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Research center construction begins

New Harper Hall cancer research facility to be a collaboration between Notre Dame, IUSM-SB

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Writer

University President Father John Jenkins said the construction of Harper Hall, a center for cancer research for the Indiana School of Medicine — South Bend (IUSM-SB), will perpetuate a "legacy of love" when he spoke at the groundbreaking ceremony Friday.

The cancer research center is made possible by a 10 million dollar gift from Mike Harper, a South Bend native whose wife Josie died of cancer in 1999, Jenkins said. The state of Indiana then matched the 10 million dollars, making Harper Hall a joint effort of IUSM-SB

and Notre Dame, he said.

"Cancer touched the Harper family and took Josie, Mike's wife, but in response to that sadness, Mike and his family responded with generosity and vision," Jenkins said.

Jenkins said the research center is at the core of the University's mission to educate and serve.

"This is an area we really emphasize. [The hall] is a place that not only passes on knowledge, but discovers knowledge through research," he said. "Science at the service of humanity is what Harper Hall is about."

see HARPER/page 4

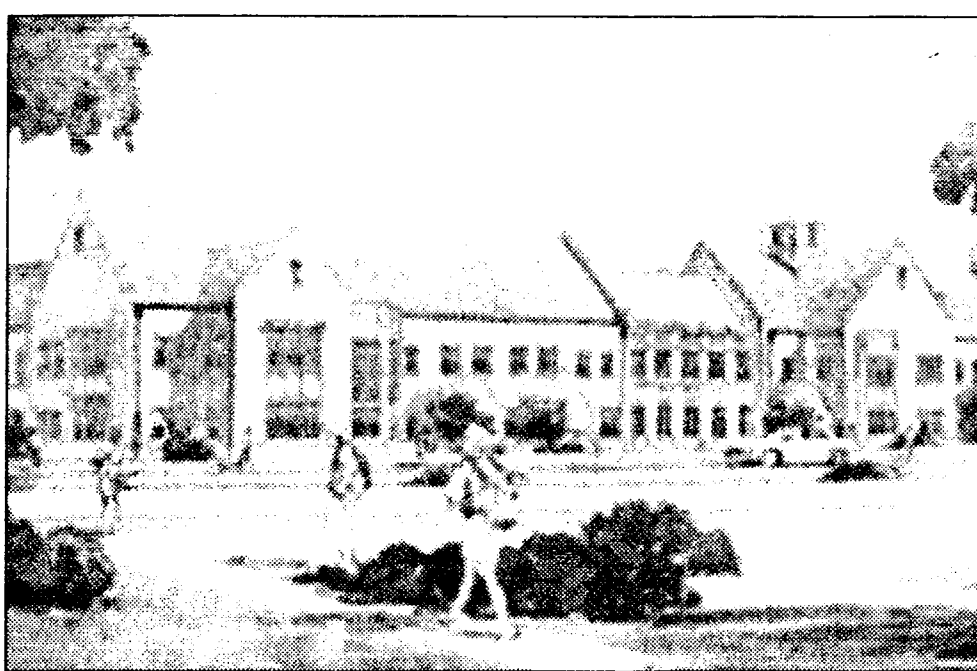


Photo Courtesy of NEWS and INFORMATION

An artist's rendering shows the future Harper Hall south of Notre Dame's campus. Officials broke ground Friday at the site.

ND prof featured in new play

By ROBERT SINGER
News Writer

A life of scholarship rarely translates into the drama of the stage, except in the case of Notre Dame professor and leading Schubert scholar, Susan Youens.

New York playwright-actress Anna Deavere Smith has written a portion of her latest play "Let Me Down Easy" about Youens.

According to Youens, Smith selected her for her work on the 19th century Austrian composer Franz Schubert.

"I regard it as a testament to Schubert more than to me," she said. "She contacted me because my mission in life is to convert as many people as I can to a greater love and understanding of Schubert's music."

In a life cut short by death at age 31, Schubert composed almost 1,000 works, including many later works in which he contemplated human mortality — the same idea that Smith wanted to explore in her play.

Smith is famous for her unconventional approach to theater. The only cast member in the play, in scene after scene, she portrays the lives of many real people who all have some connection to an over-arching theme of human frailty. In a montage of worldviews and life stories based on interviews with her subjects, Smith explores this

see PLAY/page 4

Students lament unexpected Syracuse loss

Seniors mourn cold, disappointing last game in Notre Dame Stadium to 2-8 Orange



DAN JACOBS/The Observer

Seniors participated in the annual marshmallow fight during halftime of Saturday's game against Syracuse.

By NORA KENNEY
News Writer

The atmosphere on campus since Saturday's game has been a grim reflection of the disappointments endured by fans and players this weekend in Notre Dame Stadium. For seniors, this last home game was especially saddening.

Senior Allison Lang was emotional about watching the game from the student section for the last time.

"I personally didn't care about the score at the end of the game. It was just the fact that it was the first big 'last,'" she said.

Lang's emotions were not

abnormal. Many seniors were seen crying at the game or expressing anger.

Senior Andrew Balsley, said the game "was definitely a poor showing. Everyone was pretty angry that we lost to such an awful team. There was a lot of swearing and people being mad at Weis for having such an awful game. We at least got to enjoy half-time and the marshmallows and that tradition for seniors. It got worse and worse as the game went on and we couldn't close it out."

Marshmallows were not the only white objects thrown throughout the game.

Students caught throwing

see GAME/page 3

Seniors to choose 'Legacy' gift

Students can vote online; gift to Eco-Fund, CSC among three options

By AARON STEINER
News Writer

The senior class has an opportunity to leave a legacy that goes beyond their stories, achievements and memories. The Senior Legacy gift will leave a lasting impact on the University by aiding students in unpaid internships, strengthening community relations through a gift to the Center for Social Concerns, or growing the size of an Eco-Fund to help sustainability initiatives.

Seniors are currently vot-

ing on the three options for the class gift, known this year as the Senior Legacy. Joe Gagnon, a senior and co-chair of the Student Development Committee, said that the committee had a few ideas of their own, and hear suggestions from others.

"[The committee] voted among the ideas, and selected the top three," Gagnon said. The committee is comprised of about 30 undergraduate students, mostly students.

Now, the senior class can vote online — until November

30 — among those three choices: creation of the Unpaid Internship Fund, a gift to the Eco-Fund and planting one tree, or a gift to the CSC for community based projects.

"Two of the gifts are expanding on things that already exist," Gagnon said.

The Eco-Fund was created by a gift from the Class of 2008, he said. The fund helps to pay for sustainability initiatives on campus. The donation would double the size of the fund.

see GIFT/page 3

Study abroad at SMC reflects national trends

By LIZ HARTER
Saint Mary's Editor

The Institute of International Education recently released the 2008 Open Doors annual report with support from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The report shows an eight percent jump in the number of U.S. students studying abroad and a seven percent increase in the number of international students studying at U.S. colleges and universities, a trend reflected by stu-

dents at Saint Mary's.

The College has more than 20 different study abroad opportunities in locations in Africa, South America, Europe, Haiti, South Korea and China. With the number of sites more than doubling in the past five years, according to a press release.

There are also seven international students enrolled at Saint Mary's from the countries of China, Myanmar, Vietnam, Iraq and Guatemala.

College President Carol Ann Mooney said internationaliza-

see ABROAD/page 3

INSIDE COLUMN

Living under the dome

The Golden Dome has never been this collegiate Mecca located half-way across the world from me. In fact, it's about a five minute drive from home. I'm a "townie," and I happen to be very proud of it.

Notre Dame has always been in my backyard, so the saying goes. I grew up tailgating near campus and wearing Notre Dame Cheerleader outfits on Halloween.

Amanda Gray

News Writer

There were always houses that would give kids extra candy for some Notre Dame pride.

This vintage Notre Dame poster has hung in my living room for as long as I can remember, and even considering going to a state school (i.e. Purdue) was considered treason. Most people here are very proud to live so near to this landmark of college education that people honestly do travel half-way around the world to attend.

I never saw it with its golden halo.

I completely abuse the fact that Notre Dame is so near to home. I'm pretty close to my family, so it's nice to make it home to dinner when I can, or at least get off campus for a few hours when the Notre Dame bubble gets to me.

That's the thing — being here feels like I could be 400 miles away from home, not just four.

The Notre Dame bubble is an impenetrable force that keeps the surrounding areas like Mishawaka, my dear hometown, and South Bend from entering. Sometimes this can be a good thing, because people didn't come to Notre Dame to experience the northern Indiana lifestyle. They come for an education, maybe some football, but definitely not corn mazes and other happenings. However, I wish it were different. Growing up here, I can only sing its praises and beg people to break the bubble and try something new.

Get off campus!

Go explore the place that I am ridiculously proud to call "home."

Try Hacienda, some of the best high-class Taco Bell ever made, or go to the Farmer's Market on a Saturday morning. If that isn't your thing, try going to downtown South Bend, which, admittedly, isn't much, but still is fun, or going to any of the several South Bend Chocolate Companies in the area.

Our mall isn't much, but it's the best shopping you're going to get in the area, until you hit Chicago or Indianapolis. And don't forget to hit up the 24 Hour Coffee Shop, also known as the Gag and Heave (or G and H, but don't let them hear you say that!) for some of the cheapest, greasiest, and tastiest food.

If you're a music fan, please, please, please check out Orbit Music, in the Town and Country shopping center in Mishawaka. It's not that far away, and there is a bus route to there. Check it out if you even remotely like music — there's something there for everyone.

I want to help break the stigma that there's only corn (and Notre Dame) in Indiana.

I hope the other "townies" feel the same way I do!

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

Contact Amanda Gray at agray3@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

In the Oct. 21 edition of The Observer, the story "Craft store helps developing nations" was bylined incorrectly. Sarah Mervosh wrote that story. The Observer regrets this error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: IF YOU COULD REDO ANY OF THIS SEASON'S FOOTBALL GAMES, WHICH ONE?



Francys Verdial

senior
off-campus

"Yesterday's game — but only the tailgating and snow part."



Caroline Dau

senior
Pasquerilla East

"Yesterday's game — but only the marshmallow fight, not the negative degree weather or the snowball fight."



Alyssa Pinon

junior
Holy Cross Hall

"The Pitt game — four overtimes too many."



Conor Bindner

junior
Sorin

"Syracuse, because it might be Weis's last home game."



Pat Voll

senior
off-campus

"Dallas Cowboys — I felt like we had that one."



DAN JACOBS/The Observer

Seniors climb on the goalpost at Notre Dame Stadium after Notre Dame's loss to Syracuse on Saturday. Seniors were permitted to walk on the field because it was their last home game.

OFFBEAT

Turkey bowling part of town's festivities

CINCINNATI — Set up the pins, clear the lanes and try not to roll a gutter bird.

Cincinnati is warming up for Thanksgiving with its traditional Turkey Bowl, an annual outdoor event using frozen turkeys in place of bowling balls.

Contestants will try to knock down 10 pins Tuesday by sliding rock-hard birds down a lane on the holiday season ice skating rink on downtown's landmark Fountain Square.

The person with the

highest score after three rounds wins \$100 cash and "WKRP in Cincinnati" DVDs including the series' famous "Turkeys Away" episode.

That's the one about a station promotion in which live giveaway turkeys are dropped out of a helicopter to their deaths — because the station manager thought turkeys could fly.

Man accused of urinating on arresting officer

ALBUQUERQUE — The Albuquerque Police Department has turned to the want ads for

snitches.

