the Arizona National Golf Club.

This past weekend Notre Dame finished 12th in a tough field at the E-Z Go Invitational that included 12 teams ranked in the top 50. The Irish finished ahead of No. 15 Michigan State and No. 38 North Carolina State at the event in Statesboro,

Ga. The team also finished tied with No. 11 Auburn and just three strokes out of 9th place.

Junior Josh Sandman had another strong showing with his second top 10 finish in as many tournaments and also finished with his career low score. He was also the only player in the field that recorded an eagle over the entire weekend.

This weekend the Irish will face a field highlighted by No. 27 Arizona State. Notre Dame will look for strong contributions from their top performers, including Sandman and sophomore Doug Fortner, who, despite

finishing 56th in the E-Z Go Invitational, still has not reached the scores that he was posting before the winter break.

Freshman Tyler Hock struggled in the final round of the E-Z Go Invitational after two solid rounds, and will look to find more consistency in Tucson.

The Irish finally were able to practice outdoors at the Warren Golf Course this week after winter conditions had limited the team to indoor practice facilities for several months.

Contact Peter Reisenauer at preisena@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Irish to host Loyola; looking to rebound

By ANDY ZICCARELLI
Sports Writer

It has already been a trying season for the Irish, one that has seen its fair share of unexpected and close losses.

After a 3-0 start, Notre Dame (5-3, 0-1 Big East) has lost three of its last five, including a 16-13 overtime heartbreaker against Syracuse on Sunday that opened up the Big East schedule on a sour note for the Irish.

The Irish can turn the tide this weekend, though, when they host Loyola (3-5) at 1 p.m. Saturday.

Though Notre Dame won't be able to accomplish its goal of an undefeated home season, it can erase some bad memories from its struggles in the last few weeks.

In their most recent loss to the Orange, the Irish dominated the second half, overcoming a three-goal halftime deficit before giving up a late goal to send the game to overtime. The Notre Dame attack faltered in the extra period, failing to score any goals.

That loss brought back memories of a 14-13 loss at Oregon on March 6, a game in which the Ducks scored a

pair of goals in the final 15 seconds to upend the Irish.

Despite its recent struggles, Notre Dame's 15.1 goals per game rank among the best in the Big East and in the country. Junior Jillian Byers is one of the nation's leading scorers with 35 goals, though she has been held under four goals in each of Notre Dame's last two games — the time that had happened all year.

Byers paces the Irish attack, but with versatile scorers like seniors Caitlin McKinney and Heather Ferguson playing along quick freshman Shaylyn Blaney, Notre Dame can score from multiple angles.

"When we are on our game, we are very difficult to stop," Coyne said.

Despite her team's talent, Coyne said she thinks the losses this season were avoidable.

"Some players have not implemented aspects of the game plan, and that has held us back," she said.

Saturday's game will be played at 1 p.m. indoors at the Loftus Center. The Irish will then resume play at Hofstra on March 25.

Contact Andy Zicarelli at azicare@nd.edu

"When we are on our game, we are very difficult to stop."

Tracy Coyne
Irish coach

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Tsipis

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her coaches and teammates will survive her presence in the program.

Walk-on ways

Regardless of the fact that her uncle coaches here, Tsipis had other options when choosing where to play. In her senior year at Perry High School in Perry, Ohio, she scored 18.2 points per game, shot 50.2-percent from field goal range and hit 43.1-percent of her 3-point shots. She set school records in field goal and 3-point percentage, both for her senior season and for her career, and she ranks as the second-leading scorer in school history.

Oh, yeah — Tsipis was also co-valedictorian of her class, graduated with a 4.2 GPA and got a perfect score on the math portion of the ACT.

Her performance in high school earned her scholarship offers from DePauw, Akron and Ohio University, and she toyed with the idea of walking on at Richmond. But after attending a camp at Notre Dame the summer before her senior high school season, Irish coach Muffet McGraw told her she would have a spot on the team if she got into Notre Dame.

When the call came in May, McGraw was true to her word.

"She called and said, 'I just got accepted to Notre Dame. I got an offer to play at DePauw. Should I go there, are you taking a walk-on, and do I have a chance at being that walk-on?'" McGraw said. "And I said absolutely. I thought it was one of the best decisions I ever made to keep her."

Because of the respect she's earned from her teammates, Tsipis said she has never been treated differently, despite her status as a walk-on.

"I think because I'm the only [walk-on], and because our team is so small, we have a really close group," she said. "They have never treated me like anyone else. I kind of feel like I have their responsibility and owe that to them to make them as good as I can."

Family ties

Tsipis, who played for her father, Dean, growing up, is no stranger to playing for family members. She said the relationship with her uncle has worked well, both on the court and off.

"It's nice to have a relationship and have it outside of basketball, and he also doesn't let me get away with taking a play off or not practicing as hard as I can," she said.

Jonathan Tsipis said he tries to keep their relationship off the court.

"We try to separate it, and I'll really try to be her coach in practice and in games and everything basketball-related," he said. "She's just another player on the team."

Although she doesn't see much playing time, Tsipis' main contributions come in practice. Because she has a good outside shot, she simulates their next opponent's shooters. She explains new schemes to younger players. And Jonathan Tsipis said he feels comfortable putting her in with the four starters, which happened in the first half of the South Florida game with freshmen forwards

Devreaux Peters and Becca Bruszewski out because of injuries and two guards in foul trouble. But, McGraw said, her biggest contribution is intangible.

"She is somebody who has great contributions to the team that don't really show up anywhere except in the harmony and chemistry of your team," McGraw said. "She's somebody that when she talks, everybody listens, because they know she's just all about the team. It's never about her."

Although every athlete wants to play, Jonathan Tsipis said Amanda understood her role on the team and adapted to it well.

"I don't think delusions of grandeur have ever hit her," he said. "She knew right away, on a very good team her freshman year, what her role was going to be. I think that's why she really gained the respect of her teammates."

So much respect, in fact, that in the last game of this season against St. John's, senior guard Charel Allen, who is traditionally announced last before the game, requested that Tsipis be announced last in her first career start.

"I've been starting since last year, and I felt that the fans would appreciate more if she came out," Allen said.

When Tsipis enters a game, the Joyce Center faithful go bonkers.

"It's pretty amazing," she said. "It's kind of sad that I'll never come in again at the JACC. They have been amazingly supportive since freshman year."

Outside of basketball, Tsipis keeps up the grades that got her here. She was a three-time Big East Academic All-Star and had a 3.7 GPA last year.

"It's not unusual for us to be at a hotel somewhere and for me to see her out in the hallway studying," McGraw said. "She's the first one to get her books out on the plane or on the bus. She never wastes time."

"She is a very, very conscientious student. As good as grades as she gets, she's always worried she didn't do well — which means she got a B."

Moving on

That academic prowess earned Tsipis an internship with JP Morgan in Chicago last summer, which led to a permanent job with the company after she graduates.

Her uncle, however, knows she's not done with basketball.

"Deep inside I think she knows basketball will be a part of her, whether it's coaching younger kids some day," Jonathan Tsipis said. "She's ready to kind of step on [to] that next level, as far as graduating and working at JP Morgan, but she'll end up being some part of basketball, no question about that."

Regardless of Tsipis' role, McGraw said, Tsipis plays because she's incurably attached to basketball.

"To think that for four years she has put in so much time, before the season, after the season, in the summer, and she never gets rewarded," McGraw said. "Other players are playing so they can get on the court and play, and she's just playing for the love of the game. She's just so thrilled to be in the game, and it's infectious to the rest of the team."

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

D'Amico

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there for the girls, especially the freshman," D'Amico said. "I definitely wanted to be out there more senior year."

Irish coach Muffet McGraw said she thought D'Amico has adapted well to the change, especially considering that the change happened during her senior year.

"We had to adjust her role, and certainly as a senior that's not something you want to do," McGraw said. "But she handled it pretty well in terms of [that] her work ethic in practice never changed. She still was working hard trying to get back into the rotation, and I think you have to give her a lot of credit for that."

D'Amico said she accepted the new role because she understood that the team's needs came first.

"If my role's going to change, if that's what the team needs, then that's what it needs," she said. "The most important thing is the success for the team."

McGraw said D'Amico's decreased playing time was no fault of her own, just that Williamson improved considerably since her freshman campaign.

"It's great that you want to see someone else do well when you're not playing ... I definitely have a lot of respect for [D'Amico]."

Muffet McGraw
Irish coach

"[Erica] has a little more of a presence and does a lot of things that don't show up in the stat sheet. She's a really good screener and is someone that talks — she communicates with the guards really well," she said. "She's more of a shot blocker, and again the willingness to take charge, that's really big. She's smart: when she screens and her man goes to double, she sees it and goes right to the basket."

Despite her decline in minutes,

D'Amico has still led Notre Dame's bigs, never getting jealous of Williamson or freshman Becca Bruszewski, who also took some of D'Amico's minutes.