An ad this week in the alternative newspaper The Alibi asks "people who hang out with crooks" to do part-time work for the police.

It reads in part: "Make some extra cash! Drug use and criminal record OK."

Capt. Joe Hudson says police received more than 30 responses in two days. He says one tip was a "big one" but wouldn't elaborate.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

A seminar entitled "Americans in the Treasure House: Travel to Mexico in the U.S. Popular Imagination, 1876-1920" will be given by Jason Ruiz, assistant professor in the Department of American Studies. The event will be held in room 208 McKenna Hall today at 4 p.m. It is sponsored by the Institute for Latino Studies' Interdisciplinary Faculty Seminar Series.

Zhigang Suo, professor of engineering and applied sciences at Harvard University, will present a seminar on the thermodynamics of large deformation in soft active materials on Tuesday at 3:30 p.m.. The lecture, entitled, "Thermodynamics of Large Deformation in Soft Active Materials", will be held in room 138, DeBartolo Hall. It is sponsored by the Department of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering.

The Entrepreneurship Society is having a series of presentations on business entitled Case Study Challenge. The event is Wednesday from 5-7 p.m. in 155 DeBartolo.

Direct from Buenos Aires, Argentina, Estampas Porteñas presents a new, fresh look at tango on Wednesday at 7 p.m.. A combination of live music, alluring dances and just pure fun, Tango Fire is an event for everyone who wants to move and shake. This event is held in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center in the Decio Mainstage Theatre. Tickets are \$48, \$38 for faculty/staff, \$36 for seniors, and \$15 for all students.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
HIGH	34	32	35	37	40	40
LOW	32	30	30	26	29	28

Atlanta 56 / 35 Boston 45 / 38 Chicago 38 / 29 Denver 57 / 34 Houston 76 / 46 Los Angeles 71 / 53 Minneapolis 32 / 20 New York 48 / 43 Philadelphia 48 / 41 Phoenix 82 / 57 Seattle 55 / 41 St. Louis 49 / 29 Tampa 77 / 58 Washington 50 / 40

Gift

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The gift to the CSC was something many committee members felt strongly about, Gagnon said.

"A lot of people on the committee really stressed wanting to improve relations with the community," he said. The one-time gift would be used to fund community-based projects.

The final gift would create a new program at Notre Dame — the Unpaid Internship Fund. The fund was an idea that the committee developed with the Career Center. "You'd apply to the Career Center if your internship is unpaid," Gagnon said. The stipends provided through the fund would help cover living costs.

The Senior Legacy is used to directly address something that students see a need for, Gagnon said.

"We feel like we've been here four years, and we're in the best position to say, what's missing" or "what doesn't get enough attention, or needs more attention," Gagnon said.

Gagnon said that students can officially contribute to the Senior Legacy until Dec. 31, 2009.

"We will choose our official class gift," Gagnon said, but seniors can choose to designate a donation for whatever they desire.

"They're technically contributing to the Senior Legacy if they contribute to their dorm, or something else," he said.

The Student Development Committee will promote the chosen gift, Gagnon said.

Kevin Marvinac, a senior and the other committee co-chair, said that students can contribute donations of any size.

"It's really important to give, no matter the gift amount," he said.

Graduation is an important time to "start giving back to the University that's given us so much," he added.

"It's important as an alumni ... to start giving back early," Marvinac said. "Giving back is one very tangible way that alumni can really stay involved."

Gagnon added that the focus is not on the amount raised, but the percentage of participation.

"It's our history that we're going to leave behind," Gagnon said. "It's our way of saying thank you."

Contact Aaron Steiner at asteiner@nd.edu

"It's important as an alumni ... to start giving back early."

Kevin Marvinac
Student Development
Committee co-chair

"It's our history that we're going to leave behind ... it's our way of saying thank you."

Joe Gagnon
Student Development
Committee co-chair

Game

continued from page 1

snowballs at fans, players, or authoritative figures were dealt with harshly.

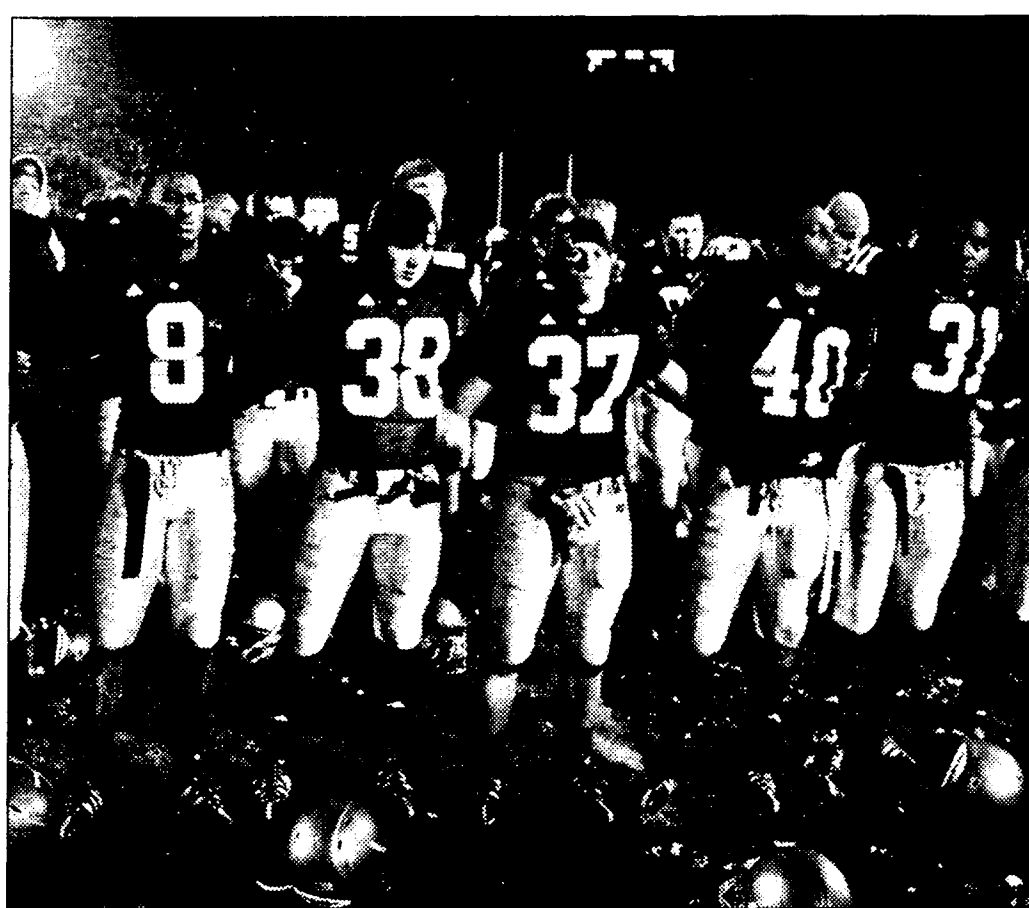
Freshman Julie Cooney said, "we watched a guy get removed from the stadium for hitting a police officer who was standing on the field. Obviously he didn't do it, as his friends and the entire section were protesting the impossibility. If you could hit a guy in the back of the head with a snow ball from section 34, you would replace Jimmy Clausen."

It is unclear whether or not the snowballs were aimed at the players.

Sophomore Brian Monson said, "I don't think it was intended for the team, but you're that far away. You're not accurately going to throw the snowball at the team. It's something that you wouldn't expect from kids here at Notre Dame. You think they would show some class, some restraint. My roommate feels very strongly about this. He got hit."

At his Sunday press conference, Notre Dame head football coach Charlie Weis was asked what he thought about members of the student section throwing snowballs towards the team throughout the game.

"I was taken back about it, to tell you the truth," he said. "I was caught a little off guard



COLEMAN COLLINS/The Observer

The football team gathered by the student section for the alma mater after Notre Dame's loss to Syracuse Saturday.

because they started coming early. And I think that maybe it was meant in fun at the start of the game. But it's a dangerous thing. And it's just something I wish would have been avoided."

Because Syracuse was 2-8, plays such as Toryan Smith's interception and lateral, as well as a win, were expected.

"We made a lot of mental errors which is the same thing we've done all season. I don't know if it's a player thing or a coaching thing but there are so many mental lapses," Monson

said.

In the end, the loss was unable to quench the undying loyalty of the seniors.

"It was really cool that the seniors all went on the field and took pictures after the game, Lang said. "We were on the field to take pictures and walk out through the tunnel and see all the senior football players with their uniforms and it was a really good interaction."

Contact Nora Kenney at hkenney@nd.edu

Abroad

continued from page 1

tion is a priority for Saint Mary's in her five-year strategic plan, "The Path to Leadership 2012," which was released last fall.

Mooney's plan calls for increasing the percentage of students who study abroad by the time they graduate to 50 percent and increasing the number of international students who study at the College.

Mooney announced this fall that the College has joined the American Council of Education's (ACE) Internationalization Laboratory to work on achieving these goals, according to the press release.

ACE invites a handful of colleges to work in its laboratory for 18 months, the press release said, allowing them the opportunity to review the College's current array of international initiatives, assess the international expertise of the faculty, and review the College's global education plans, among other things.

"Today's graduates must be prepared to work and compete with colleagues from around the globe and

potentially to spend some portion of their careers living outside of the United States,"

Mooney said in the press release. "To prepare our students to fully participate in the emerging global community, we must expand their opportunities for international studies and further internationalize the College community and its curriculum."

Junior Meghan Kelly said she thinks it is wonderful that Mooney has made studying internationally and bringing international students to Saint Mary's a priority.

"It was an excellent opportunity for me, and for all the girls who want to study abroad," said Kelly, who studied in Seville, Spain for the entirety of her sophomore year and participated in the Poland to Prague program over Spring Break her freshman year. "It's the reason I came to Saint Mary's."

She said she chose to study

abroad because she wanted to live in a culture that she had only read about in books.

"I wanted to live with a real family and get an idea about how they go about their daily lives, because I wondered if family life there was any different than what I am used to seeing at home," Kelly said. "I wanted to hear the language every single day just inside the classroom for 50

minutes and students [who study abroad] like myself want to be able to pass by every single day the famous buildings they have learned about in class and experience living in a city where history was made."

Kelly said Mooney isn't the only person who has made internationalization a priority.

"I can tell how much the professors care [about it]," she said. "Dr. Dave [Stefancic] took us to Poland and he is just obsessed with the culture as I was, and Professor [Jennifer] Zachman, who sent us to Spain, came to Spain and took us to dinner."

"They have experienced the culture already and they want us to be just as passionate about it as they are."

Contact Liz Harter at charte01@saintmarys.edu

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Harper

continued from page 1

The research done at the center will influence the lives of so many people, Jenkins said.

"The work of discovery [at the center] will alleviate suffering and cure people," he said. "It is such an inspiring gift."

Jenkins said part of Mike Harper's vision for the project was making the center a joint venture of public and private efforts. The speaker of the Indiana House of Representatives, Pat Bauer, was responsible for matching the 10 million dollar gift from Harper, he said.

Bauer said matching a donation to a private establishment is not a common practice, but he said the center has the potential to do a lot of good in the state.

"When they asked the state to match a gift from a private school, I thought, that's never been done, but when I saw that amount of money, I thought, we can't pass this up," he said.

Bauer said the project was not too difficult because there was already a partnership between IUSM-SB and Notre Dame.

"We were putting [the money] in an area where we already had a partnership," he said. "This public/private partnership thing is blossoming in many more ways."

Dr. Stephen Leapman, executive associate dean of education affairs at IUSM-SB, said the research center benefits the students who will have an

opportunity to work there.

"Our graduate and medical students benefit because they see their role models conducting research and they want to emulate them," he said. "There is an important connection between research, education and student involvement."

Dr. Rudy Navari, assistant dean of IUSM-SB, said that the center will benefit the region as well as the students.

"In addition to the effects on the two major universities, the gift has energized the Northern Indiana community," Navari said. "I receive phone calls and emails every day from health care professionals in the area who are excited ... and very proud we are going to have a center of excellence in cancer research."

He said cancer research has always been a big priority with the Medical school and the center will allow the school to expand its capabilities.

"We have major resources so we can develop cancer research for the next few years," Navari said. "This gift will continue to make a difference in many years."

Mike Harper, the benefactor of the gift, thanked both universities and the state for working with him to make the cancer research center a reality.

He said his wife Josie would be very happy with the center's potential to help so many people.

"She's very proud right now," Harper said.

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

Play

continued from page 1

universal theme through various topics like spirituality, genocide, and the catastrophe of Hurricane Katrina.

"I imagine that her interest arose from the Schubertian combination of immense creativity and a death sentence with an indeterminate span of remaining life," she said. "Schubert's illness was one in which you could not know or predict how much time you had left."

Although she is confident that she was chosen as a subject by Smith for her musical scholarship, Youens is unsure of how she was discovered.

"I don't know how she came to know me. That's a mystery. I really don't know how this happened."

Youens focused on the dedication Schubert showed toward his musical calling, the "absolute devotion to the creation of beauty in sound" and "a kind of responsibility to his art and craft that I find a completely admirable model for how to live."

When audiences leave the theatre, Youens hopes that people will have a specific goal in mind.

"My hope is that people will leave the play, go to Amazon.com or the nearest record store and buy copies of Schubert and listen to them," she said. "That's the purpose of my scholarship, to send people to the music."

After Schubert was diagnosed with a fatal disease at age 25, he knew that he had an unknown and possibly limited time in which to accomplish his musical aims.

"Schubert in the last six

years of his life knew he had a death sentence hanging over his life," she said. "He made a conscious decision ... that both his life and his music would tell about what constitutes and good death and a good life."

According to Youens, her work on Schubert is also relevant to another theme Smith wanted to explore in her play, "grace under pressure."

"It's as if he said to himself: failure is not an option," she said.

"Music is so intrinsically valuable that it deserves every effort that I can put into it," she said.

Youens does not necessarily see her selection as an affirmation of her career as a scholar.

"Scholarship is about taking part in an ongoing conversation. New generations and new pairs of eyes examine these works and they see different things in them," she said. "It's Schubert who is going to endure."

When asked if she plans to return the favor by writing a scholarly interpretation of Smith's plays, Youens laughed.

"No, I don't think I'm qualified to talk about the theatre arts, though I'd love to be able to return the favor," she said. "I think I'll leave that to theatre critics who know what they're talking about."

Youens' character will join many others impersonated by Smith during "Let Me Down Easy," including a Harvard philosopher, a former governor of Texas, Ann Richards, jazz musician James Andrews, human rights activist Samantha Power, and opera singer Jessye Norman.

Contact Robert Singer at rsinger@nd.edu

SOUTH AFRICA

Leaders push to aid Zimbabwe

Carter, Annan decry humanitarian crisis during South Africa visit

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG — Kofi Annan, Jimmy Carter and Graca Machel visited a church housing Zimbabwean refugees Sunday as they continued efforts to ease Zimbabwe's humanitarian crisis even though they were barred from entering the country.

The former U.N. secretary-general, the former U.S. president and human rights advocate Machel, who is married to Nelson Mandela, said Saturday they were denied visas for a mission to assess the needs of Zimbabweans, many of whom are suffering from hunger and disease.

The three are members of The Elders, a group Mandela formed to foster peace.

They have insisted their visit was not related to regional attempts to get President Robert Mugabe and his rival, opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai, to implement a stalled power-sharing agreement.

On Sunday, the three talked to men, women and children who have fled Zimbabwe and sought refuge at the Central Methodist church in downtown Johannesburg.

Carter spoke to 14-year-old Kennedy Manyani, an orphan who crossed the crocodile-

infested Limpopo River into South Africa by himself three months ago.

"I came because my grandmother could not afford to buy me clothes, food," he told Carter.

More than 1,600 people are squeezed into the church with many more sleeping on the pavement outside. An estimated 3 million Zimbabweans live in South Africa and millions of others have fled to neighboring countries in search of jobs and security.

While Zimbabwe's political crisis occupies politicians, the humanitarian crisis is deepening. The health system has collapsed and a cholera outbreak has killed nearly 300 people in Zimbabwe, the United Nations said.

Annan said at the church it was extremely important for southern African countries to realize that regional efforts were needed to control the cholera epidemic.

The three were met with cheers as they made their way through the cramped building.

"Their visit boosts morale. It shows us that we are not alone," said Herbert Nedi, 24, who helps at the school and adult education center the church has started.

Zimbabweans, who were

the targets of anti-foreigner violence in South Africa this year, daily face the risk of arrest, beatings, harassment and sexual assault.

The church was raided by police this year and a number of refugees — most of whom are undocumented migrants — were deported.

"We are very vulnerable here," said Bishop Paul Verryn.

On Sunday, Carter, Annan and Machel met with Botswana President Seretse Ian Khama and representatives of aid agencies and Zimbabwean social organizations. They met with Zimbabwe's main opposition leader on Saturday and are scheduled to meet South African President Kgalema Motlanthe on Monday.

Khama has been one of the few African leaders to openly criticize Mugabe.

"Our biggest concern is that the focus is moving away from the plight of the Zimbabwean people, who are currently suffering through starvation and diseases," he said after an earlier meeting with Motlanthe in the South African capital, Pretoria.

Annan said Saturday that Zimbabwe gave no official reason for refusing them visas for the mission.

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WORLD & NATION

Monday, November 24, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Russia wants to look for oil in Cuba

HAVANA — Russian oil companies could soon begin searching for oil in deep Gulf of Mexico waters off Cuba, a top diplomat said just days before Russian President Dmitry Medvedev visits the island.

Russian oil companies have "concrete projects" for drilling in Cuba's part of the gulf, said Mijail Kamynin, Russia's ambassador to Cuba, to the state-run business magazine Opciones.

Kamynin also said Russian companies would like to help build storage tanks for crude oil and to modernize Cuban pipelines, as well as play a role in Venezuelan efforts to refurbish a Soviet-era refinery in the port city of Cienfuegos, according to the article published this weekend.

Seventeen killed during U.S. raid

KABUL, Afghanistan — The U.S. military says its troops killed 17 insurgents during a raid in southern Afghanistan.

A U.S. statement on Sunday says helicopters carried the troops into the Shah Wali Kot district of Kandahar province, where they clashed with the militants.

It says the clash Saturday killed 17 insurgents, while no U.S. or Afghan troops died.

Southern Afghanistan is the center of the Taliban-led insurgency. More than 5,200 people — mostly militants — have died in insurgency-related violence this year, according to an AP count.

Several African nations such as Senegal, Kenya and Angola are among those that could contribute extra troops, council diplomats said, speaking on condition of anonymity because talks are still under way.

NATIONAL NEWS

Wisconsin plane crash kills three

MARSHFIELD, Wis. — Authorities in Wisconsin say a small airplane has crashed in the backyard of a house in Marshfield, killing the three people on board the aircraft.

No one on the ground was injured.

Officials said the plane had caught fire after the crash late Saturday and burned the back wall of the house.

Marshfield Fire Department Deputy Chief Roy Dolens told WSAW-TV that it wasn't immediately clear whether the pilot was trying to land at the Marshfield airport or if the plane had just taken off.

Federation aviation investigators were expected to examine the crash scene.

Rhodes scholars announced

PHILADELPHIA — A University of Pennsylvania student who organized an exhibit about Lenape Indians living quietly in the state is among this year's winners of Rhodes Scholarships.

Abigail P. Seldin, of Tierra Verde, Fla., curated the exhibit "Fulfilling a Prophecy: The Past and Present of the Lenape in Pennsylvania," which opened at the University of Pennsylvania Museum in September.

She is one of 32 men and women from across the United States to win the prestigious scholarships for study at England's Oxford University. The winners' names were announced early Sunday.

LOCAL NEWS

Referee has heart attack during game

HEBRON, Ind. — The Porter County coroner says a basketball referee who became ill during halftime of a girls junior varsity game died later at a hospital of an apparent heart attack.

Coroner Vicki Deppe says 56-year-old Thomas P. Duffin of LaPorte was treated at Hebron High School by paramedics Friday night and then taken by ambulance to Porter Memorial Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

The junior varsity game was completed with the officials who were to have worked the varsity game, and school officials postponed the varsity game.

GEORGIA

Shots fired at Georgian convoy

Rounds erupt on fifth anniversary of Georgia's Rose Revolution, no one hurt

Associated Press

TBILISI, Georgia — Shots were fired near the motorcade carrying the presidents of Georgia and Poland on Sunday — the fifth anniversary of Georgia's Rose Revolution — Georgian officials said. No one was hurt in the shooting.

Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili, who led the pro-Western 2003 uprising but whose popularity has waned in recent months, blamed Russian troops in Georgia's breakaway province of South Ossetia.

"Frankly, I didn't expect the Russians to open fire," he said at a news conference with Polish President Lech Kaczynski. "The reality is you are dealing with unpredictable people. They weren't happy to see our guest and they weren't happy to see me either."

Kaczynski said the shots were fired from only about 30 meters (100 feet) from the motorcade. He said it was not clear if the gunfire was aimed at the motorcade or shots were fired into the air.

But he said the incident demonstrated the weakness of the French-brokered truce that ended Russia's August war with Georgia over South Ossetia. The truce agreement, Kaczynski said, "does not reflect reality."

"I know from their shouting that they were Russians; I also know from the president of Georgia that there are Russian outposts on that territory," Kaczynski said.

"Fire was opened on Georgian territory, and territory that until August this year was controlled by the authorities in Tbilisi," he added.

The plan, brokered by French President Nicolas Sarkozy, called for Russian troops to withdraw from areas outside South Ossetia and Abkhazia, but they have remained in several areas



Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili, second from right, and Polish president Lech Kaczynski, right, walk in Akhlagori, Georgia while flanked by bodyguards on Sunday.

controlled by Georgia before the war, including the area around the town of Akhlagori, near which the firing was said to have occurred.

Kaczynski criticized the European Union and NATO which, he said, have failed to take united action to counter what he described as Russia's attempt to rebuild the Soviet empire.

"Today, it's not too late yet, but tomorrow it might be," he said.

Relations between Russia and Georgia have been deteriorating for several years. The Rose Revolution in 2003 was a popular uprising against elections that were seen as fraudulent. It drove President Eduard Shevardnadze, a former

Soviet foreign minister, from office and ushered pro-Western Saakashvili into power.

Saakashvili's popularity has dwindled as critics have charged him with authoritarianism and with mishandling the war with Russia. This year's anniversary was marked with little jubilation. A former ally used the occasion to launch a drive to unseat Saakashvili.

The circumstances of Sunday's incident remained unclear as night fell. Russia's deputy foreign minister, Grigory Karasin, insisted that no shots had been fired, and the Russian Defense Ministry, in statements carried by Russian news agencies, dismissed the Georgian allegations as

a "provocation."

South Ossetian separatist authorities also denied that shots had been fired in the area. A spokesman for the Russian Defense Ministry in Moscow said he had no immediate comment on the Georgian claims.