"I think all three of us go in there every day in practice and push each other to get each other better,"

D'Amico said of her relationship with Bruszewski and Williamson. "Whoever [McGraw] wants to play that game that's who's going to play, whoever's playing better, that's who's going to play."

D'Amico is used to playing a leadership role in the post, having already helped to get the two younger Irish big men ready for college ball. Before last season, D'Amico and Williamson were roommates in summer practices, where D'Amico said she helped get Williamson ready for the faster-paced college game.

"Getting her up in the morning

for workouts, getting her mentally prepared, when you come in as a freshman you don't really know," D'Amico said of rooming with Williamson. "Physically, you're going to have to push yourself a lot. She had a little trouble with conditioning, and she worked very hard to get that up. She's improved a lot. I'm proud of her."

McGraw said that D'Amico's work with the younger players shows maturity especially considering she is helping tutor the players that took her minutes.

"It's great that you want to see someone else do well when you're not playing. It shows a lot of maturity, but it's got to be really hard. I definitely have a lot of respect for her," McGraw said.

D'Amico said Notre Dame was one of her first choices to play college basketball, but that it was an opportunity she almost didn't get.

"The first thing I got [from Notre Dame] was a rejection letter. Not [really] a rejection letter, but it's really hard to get in here, things like that," she said.

Later, D'Amico played well at an Adidas top 10 all-American camp and started getting an increased look from McGraw.

"I think when I called her and told her I was coming she was really excited. I talked to Coach [McGraw]," D'Amico said of signing day. "They put [former Irish center] Ruth Riley on the phone, she was someone that I watched a lot, so it was exciting."

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa5@nd.edu

Guards

continued from page 24

just try and be a leader all around."

Gaines never questioned her role as the vocal leader of the team. She willingly stepped into the role as soon as fellow point guard Megan Duffy graduated, and never looked back.

It has never been about the points for Gaines, who averages just 7.0 per game. It's always been about bringing out the best in her teammates to ensure a win.

"She is the motivator, the inspiration. She is the voice you hear in the locker room at half-time a lot of times saying the things I'm about to say," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "She's the consummate team player — she doesn't care how many points she scores, she just wants the team to win."

As the other member of the duo, Allen's ability to remain composed under stress has earned her the respect of her teammates, and that rarely required Allen to speak up.

Allen, who leads the Irish with 14.5 points per game, has always been a silent but strong presence on the court.

"I've always been like the quiet type, lead by example," Allen said. "It's hard to be more vocal but it's something new."

"Every once in a while, I'll say something. I think [my teammates] do [respect me when I speak up] just because they know I don't like talking. They respect Tulyah in the same sense because she talks all the time, but I think when I say something, they're like 'it's serious.'"

The teammates have proven that silent power and vocal leadership match each other perfectly.

Both guards have been playing together since the day they stepped foot on campus in the summer of 2004 and always

seem to know where the other will be on the court.

"Tulyah [Gaines] especially as a point guard really looks for Charel [Allen]," McGraw said. "They seem to know where each other is going to be. Offensively and defensively they seem to know each other's moves."

But it's more than just four years of playing together that puts the two in sync, it's also a close friendship that exists off the court.

"It's a combination of [years playing together and friendship]," said Gaines of the two's connection. "I'm always looking for her, I know where she is usually, and just for playing with her for four years has helped that."

Gaines and Allen know their leadership has yet to be fully tested. Entering the first round of the NCAA Tournament, the underclassmen are likely to look to the two who have been down the road before.

The Irish entered the 2007 tournament only to fall 60-51 to then top-seeded North Carolina. But this year's squad is stronger, and Allen and Gaines don't want to end their collegiate careers in the second round.

"That shows you that last year we weren't even as good as we are now," said Allen of last year's tournament. "This year we played with the No. 1 team and the No. 1 seed. This year we can compete with whoever in the nation. Since I've been here we've only been to the second round. We want to at least get to the Sweet 16, that's our goal. We're going to approach it like this could be my last game. I don't want to end on that note."

The underclassmen will turn to Allen and Gaines for the experience the two have in the tournament — they know how it can test all aspects of a team, mentally and physically.

"We just [have to] be tough, the post-season is always just a battle of toughness basically," Gaines said. "All the teams in the tournament are good, so its

basically who has the most heart, who has the most toughness, mentally, physically, everything, you got to be tough."

But the Irish don't enter the NCAA tournament on an upswing. Notre Dame last stepped on the court March 9 when it fell 64-53 to Pittsburgh in the quarterfinals of the Big East Tournament.

But the Irish recognize they are in one of the toughest leagues in the country.