Even Georgian officials differed among themselves. Interior Ministry spokesman Shota Utiashvili said the shots were fired as the motorcade approached a Russian military checkpoint near the Akhlagori in South Ossetia. But lawmaker Marika Verulashvili said the incident happened as the motorcade approached a Georgian police checkpoint near the breakaway province after visiting a camp of Georgian refugees.

Obama chooses commerce secretary

Associated Press

NEW YORK — President-elect Barack Obama has chosen New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson to be commerce secretary, adding a prominent Hispanic and one-time Democratic rival to his expanding Cabinet.

Obama planned to announce the nomination after Thanksgiving, according to a Democratic official familiar with the discussions. The official was not authorized to speak publicly about the negotiations and did so on condition of anonymity.

Richardson, 61, had a distinguished and visible career in Washington before returning to New Mexico, where he was elected governor in 2002. Richardson served as U.N.

ambassador under President Bill Clinton and later as energy secretary. He was in the House from 1983 to 1997.

Clinton sent Richardson on several high-level diplomatic missions while he was in Congress, including direct talks with Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

In Richardson, Obama will get a secretary of commerce who has been described as relentless and competitive, with a jocular sense of humor.

Richardson is a seasoned international negotiator who mediated with North Korea over the downing of two U.S. Army helicopter pilots; hammered out a deal with Saddam Hussein for the release of two U.S. oil workers; won the release of three Red Cross workers held captive by

Sudanese rebels; and was later sought out by the North Koreans to discuss nuclear issues.

His success, said David Goldwyn, national security deputy at the United Nations in the late 1990s, stems from the many different facets of his personality — whether it's the athlete (he bonded with Fidel Castro over baseball), the tireless adversary (he spent four hours at the table trying to persuade President Laurent Massala to let a U.N. team investigate massacres in Congo) or the regular guy.

"Richardson is all about crashing through boundaries," Goldwyn said in 2007. "He says hello to the security guy, and if he's Hispanic he'll say something in Spanish. If he's African-American, he might call him 'his brother.'"

Credit card use down, stores find

As holidays approach, customers are using more cash and debit cards

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Cash or credit? For more Americans, who have already maxed out their credit cards or are just trying to manage their spending better in the tough economy, the answer is increasingly the old-fashioned one.

Retailers like Wal-Mart Stores Inc., Target Corp. and J.C. Penney Co. are noticing a marked shift away from credit cards in favor of cash and debit cards. A big factor is less credit available as major card issuers cut spending limits and raise fees even for customers who pay their bills on time.

The shift ends Americans' long love affair with credit cards and is one of the changes in consumer behavior that has emerged since the financial meltdown that could depress consumer spending this holiday season and affect shoppers' habits long afterward.

Particularly during holiday seasons past, shoppers could count on a pile of plastic to give them the extra financing needed to splurge on presents before they had to face the bills in January or later.

But even when the economy recovers and credit loosens up, analysts say Americans — shaped by what could be a deep and long-lasting recession — are likely to stick with buying only what they can afford just as their parents or grandparents did after the Great Depression.

"I think this is a new way of life," said Robert Smith, of Loves Park, Ill., who along with his wife has been using cash and debit cards to finance their spending, including vacations, since they

paid off their credit card debts in July. "I like to be able to know that we paid for something. I hate monthly payments when you use a credit card."

Smith, who has four children ages 7 to 13 and owns a motivational training company called Drive and Grow Rich, says his business is down 20 percent this year, and since he is saddled with a mortgage, he doesn't want to get back into debt.

While the credit crunch is teaching consumers to be more "financially prudent," it's creating a lot of pain for both consumers and stores, said Curtis Arnold, founder of CreditRatings.com.

One sign of how strapped consumers are for credit — and buying only what they have the cash for — is that for the first time in 17 years, Penney's has seen swings in spending around payday cycles over the past three months.

That's common for discounters like Wal-Mart, but a rarity for a mall-based department store — suggesting that Penney's middle-income customers are feeling the pinch as well. Penney's President and Chief Merchandising Officer Ken Hicks noted that the chain hasn't seen swings in spending around payday since about 1991, when the U.S. was entering a recession.

At Wal-Mart, the volatility in spending around payday — a drop in spending in the days before, followed by spending

bursts right afterward — has become even more pronounced since September. Chief Financial Officer Tom Schoewe told The Associated Press that shoppers are now unable to buy even necessities in the few days before payday.

Such swings became more dramatic last fall, but subsided when shoppers received their government rebate checks this past spring.

Eduardo Castro-Wright, president and chief executive of Wal-

Mart's U.S. division, told investors last month that credit card payments as a percentage of total payments fell 7.4 percent so far in the current fiscal year,

which ends in January. That's a big reversal from the robust double-digit growth rates in credit cards over the past three years, he said.

Target executives told investors late last month that it's seeing lower credit card usage among its shoppers for the first time since 2001-2003.

At Penney's, Hicks said that use of the company's store credit card was flat during the third quarter. The use of credit cards issued by other parties declined by a couple of percentage points as a percentage of overall payment, he noted, while cash was up by the same amount. Hicks said he hasn't seen a decline in credit card use in five or six years.

"I think this is a new way of life."

**Robert Smith
Loves Park, Ill.**

Rhodes scholars announced

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — A University of Pennsylvania student who organized an exhibit about Lenape Indians living quietly in the state is among this year's winners of Rhodes Scholarships.

Abigail P. Seldin, of Tierra Verde, Fla., curated the exhibit "Fulfilling a Prophecy: The Past and Present of the Lenape in Pennsylvania," which opened at the University of Pennsylvania Museum in September.

She is one of 32 men and women from across the United States to win the prestigious scholarships for study at England's Oxford University. The winners' names were announced early Sunday.

Seldin, a Penn anthropology student, said she admired the survival of cultural traditions despite the difficulty involved in maintaining them in secret.

History books say the Lenape tribe left Pennsylvania by 1803, she said, but there were some who stayed behind, intermarrying with whites but quietly continuing their indigenous ways through the generations.

Among the other Rhodes winners is a college football star, Florida State University safety Myron Rolle, who had to

miss part of Saturday's game against Maryland because he was being interviewed for the scholarship.

Rolle is a pre-med student and hopes to become a neurosurgeon. "It was a very exciting day, and I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to study at Oxford," Rolle said after arriving in College Park, Md., to play in the second half of the game.

This year's 32 Rhodes Scholars were picked from 769 applicants endorsed by 207 colleges and universities nationwide.

The scholarships, the oldest of the international study awards available to American students, provide two or three years of study. The students will enter Oxford University in England next

October.

Anna Yermakova, a Northwestern University biochemistry major, plans to use her scholarship to complete a doctorate in mathematical biology.

She spoke little English when she and her family moved to the Chicago area from Russia in 1997. She recalled that when she first applied for the Rhodes scholarship, "I didn't really understand how big of a deal it was."

"I never really had this 'I must prove myself as a Russian immigrant' attitude," she said. "It was just working hard and doing everything that my brain can do and my hands can do, and I still have a lot of work to do — this is just a step."

David L.V. Bauer, a student at the City College of New York, is looking forward to doing research at Oxford to develop faster, cheaper ways of sequencing genomes so the technology can become available to everyone.

Such an advance could allow more people to take preventive measures against ailments they are particularly susceptible to.

"It's when I can see what you can do with it, how it can change people's lives and change how we are able to interact with our world in a better way that it really becomes interesting," the 21-year-old Manhattan native said.

Rhodes winner Malorie Snider, a senior at Harvard, said she plans to study medical anthropology at Oxford, delving into an interest that has been growing during her undergraduate studies.

Winning the scholarship, she said Sunday while visiting family in Texas, is "kind of a blur, actually. It's a combination of excitement, feeling overwhelmed, not comprehending what's going on, and thinking about all these possibilities that have suddenly opened up to me."

Unreviewed meds available to public

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Taxpayers have shelled out at least \$200 million since 2004 for medications that have never been reviewed by the government for safety and effectiveness but are still covered under Medicaid, an Associated Press analysis of federal data has found. Millions of private patients are taking such drugs, as well.

The availability of unapproved prescription drugs to the public may create a dangerous false sense of security. Dozens of deaths have been linked to them.

The medications date back decades, before the Food and Drug Administration tightened its review of drugs in the early 1960s. The FDA says it is trying to squeeze them from the market, but conflicting federal laws allow the Medicaid health program for low-income people to pay for them.

The AP analysis found that Medicaid paid nearly \$198 million from 2004 to 2007 for more than 100 unapproved drugs, mostly for common conditions such as colds and pain. Data for 2008 were not available but unapproved drugs still are being sold. The AP checked the medications against FDA databases, using agency guidelines to determine if they were unapproved. The FDA says there may be thousands of such drugs on the market.

Medicaid officials acknowledge the problem, but say they need help from Congress to fix it. The FDA and Medicaid are part of the Health and Human Services Department, but the FDA has yet to compile a master list of unapproved drugs, and Medicaid — which may be the biggest purchaser — keeps paying.

"I think this is something we ought to look at very hard, and we ought to fix it," said Medicaid chief Herb Kuhn. "It raises a whole set of questions, not only in terms of safety, but in the efficiency of the program — to make sure we are getting the right set of services for beneficiaries."

At a time when families, businesses and government are struggling with health care costs and 46 million people are uninsured, payments for questionable medications amount to an unplugged leak in the system.

Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, has asked the HHS inspector general to investigate.

That unapproved prescription drugs can be sold in the United States surprises even doctors and pharmacists. But the FDA estimates they account for 2 percent of all prescriptions filled by U.S. pharmacies, about 72 million scripts a year.

Private insurance plans also cover them.

The roots of the problem go back in time, tangled in layers of legalese.

It wasn't until 1962 that Congress ordered the FDA to review all new medications for effectiveness. Thousands of drugs already on the market were also supposed to be evaluated. But some manufacturers claimed their medications were "grandfathered" under earlier laws, and even under the 1962 bill.

Then, in the early 1980s, a safety scandal erupted over one of those medications. E-Ferol, a high potency vitamin E injection, was linked to serious reactions in some 100 premature babies, 40 of whom died.

In response, the FDA started a program to weed out drugs it had never reviewed scientifically. Yet some medications continued to escape scrutiny.

Sometimes, the medications do not help patients. In other cases, the FDA says, they have made people sicker, maybe even killed them. This year, for example, the FDA banned injectable versions of a gout drug called colchicine after receiving reports of 23 deaths. Investigators found the unapproved drug had a very narrow margin of safety, and patients easily could receive a toxic dose leading to complications such as organ failure.

Critics say the FDA's case-by-case enforcement approach is not working.

"The FDA does not appear to have a systematic mechanism to report these drugs out," said Jon Glaudemans, senior vice president of Avalere Health, a health care industry information company, "and there doesn't seem to be a systematic process by which health insurance programs can validate their status. And everyone is pointing the finger at someone else as to why we can't get there."

In most cases, doctors, pharmacists and patients are not aware the drugs are unapproved.

"Over the years, they have become fully entrenched in the system," said Patti Manolakis, a Charlotte, N.C., pharmacist who has studied the issue. Only a few unapproved drugs are truly essential and should remain on the market, she added.

Tackling the problem is made harder by confusing — and sometimes conflicting — laws, regulations and responsibilities that pertain to different government agencies.

Medicaid officials said their program, which serves the poor and disabled, is allowed to pay for unapproved drugs until the FDA orders a specific medication off the market. But that can take years.

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Stocks

Dow Jones **8,046.42** +494.13

Up: 2,049 Same: 55 Down: 1,161 Composite Volume: 907,620,010

AMEX 1,203.92 +46.48
NASDAQ 1,384.35 +68.23
NYSE 4,959.79 +308.58
S&P 500 179.99 +10.62
NIKKEI (Tokyo) 7,910.79 +207.75
FTSE 100 (London) 3,780.96 -94.03

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
CITIGROUP INC (C)	-19.96	-0.94	3.77
S&P DEP RECEIPTS (SPY)	+5.39	+4.07	79.52
FINANCIAL SEL (XLF)	+3.09	+0.29	9.68
ULTRA FINANCIALS (UYG)	+6.42	+0.24	3.68

Treasuries

10-YEAR NOTE	-0.73	+0.023	3.167
13-WEEK BILL	+100.00	+0.005	0.01
30-YEAR BOND	-0.97	-0.036	3.663
5-YEAR NOTE	+2.74	0.053	1.99

Commodities

LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+0.51	49.93
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	+43.10	791.80
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+2.70	90.30

Exchange Rates

YEN	95.1150
EURO	0.7933
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.2757
BRITISH POUND	0.6711

IN BRIEF

Government weighs Citigroup rescue

WASHINGTON — The government was weighing a plan on Sunday to rescue Citigroup Inc., whose stock has been hammered on worries about its financial health.

The Treasury Department and the Federal Reserve have been in discussions over the weekend to devise a strategy to stabilize the company, according to people familiar with the talks. They spoke on condition of anonymity because the discussions were ongoing.

A spokesman for New York-based Citigroup declined comment.

The company has seen its shares lose 60 percent of their value in the past week, reflecting a crisis of confidence among skittish investors who are worried all the risky debt on Citigroup's balance sheet will turn into losses as the economy worsens and the markets stay turbulent — losses that could be nearly impossible to reverse.

Citigroup is such a large, interconnected player in the financial system that if it were to collapse it would wreak havoc on already fragile financial and economic conditions.

Analysts consider Citigroup the most vulnerable among the major U.S. banks — especially after it failed to nab Wachovia Corp., which was bought instead by Wells Fargo & Co. That was a missed opportunity for Citi to get its hands on much-needed U.S. deposits that would bolster its cash position.

IKEA to pay fine for candle recall

WASHINGTON — Home furnishing company IKEA agreed to pay a \$500,000 fine for being slow to report defective outdoor candles, the government said Sunday.

In May 2006, IKEA recalled 133,000 packages of outdoor candles in the United States. The company had received at least 32 reports of problems with these candles worldwide, including 12 reports of injuries.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission said IKEA did not promptly report the problems, as the law requires.

The candles were available at IKEA stores around the country between February 2001 and July 2005.

In the settlement agreement with the agency, IKEA North America Services denied that it knowingly broke the law.

Consumers worried about auto bankruptcy

Detroit Three's situation might already be keeping away potential customers

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Cash-strapped General Motors insists declaring bankruptcy would be disastrous because it would scare away customers. It's unlikely Chevrolet and Cadillac owners would be left with worthless warranties and no replacement parts, but the headlines about the Detroit Three's dire situation may already be keeping buyers away.

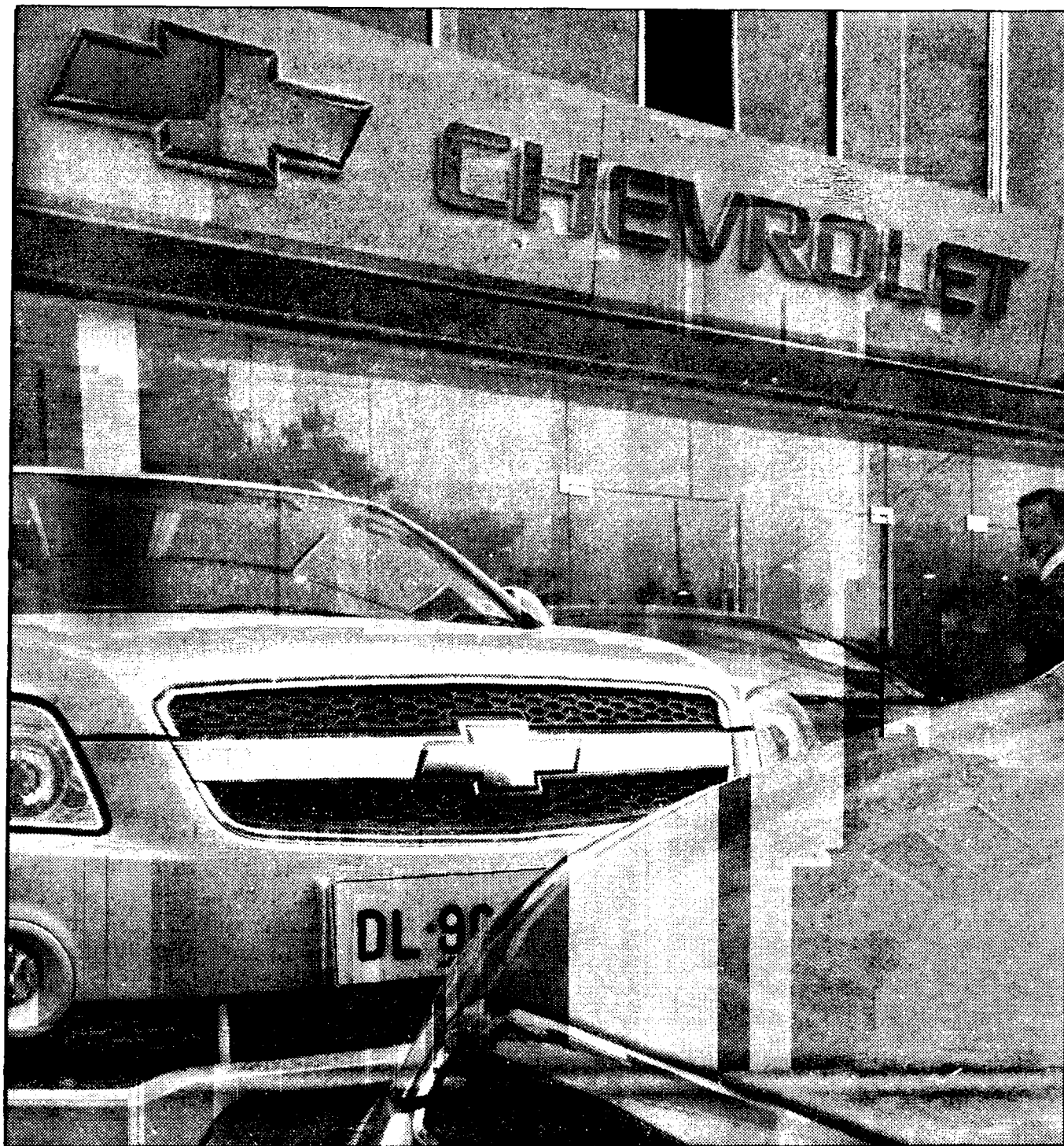
"If GM is under the imminent threat of bankruptcy or actually declares bankruptcy, I would not consider a GM product," said Kevin Ketels, who might replace his family's 2004 Toyota RAV4 late next year. "I just don't know if the company will be around to fulfill their warranty obligations. Will they be there for me? There are too many unknowns and a car is my second biggest investment next to my house."

The 38-year-old from Grose Pointe Woods, Mich., would be among the 80 percent of Americans who General Motors Corp. insists wouldn't even consider a GM brand such as Buick, Saturn or Saab if the company was in bankruptcy. Chief Executive Rick Wagoner brought up the statistic from a CNW Research survey last week during his congressional plea for \$25 billion in federal loans.

The concerns are intensifying as the Detroit company burns through tens of millions of dollars a day. It has warned that by year's end, it could reach the minimum amount of cash it needs to stay in business.

Chrysler CEO Bob Nardelli gave the same warning for his company, but Ford Motor Co., also suffering under the worst sales environment in 25 years, says it should have enough cash and untapped credit lines to get through 2009.

Some lawmakers, who



Unsold models sit in front of the company showroom of a Chevrolet dealership in New Delhi, India on Sunday.

want to see the companies' plans to become competitive and profitable before doling out aid, say bankruptcy should be on the table. A prearranged run through Chapter 11 would give GM more latitude to postpone payments to creditors, renegotiate contracts, raise capital and reorganize to stay alive. But with credit markets frozen, finding it without government help may be impossible, and the company may be forced to liquidate.

Warranty obligations would likely be fulfilled by what remains of GM after a reorganization, although

the bankruptcy court would have the final say. If there's a Chapter 7 liquidation, a third-party, like another automaker, could potentially step in and assume warranty obligations as part of a deal to acquire part of GM's assets.

And the company would still have to address safety recalls, regardless of its financial or operational status.

"Bankruptcy wouldn't discharge your obligations for recalls," said Rae Tyson, spokesman for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. "We would go to bankruptcy court and argue that they

have a responsibility to use a portion of assets to satisfy whatever consumer issues there might be."

But obtaining certain parts would be an issue. Independent collision repair shops get 80 to 90 percent of their parts directly from original equipment sources.

"It's the area most impacted if there's disruption in the supply chain of replacement parts in the repair industry," said Ron Pyle, president of the Automotive Service Association, a Bedford, Texas-based group representing 10,000 independent facilities.

Obama pushes plan for economy

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President-elect Barack Obama signaled Sunday he will move urgently and aggressively to rescue the plunging economy, demanding swift passage by Congress of a massive two-year spending and tax-cutting recovery program. "We're out with the dithering, we're in with a bang," a top Obama aide said.

Obama's plans, outlined by his transition team on television talk shows, could put aside his campaign pledge to repeal a Bush tax cut for the wealthy. With the downturn in the economy, those tax cuts may remain in place until they are scheduled to die in 2011, said William M. Daley, an economic adviser. "That looks more likely than not," he said.

Obama aides called on lawmakers

to pass, by the Jan. 20 inauguration, legislation that meets Obama's two-year goal of saving or creating 2.5 million jobs. Democratic congressional leaders said they would get to work when Congress convenes Jan. 6.

Though Obama aides declined to discuss a total cost, it probably would far exceed the \$175 billion he proposed during the campaign. Some economists and lawmakers have argued for a two-year plan as large as \$700 billion, equal to the Wall Street bailout Congress approved last month.

"I don't know what the exact number is, but it's going to be a big number. It has to be," said Obama economic adviser Austan Goolsbee.

With the wounded economy worsening, the Obama team's new assertiveness was a recognition he needed to soothe financial markets with signs of

leadership. It also foreshadowed a more hands-on role by Obama to influence congressional action during the final weeks of the transition.

Obama will introduce his economic team on Monday, including Timothy Geithner as treasury secretary and Lawrence Summers as head of the National Economic Council. Obama also has settled on New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson as his commerce secretary.

"We don't have time to waste here," Obama senior adviser David Axelrod said. "We want to hit the ground running on January 20th." Echoing that, the second-ranking House Democrat, Rep. Steny Hoyer of Maryland, said, "We expect to have during the first couple of weeks of January a package for the president's consideration when he takes office."

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

page 8

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Time for a bailout

The current crises in the financial, automotive and real estate sectors of our economy have caused our federal government to consider and implement multiple bailout packages designed to prevent entire industries from failing. James Rohr, Chief Executive Officer of PNC Financial Services, recently spoke at Notre Dame and said the federal government believed that a bailout would prevent total systemic failure. In other words, every sector of the global economy would have been severely impaired without a bailout.