"The Big East conference is tough — look how far Louisville went," Allen said. "They went into the championship game, and we beat them [earlier in the season]. It shows you how competitive the Big East is."

"Hopefully, we're done losing. We'll put together a little six-game winning streak. We're capable of doing it."

It's that driving attitude that has gotten Notre Dame to the No. 5 seed they sit at today. Combined with Gaines' vocal encouragement and leadership on the court, the Irish players have an infallible force in the backcourt.

"She's a fighter, she's competitive, she will not back down from anybody, and I think her attitude kind of goes to the rest of the team," McGraw said of Allen. "That fearlessness kind of takes us into battle. It's really amazing what she's accomplished."

As for when that last buzzer sounds for the duo's final battle on the Irish side, neither plans to travel too far from their current role.

Gaines and Allen will both look to play basketball post-Notre Dame, regardless of what that entails.

"Hopefully I'll still be playing somewhere," said Gaines of life after Notre Dame. "I'm going to try to keep playing. Whatever God has for me I'm going to try to get to it."

Contact Deirdre Krasula at dkrasula@nd.edu

HOCKEY

Irish to fight for tournament lives in Detroit

Notre Dame faces No. 3 Miami in CCHA semifinals; leading scorer Condra out for year with injured left knee

By SAM WERNER
Sports Writer

When No. 12 Notre Dame enters Detroit's Joe Louis Arena this weekend, it will have the opportunity to defend its Mason Cup title, beginning with tonight's CCHA semifinal matchup with No. 3 Miami.

But it won't have the opportunity to do so at full strength.

The Irish will be without junior right wing Erik Condra, their leading scorer who injured his left knee in Sunday's 2-1 win over Ferris State.

"Any time you lose a player of that caliber, it's going to impact your team," coach Jeff Jackson said. "But it's also an opportunity for other guys to step up in different roles."

Condra had scored 15 goals and 23 assists this season and had played prominently on Notre Dame's penalty kill and power play units. Jackson said he had tried several different line combinations to make up for Condra's loss but wouldn't make any final decisions until after Thursday's practice in Detroit.

Notre Dame split the season

series with the RedHawks, winning 2-1 and falling 3-1 in Oxford, Ohio, when Miami was the nation's top team. The RedHawks are led by goalie Jeff Zatkoff, the CCHA leader in save percentage and goals-against average in the regular season. The junior is one of the leading candidates for the Hobey Baker Award, given annually to the nation's top hockey player.

"They may be the No. 1 team in the country," Jackson said. "They're not ranked No. 1 right now, but they're right there with the top couple of teams."

On offense, RedHawks junior Justin Mercier and senior Ryan Jones make up one of the most potent scoring duos in the CCHA. The pair has combined for 85 points on the season.

"[Miami is] so deep, they're so talented," Irish senior captain Mark Van Guilder said. "You can't take a shift off or you're down 1-0 or 2-0."

The Irish hope to use their CCHA tournament experience against the RedHawks. The Irish beat Lake Superior State and Michigan last year to hoist the Mason Cup, and Jackson said the players returning from

that squad will benefit from winning it all.

"The fact that the guys that were there last year had that experience, I'm sure it's going to help them," Jackson said.

This year's team will be faced with a very different challenge, though. Last year, the Irish were seeded No. 1 in the tournament and were favorites to win the title. This year, Notre Dame is the No. 3 seed and the third-highest seeded team in the final four — ahead of only Northern Michigan, the No. 6

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Their last dance

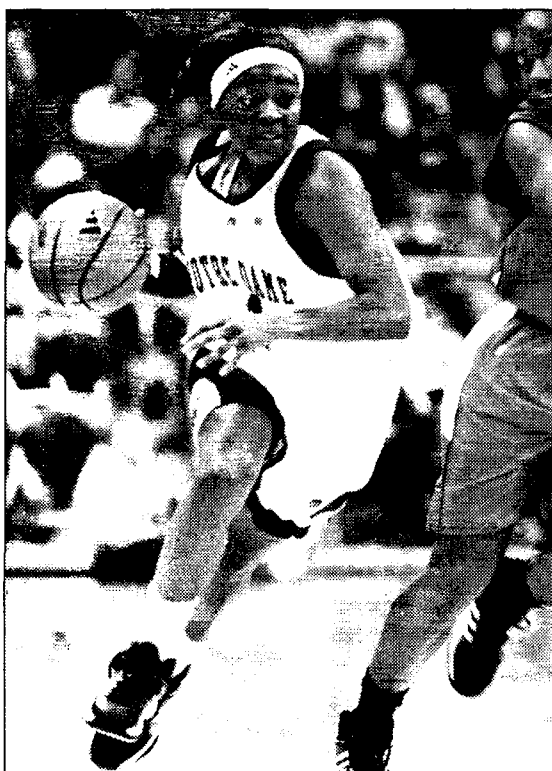
Gaines, Allen provide backcourt leadership

By DEIRDRE KRASULA
Sports Writer

There are those that lead by actions, and those that lead through words. The Irish are lucky enough to boast both. Senior guards Tulyah Gaines and Charel Allen combine to create a guiding force in the backcourt that has helped the Irish secure a No. 5 seed in the NCCA Tournament.