Notre Dame needs a bailout. Charlie Weis was outcoached by Pittsburgh coach Dave Wannstedt and Greg Robinson — recently fired after posting a combined 10-36 record at Syracuse. Recall that Notre Dame went into the 4th quarter with no timeouts. Recall also the 2nd and 47 field position on one possession in the 3rd quarter. Finally, consider the bland and increasingly predictable play calling. These examples represent only a few of the many failures in coaching that we've seen from Weis. The lone exception, the 2005 USC game, is an anomaly and does not speak to Weis' general abilities, given his subsequent coaching.

The postgame conference was, quite frankly, embarrassing. Weis' arrogance is well documented, but arrogance is a personality trait generally expected of winners, not of losers. Weis was understandably concerned for his seniors, but his demeanor otherwise was unbecoming of a man who is not only the head coach of the University of Notre Dame, but an alumnus as well. Contentment isn't quite an apt description, but it comes close.

The cost of the bailout is expensive, probably around \$24 million, but well worth it. Recent history with coaches Bob Davie and Ty Willingham should have caused Notre Dame officials at the time — including former Athletic Director Kevin White — to have a contingency plan if Weis failed. Notre Dame should be prepared to dismiss Weis. He brings the immediate possibility of total systemic failure to this University. We can't afford not to fire him. Charlie Weis' continued failure and inability to successfully coach a team that is by all measures supposed to be very talented puts Notre Dame at tremendous risk. The revenue generated from the football program directly finances every other athletic program on campus. The notoriety from national championships and Heisman Trophy winners has, over the years, allowed Notre Dame to become one of the nation's premier universities in every tangible aspect. Our intangibles set us apart from everyone else. We risk losing it all.

Ryan Hawley
sophomore
Siegfried Hall
Nov. 22

End our losing tradition

Dear Members of the Notre Dame Football team,
I am writing this letter out of a personal sense of duty to shed light on the egregious lack of success that Notre Dame fans have had to endure over the past two years. In case you haven't noticed lately, Notre Dame football has largely disappointed, agonized and distressed its supporters around the world.

Brothers, I will be the first to say that the lack of mental toughness on and off the field is, in the fullest sense unacceptable, unwelcome and detestable. The Notre Dame football tradition is one of excellence, hard work, strong will and killer instinct. Fans have suffered painfully as these traditions have been effectively phased out of the game in recent years. The losses over the past two years — especially to Navy, Syracuse and Pitt (among others) — are surely not in keeping with the university's standards of excellence and truly embarrassing for fans who continue to hype Notre Dame as a football team which is resolute and determined to never quit.

Gentlemen, I challenge you with the responsibility to represent these traditions well and defeat USC in the Coliseum. Over the next week, you will learn the ins and outs of a team that is nationally renowned as one of the best in the country. Prepare yourselves well — especially in being mentally ruthless — and take advantage of every weakness our enemy has displayed throughout the season. Also, be aware of our own weaknesses and do not give up a millimeter to those unworthy swine.

Let's regain what makes us great, commit to victory and unite to beat all of our opponents starting now!

Matt Dobbertien
junior
Stanford Hall
Nov. 22

The time has come

As much as we desperately want to see this team succeed under Charlie Weis, the lackluster performance in games that no Notre Dame team should ever lose shows that this will simply never happen. We have an opportunity in the next few years to be a premier team with the top line talent that has come to this school. If we were to allow them to waste their talents under an ill-prepared coaching staff, it would do terrible, lasting damage to this school's reputation as a top line program. So there is only one course of action we must take. I have decided that I will donate my \$320 in flex points to the athletic department to pay for a new coach. If you all do the same, we will ensure that Notre Dame becomes the team we all want it to be. Go Irish!

Andrew Baackstrom
sophomore
Stanford Hall
Nov. 22

Fire Weis fund

According to ESPN, it could cost Notre Dame \$20 million to fire Charlie Weis. If the university does not want to fire him because of that amount, I am willing to start a fund to pay for it. Please make checks payable to James McCaughan. Thank you for your help. All Notre Dame fans will appreciate your contribution.

James McCaughan
junior
Siegfried Hall
Nov. 22

Bye, Charlie

Dear Charlie,

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your coaching services the past four years. I really appreciate you driving this program into the ground, culminating in a loss to one of the worst teams in college football. I know for a fact that we are not as bad as you have made us. Notre Dame has a winning tradition, and you have put that tradition in jeopardy. It would be a huge mistake for the university to bring you back for another year. I personally am willing to help pay out the rest of your contract, although I regrettably do not have \$20 million plus at my disposal. From a 3-9 season including a loss to Navy, to getting blown out in any meaningful game, to an utterly shocking loss to Syracuse, you have turned this program into a laughing stock. Please find another job. Peace out.

Eric Owens
sophomore
Dillon Hall
Nov. 22

OBSERVER POLL

What are your plans
for Thanksgiving?

Stay on campus
Stay home and have relatives over
Visit family

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

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view."

Harper Lee
author

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Where are all the nice boys?

Dear Mr. Leonard,

Yuck. That was definitely the first thought that came to mind reading through your response ("Another perspective," Nov. 21) to Melissa Buddie and her Nov. 19 letter "The hook-up culture." At first I thought you were joking, but continued reading in utter horror to find you clearly weren't. I'm not the "average" college student with week-ends scheduled around partying till dawn, hooking up with guys who are practically strangers, then sleeping all day. Please bear in mind that I am not trying to generalize "us crazy college kids" into one category, but everyone has to admit that partying is a big part of college life, with no exception here at Notre Dame, St. Mary's, etc. Just overhearing conversations among peers in the dining hall alone tells me what ranks as the most popular activity.

I am oh-so-sorry you have the horrible burden of being bothered by those "hook-ups" that keep badgering you with simple text messages and phone calls. Life sure seems hard. Did you ever give it a thought that perhaps those young ladies felt more than just a "tricky, lucky, sticky, solid time"? Again, I do not want to try and dwindle all personal thoughts and beliefs to one main stereotype. I must declare, however, that a lot of the times a female will feel more than

just a physical connection with whomever she engages with sexually than the male partner, especially when it comes to casual hook-ups. You cannot possibly make me believe for one moment that all 23 to 25 or more girls you ravished and conquered with your undying sexual skills contacted you only for more, more, more.

Perhaps my freshmen knowledge of college boys and the birds and bees may seem a bit naïve, but I know a pig when I see one. I do not live on campus, and I have never ventured over on the Sweep to party the alcohol-induced night away in fears of running into big bad tough guys like you. I would love for Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and Holy Cross to set up some sort of dating service, just to get the utterly awkward process of meeting boys and girls out of the way. One thing is for sure: Though your thumb may be sore from all that silencing of your phone, the Observer-reading community knows of a certain bodily digit you just can't keep down.

Sincerely,

Wondering where all the nice boys are.

Katie Fisher

freshman

LeMans Hall

Nov. 21

Hook-up culture revisited

I could approach this from the standpoint of an offended male: "You don't know what its like to be me! I have needs too!" or something to that effect, but I won't do that. I will refrain, largely because I don't have any feelings and I really don't want you to waste your time guessing what it is like to be me. In any event, upon reading Melissa Buddie's little blurb ("The hook-up culture," Nov. 19), which, by the way, screamed self-righteous wild-woman, I couldn't help but let my jaw drop to the floor. I really mean it. I was sitting at my desk, and the kid next to me was forced to reach to the ground to pick my jaw, tongue hanging out on the DeBartolo ground, off of the floor.

Not only have you generalized an entire gender, but you have sworn to entrust the key to your chastity belt in the hands of the morbidly distasteful University Administration until you are relinquished from its grip upon your graduation in the year 2012. Now, I am no strapping young man by any means. Sure, I have a smile that could cure world hunger, charm that could turn the Grinch's heart from coal and the unassailable wit that few comedians possess on this earth, but I am far from Brad Pitt. I'm not really in a position to claim that I have "hooked up" (not really sure what that means, but if it got awkward, something a little kinky must have gone down) with six girls this year and that none of them have called back. In fact, I haven't gotten a phone call from a female in years.

But let's be serious here, you put yourself out on the line with six guys looking for friendship? I don't know if you were slightly inebriated or if you just have a weakness

for spontaneous love-making duels, but I have to break it to you, honey: No guy that you hook up with, regardless of whether or not he has your number wants to be "just friends" at that point. And unless there is some foundation to fall back on, you actually kind of dig each other in a "Boogie Nights" kind of way or you fall wildly, madly, Fabio-type in love, it is unlikely that that guy will call you for some friendship.

That being said, not all men are like that — though you will be hard pressed to find anyone at this point who wants an Observer article written about his sexual exploits. I feel sorry for those poor young souls. Call-backs do happen. One day, you might find someone who wants to call you back, but until you realize that every match is not a match made in Heaven, it ain't gonna happen, baby. Hook ups happen, that's what college is for. I kid of course, but I wouldn't go around making out with people to forge friendships with members of the opposite sex. God forbid you get labeled a "whore" — though you would be a member of quite an elite group at this fine institution.

There are about 6,000 men here. If you had a problem making eye contact with all of them for the reasons you stated, you would be well on your way to rivaling Wilt Chamberlain in a battle of numbers. With that, I say good luck to you. As for your pledge of abstinence and chastity from all men for the remainder of your four years, I offer you this: there are always women.

Robby Schoder

junior

off-campus

Nov. 19

Snowballs dangerous, immature

I write this letter in the hope of it being published, for all those individuals who threw snowballs at Saturday's Notre Dame-Syracuse game. This is an issue that needs to be addressed for the good of the school and its reputation.

Dear Students and Fellow Domers,

I'm a proud Notre Dame alumnus and former cheerleader who has the fortune to live near our beloved university and attend many games and functions. Like you, my experiences in the stands of Notre Dame Stadium have varied from heartbreak to jubilation, but in 20 years of being a fan, I have never witnessed the type of immaturity and irresponsibility that transpired this Saturday. As unhappy as I was with the game's outcome, that feeling pales in comparison to the shame and disappointment I feel in some members of our student body. Snowballs hitting other students, many of whom obviously wanted nothing to do with these childish actions, snowballs aiming for visitors, state troopers, the Syracuse cheerleaders ... our own players???

I'd like to know what type of person finds it the least bit funny to strike one of his or her fellow students, who is down there playing for you — for his classmates and his school — with an object that is not nearly as innocuous as it looks. As a physician with specialty training in Sports Medicine — and I have seen my share of head and eye injuries — they're not pretty, trust me. For the level of maturity and intelligence Notre Dame selects for young men and women to admit to its student body, however, it shouldn't have to take a doctor (or our poor broadcast announcer pleading several times during the game) to remind you of this.

Guys and gals, I'm not some cranky old fuddy-duddy who bristles with indignation when students yell a little too loudly or drink a bit more than usual on a weekend when you've earned a well-deserved break from studies and need to cut loose. Trust me — I was where you are right now and I still enjoy having my fun come Saturday. We did dumb things too when I sat (or stood, as the case may be) where you do in the stands right now. What happened on Saturday, however, really crossed the line from silly college antics to something dangerous, immature and embarrassing. I have heard many fans of visiting teams over the years comment in admiration on how well they were treated at Notre Dame and how impressed they were with the student body. Now imagine, if you will, what the Orangemen fans and players are saying to their friends and family about us right now as they head back home.