There was never any question who would lead Notre Dame as the team entered the 2007-2008 season; Gaines and Allen combine with fellow senior Amanda Tsipis to form the Irish captains.

"I pretty much knew my role coming into the season," Gaines said. "That I had to be a leader, act vocally, set an example on defense, whatever I had to do,



Senior guards Tulyah Gaines, left, and Charel Allen serve as two of the team's three captains by providing both vocal and silent leadership.



WU YUE/The Observer

D'Amico takes decrease in court time in stride

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

Anyone who saw Notre Dame play the last two seasons noticed something different down low.

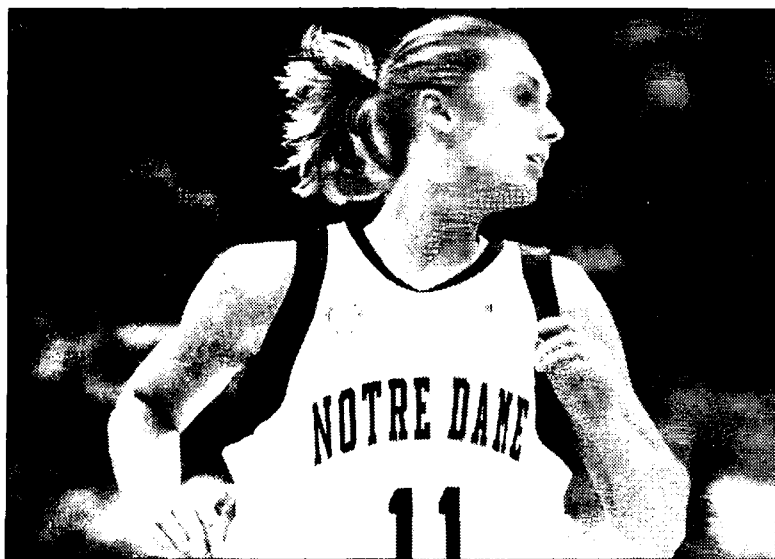
Last year, the center position was effectively shared by then-junior Melissa D'Amico and then-freshman Erica Williamson. This year, however, D'Amico saw consistently fewer minutes as the season wore on, in large part due to factors beyond her control.

But don't think her role has diminished — it's just changed.

During her senior season, D'Amico has been an important presence on the bench, in practice and in the locker room for her teammates.

"This year I tried to take on more of a leadership role now that I'm a senior — just being

see D'AMICO/page 22



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

Senior Amanda Tsipis has transformed herself from a freshman walk-on to a senior captain during four years in the Irish program.

Walk-on Tsipis earns respect of teammates, leaves lasting mark

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

It was a meaningless basket in a meaningless game, but it was vindication for countless hours of behind-the-scenes toil.

It was inconspicuous, at best. Notre Dame led South Florida 84-39 in the final minutes of a Feb. 27 home game. With 3:52 left, senior guard Amanda Tsipis drove through the lane from the outside and sank a layup. The crowd roared; Tsipis

beamed.

But here's the rub: She didn't want the shot.

"I was actually looking to pass to [senior center] Melissa D'Amico, but her defender didn't actually come up on me, so I ended up shooting it," Tsipis said.

That lack of selfishness at a meaningless point in the game tells you all you need to know about Amanda Tsipis.

The only walk-on ever to be elected captain by her teammates, Tsipis has one start in her four-year collegiate career. She has 18 points this season, or 0.9 per game. Yet with the ball and a lane to the basket, she wanted to pass.

Her fellow players and

coaches wouldn't be surprised. They learned from their daily interactions with Tsipis the impact she can have away from the court.

"She's exactly what a walk-on epitomizes at Notre Dame," said assistant coach Jonathan Tsipis, who is Amanda's uncle. "We see with our chemistry in our locker room without the coaches around a lot of the positive impact that she's had."

Notre Dame's Sunday match-up with Southern Methodist in the NCAA Tournament could be Tsipis' last in an Irish uniform. But the impression she made on

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