For those who threw and continued to throw snowballs during the game, please take a moment to think of the damage you may have done to this school's reputation. If you think I'm exaggerating, take a look at the online sports Web sites, blogs and local newspapers — congratulations, your actions have made you (in)famous. You are Notre Dame, and you're better than that. Please remember that, so that come next November, the headlines don't read "Notre Dame Player and Student Trainer Carted Off Field By Paramedics From Student-Thrown Snowballs — Doctors Say Linebacker May Lose His Right Eye." Thank you for your attention.

John Stavrakos

alum

class of 1992

Nov. 23

Student behavior embarrassing

The actions of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students at Saturday's game against Syracuse were ugly, boorish and nearly dangerous. You are undeserving of the University so many of us love. Class of 2009, you are an embarrassment to yourselves and to Domers everywhere. Poor play on the field is nothing in comparison to your immature antics. Even if you yourself did not participate, you have an obligation to tell your seatmates to stop. Our football program may have sunk in prestige, but it pales in comparison to the disgrace you have brought upon yourselves, and by extension the entire Notre Dame community. Grow up.

Victoria Stephan

alum

class of 1978

Nov. 23

Snowball incident disrespectful

Dear Fellow Domers,

I feel compelled to share with you a situation I encountered at work this morning. Five coworkers after I walked into the building, three of my coworkers approached me with the question, "Hey, how about that game?" But not one of them was referring to the score. They went on to ask, "What was with the snowballs?" I am a graduate of the Class of 2005 — an incredibly proud graduate. Like all of you, I stood through every game ... and if you count back, those were not the winningest years in Irish history. But never, not once, did anyone disrespect the members of our own team — our classmates. In throwing those

snowballs at our own on Saturday afternoon, you created the first situation in which I have ever been embarrassed by the students at Notre Dame. What you did before a visiting team, a stadium full of fans and a national television audience was immature and tactless, not to mention beneath you.

For the seniors among you, Saturday marked your last home game. A picture from my last game hangs in my living room. I don't remember the score. I don't remember whether we won or lost. In fact, I don't even recall who we were playing. I just remember thinking I was so lucky to be standing there with the best friends and some of the best people I would ever

know, and that for four years I had been so privileged to do so. Gaining and accepting admission to Notre Dame, we all became her representatives. Emotions are running high right now, as they always have. We're all passionate about our school and our team. So by all means, discuss and debate, but stand behind your own. Doing any less is showing disrespect to Our Lady on the Dome.

Abigail Wuellner

alum

class of 2005

Nov. 23

TAKING A BITE OUT OF twilight

CAITLIN FERRARO
Scene Writer

The fiction series "Twilight" has quickly become a literary and pop culture phenomenon. The first book of the franchise was only published in 2005, but Friday the film adaptation opened after much hype and fan frenzy.

The basic premise of Stephenie Meyer's "Twilight" is a love story between a normal but clumsy 17-year-old girl named Bella Swan and an impossibly beautiful vampire, Edward Cullen. But the series and the film contain more than just romance, with some action, adventure and horror.

Bella (Kristen Stewart, "Into the Wild") relocates to gloomy and sunless Forks, Washington to live with her father Charlie (portrayed hilariously by Billy Burke). There she encounters her enigmatic biology

partner Edward (Robert Pattinson, Cedric Diggory in "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire") whom she finds confusing yet intriguing. Edward warns Bella that it would be better for her to stay away from him because a part of him thirsts for her blood. But after she finally discovers his secret, the two seem to be inextricably linked.

The looming question was whether or not Meyer's compelling tale could translate successfully onscreen in director Catherine Hardwicke's ("Thirteen") film. "Twilight" fans are a passionate group, and when relative unknown Robert Pattinson was cast as Edward, fans were furious. A flurry of angry outbursts littered message boards and sites across the Internet. But in time Pattinson was accepted, and many fans quickly became obsessed with the up-and-coming actor. Even his messy hair has been the focus of adoration.

In the end, Pattinson and Stewart are the best parts of the movie. Young actors Stewart and Pattinson deserve praise for managing to play the supernatural story with genuine romantic ardor. The circulating rumor that the two share incredible chemistry is true.

The rest of the story rests on convincing readers and viewers alike that the pair would do anything for each other. Both of their portrayals are terrific, and even when the movie gets a bit silly, they never do. Stewart brings a fresh blend of ferocity and feeling to the role. And

while Pattinson has already attracted a swooning teen fan base, viewers buy the fantasy because he goes beyond good looks to create a character you believe in. However, it is possible that a viewer who did not read the book would struggle to understand the true intensity of their relationship.

Screenwriter Melissa Rosenberg ("Step Up") attempts to stay faithful to Meyer, but book adaptations can often feel more like the Cliff Notes version. Any "Twilight" fan could pinpoint a myriad of their favorite scenes missing. Even in a two-hour movie, some characters feel as if they are only making cameos, especially Cam Gigandet's James as a ferocious vampire who becomes obsessed with tracking and killing Bella.

The film succeeds when it focuses on Pattinson and Stewart. By portraying a love that is convulsive and ennobling they make viewers understand why the books sold millions of copies. Bella could be any heroine in love with a good boy who society misunderstands. "Twilight" revives the classic Hollywood principle that there is nothing more cinematic than a close-up of two beautiful people about to kiss.

The rest of the Cullen family also plays an important supporting role in the series, but they do not really get the opportunity to see much screen time. Carlisle and Esme are the adoptive parents of Edward and his adoptive siblings, Emmett, Rosalie, Jasper and Alice. This particular clan of

vampires has chosen a "vegetarian" lifestyle in which they only hunt animals, not humans, as a source of sustenance. Viewers should look forward to their contributions in the sequels.

The budget for the film production of "Twilight" was a meager \$37 million. Many wondered if that was enough to launch the film franchise, especially if the studio wanted to attract audiences who have never read Meyer's works. "Twilight" is probably the most beloved book series to jump to the silver screen since "Harry Potter," whose film debut costs totaled \$125 million, a whopping number in comparison. While the smaller budget makes the film feel more intimate, it also leads to a few cheesy special effects. Edward's shimmering appearance in the sunlight feels more like the screen simply got fuzzy, and the bit part of Edward flying Bella through the trees seems somewhat tacky.

Nonetheless, the film was a hit in its first weekend, making \$70.6 million and topping the box office. This triggered the announcement that the first sequel, "New Moon," will be made into film, most likely with a considerably larger budget. Luckily, all of the main actors signed on for at least two additional films.

"Twilight" fans should not be disappointed, since Pattinson and Stewart help Meyer's gripping romance translate brilliantly onscreen.

Contact Caitlin Ferraro at
cferrarl@nd.edu

Twilight

Directed by: Catherine Hardwicke

Starring: Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson

Based on the book by Stephenie Meyer



Isabella "Bella" Swan (Kristen Stewart) is a clumsy, average teenage girl who chooses to move to Forks, Washington from Phoenix, Arizona to live with her father for the sake of her mother's happiness. Although many boys at her school are attracted to her, she is immediately drawn to her biology partner Edward Cullen who incredibly saves her from being hit by a car.



Dr. Carlisle Cullen (Peter Facinelli) is Edward and the other "teenagers'" adoptive father. He is also Edward's maker. Carlisle is extremely compassionate which leads him to be an excellent doctor treating the people of Forks. He is the leader of the Cullen clan and chose to not feed on humans out of his own accord after being transformed.



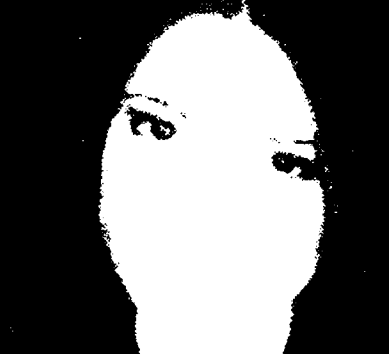
Rosalie Hale (Nikki Reed) is described as being astoundingly beautiful, even for a vampire. Rosalie and Jasper pretend to be related in order to openly be with their mates. Emmett is Rosalie's mate and sometimes they act as husband and wife. Rosalie is often mean to Bella because she feels she does not appreciate her own humanity.



Esme Cullen (Elizabeth Reaser) is Carlisle's mate and the adoptive mother of the clan. She loves her "children" passionately and welcomes Bella because she makes Edward happy, often comforting her after traumatic events.



Emmett Cullen (Kellan Lutz) is the muscle of the Cullen family, and the most intimidating to humans. He is always ready and willing to fight. He also provides comic relief, such as teasing Bella for being clumsy and constantly blushing.



Alice Cullen (Ashley Greene) is described as pixie-like and petite. She has the ability to see the future. While an extremely useful power, she can only see the outcome of a decision once it is made. Alice is very friendly and welcomes Bella so that the two quickly become friends. Jasper is Alice's mate.



James (Cam Gigandet) is a dangerous, merciless, nomadic vampire who travels with his mate Victoria, and a male vampire named Laurent. He is intrigued by Edward's defense of a human being that he considers merely a snack. James specializes in tracking and will stop at nothing to find and kill Bella for sport.



Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson) is a "vegetarian" vampire who finds himself drawn to Bella Swan. He craves her blood but prevents himself from acting upon his desire because he also cannot bear to see her hurt. He has the ability to hear other peoples' thoughts with the exception of Bella's. Edward is described as chalky pale but devastatingly beautiful with untidy, bronze-colored hair.



Jasper Hale (Jackson Rathbone) has the ability to manipulate the emotions of those around him. Alice foresaw that she would meet Jasper and the two would become mates, and together they sought out the Cullen family. Jasper is new to the Cullen's "vegetarian" lifestyle.



Jacob Black (Taylor Lautner) is a Quileute Indian who is a forgotten childhood friend of Bella's. His role in the first book is minor but pivotal as he helps Bella discover Edward's true identity by telling her of the Quileute legend of "the cold ones." Jacob will play an even more important part in the next installments of the "Twilight" series.

All character profiles by Caitlin Ferraro

All graphics by MARY CECILIA MITSCH | Observer graphic

IRISH INSIDER

Monday, November 24, 2008

THE
OBSERVER

Syracuse 24, Notre Dame 23

No Ex-'Cuse

Lame duck coach, 2-8 Orange shock the Irish on senior day

By JARED JEDICK
Sports Writer

Where do we go from here?
Notre Dame fell to Syracuse Saturday afternoon 24-23, losing to an eight-loss team for the first time ever — on senior day, no less.

"I feel absolutely miserable for the seniors," Irish coach Charlie Weis said. "I feel sick to my stomach."

The Irish dropped their fourth game in the past six contests to drop their season record to 6-5. The Irish were 19 1/2 point favorites and led 23-10 in the fourth quarter.

"Every loss hurts," senior linebacker Maurice Crum Jr. said. "But there's something added to it, being the total situation."

The victory was huge for the Orange (3-8), who were playing for their head coach Greg Robinson, who was told earlier in the week that he had been fired, effective at the end of the season.

"It's a great day for our football team. Truly a great day for our program to come into South Bend and to pull it off," Robinson said. "It really isn't necessarily a surprise at all to our football team. They knew that somewhere along the line this team was going to do something special. This was an opportunity that they knew they had to make the most of."

The Irish offense was unable to capitalize on good field position and the defense was unable to stop the Syracuse offense in the fourth quarter, during which the Orange outscored Notre Dame 10-0.

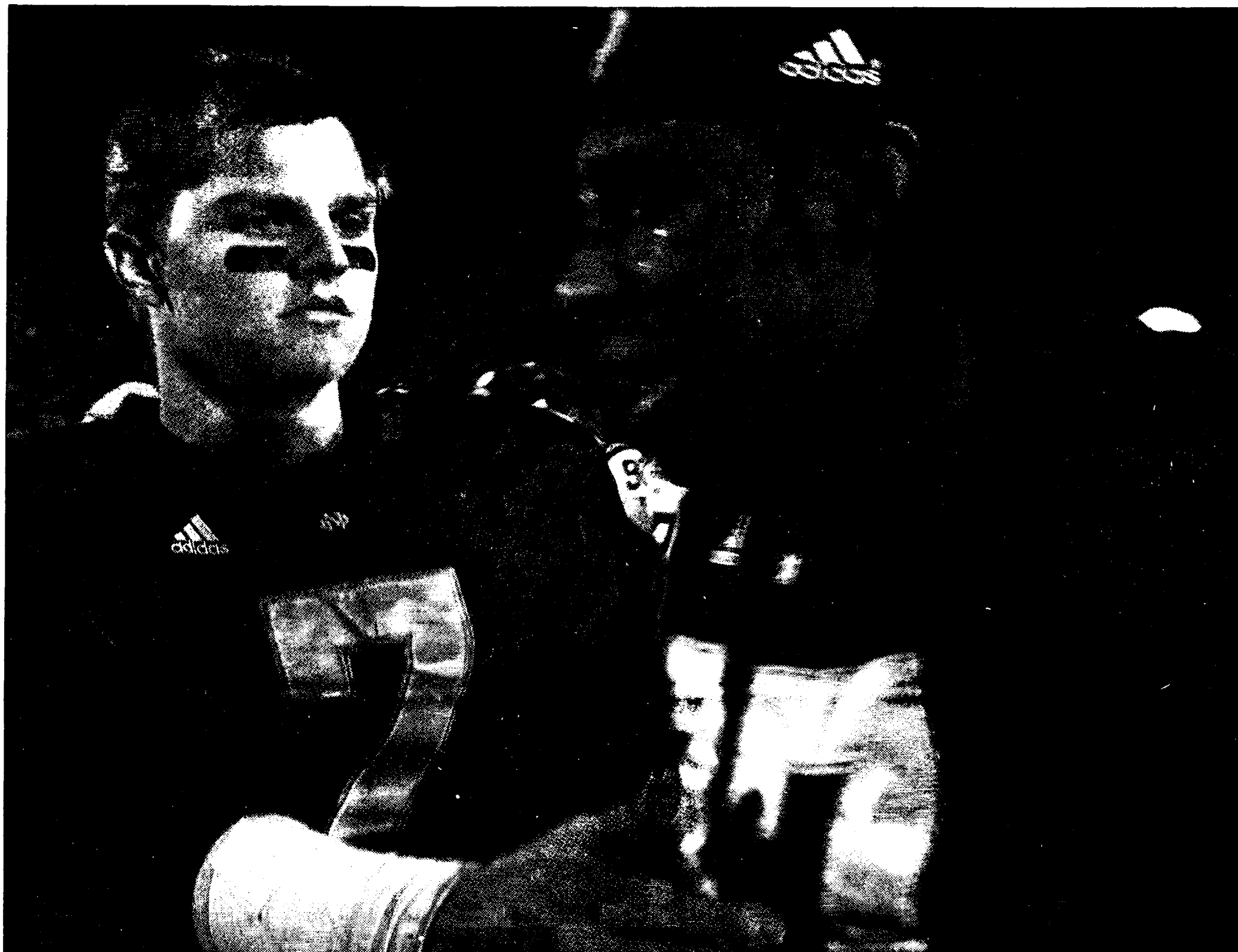
Quarterback Jimmy Clausen completed 22 of his 39 passes for 291 yards and two touchdowns without an interception, but he could not lead his team to the end zone when the opportunity arose to put the Orange away.

"I don't really know why that happened," Clausen said.

The Irish had the ball within Syracuse's 30-yard line three times during the third quarter and only came away with three total points in those series. The first of those drives included a panoply of errors, including two holding penalties and a 17-yard sack of Jimmy Clausen, resulting in a second-and-37.

"That's where we didn't put it away," Weis said. "If we put them away right there, then we wouldn't be having this conversation."

Conspicuously absent was an effective rushing game, especially against one of football's worst rushing defenses, as the leading rusher for the Irish was Armando Allen with 52 net yards.



DAN JACOBS/The Observer

Irish sophomore quarterback Jimmy Clausen, left, comforts senior safety David Bruton after Syracuse pulled off a 24-23 upset at Notre Dame Stadium Saturday.

Despite the inability to convert in Syracuse's side of the field, the Irish were able to build a 23-10 fourth quarter lead and put themselves in a position to win.

The first quarter started off with a good special teams play by senior special teamer Mike Anello who forced Syracuse's punt returner Ryan Howard to fumble the ball on his own 23-yard line. The Irish went three and out but converted on a 34 yard Brandon Walker field goal to put the Irish ahead.

The Orange answered back a couple drives later with a field goal of their own from 48 yards to even up the score.

The situation started to begin to look dicey when Syracuse drove 81 yards down the field to score on their very next possession.

The Irish responded with a field goal and a touchdown to end the half, including a 35 yard strike from Clausen to wide

receiver Golden Tate, and seemed to have all the momentum going into halftime with a 13-10 lead.

Tate had an impressive game with 146 receiving yards and two touchdowns. This was the first game in Tate's career with two touchdown passes.

The third quarter saw the Orange begging the Irish with their errors to put the football game out of reach, but the Irish just could not do it.

Syracuse began the third quarter with two muffed punts and a fumble that put the Irish in excellent field position, but Notre Dame struggled with penalties and poor offense that put saw them only score three points on those three drives.

The Irish did score another touchdown on the only drive of the quarter that they started on their own side of the field. Tate again caught a deep 36 yard strike from Clausen to give the

Irish a substantial 20-10 lead. The added field goal saw the Irish have a 13 point lead going into the third quarter.

These would be the last points the Irish would score in the game, as Syracuse quarterback, and son of Notre Basketball great Adrian Dantley, Cameron Dantley would lead his team on two touchdown drives in the fourth quarter for the win.

Dantley went 13-of-25 passing for 126 yards and the gaming winning 11-yard touchdown pass to Donte Davis with 42 seconds left to put the Orange on top 24-23.

The Irish got the ball back with 42 seconds left in the game, and a series of incompletions and a 40 yard prayer to Tate put Notre Dame on the Syracuse 34 yard line with five seconds to go.

The Irish lined up for the 53 yard field goal, but Walker's accurate boot fell just yards short of the goalposts.

The concern after the devastating loss is how the Irish will respond next week against USC. The Irish are in serious danger of falling to .500 for the year and looking at the bottom of the barrel for potential bowl games.

"You can roll around and sit there and feel sorry for yourself, and if you do that you can go to LA and they will humiliate you," Weis said. "We'll see how the team looks on Monday."

The Irish will have to get their psyche in the right place and change the attitude of the team if they want to put up a fight against Southern California.

"We have to have short-term memory and come in ready for USC," Tate said. "We can't mope around and go into depression. We have to go in Monday ready to work, and we have to work harder this week."

Contact Jared Jedick at
jjedick@nd.edu

player of the game

Antwon Bailey
Syracuse running back

The true freshman rushed for 126 yards and a touchdown on 16 carries

stat of the game

3

Total points the Irish scored on three third-quarter drives that began inside the Orange 25-yard line

play of the game

Cameron Dantley's touchdown pass with 42 seconds remaining

Donte Davis caught the 11-yard strike to put the Orange ahead 24-23

quote of the game

"It really isn't necessarily a surprise at all to our football team ... I give them a lot of credit."

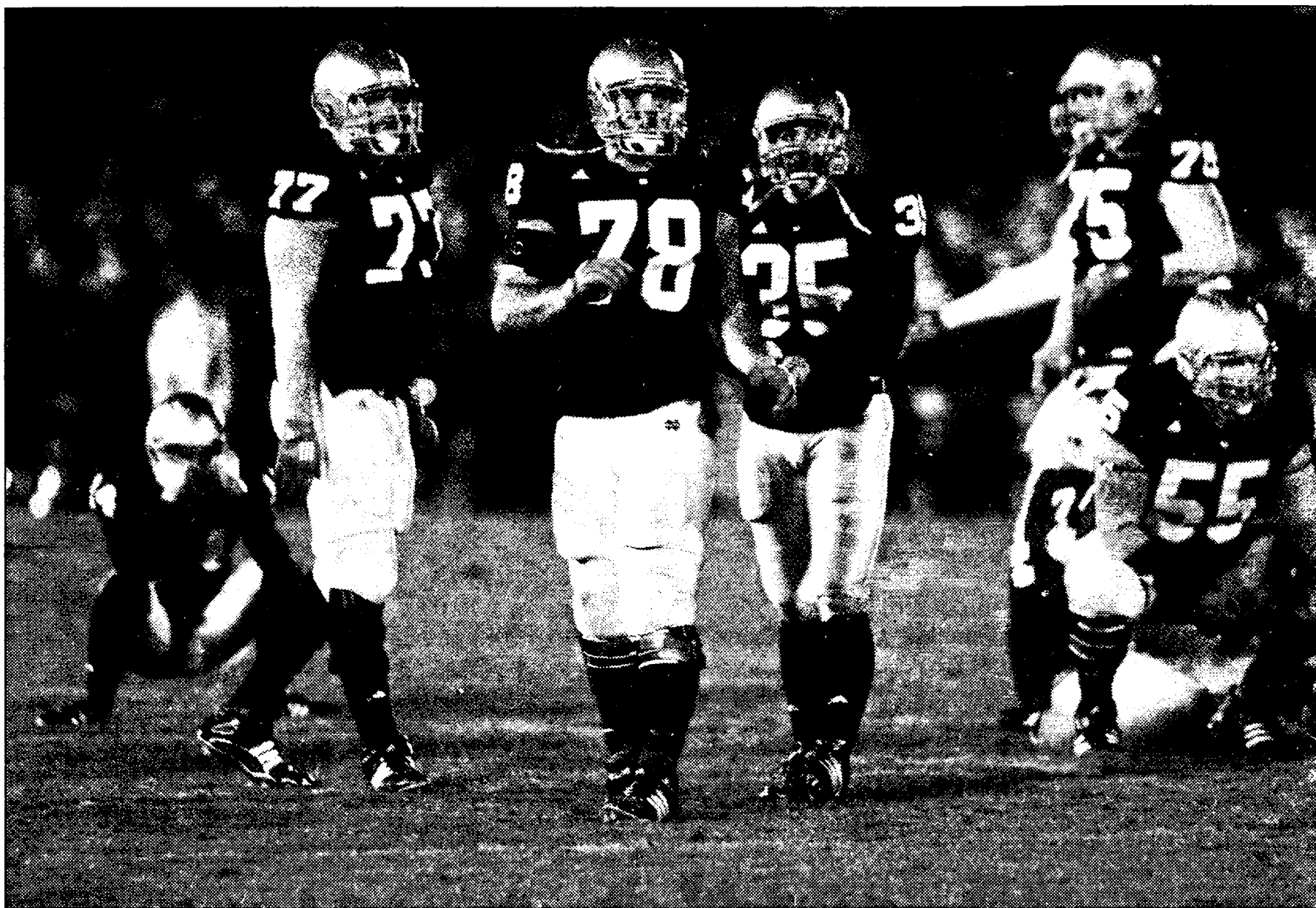
Greg Robinson
Orange coach

report card

- B-** **quarterbacks:** Clausen posted good numbers but was unable to lead the offense into the end zone to put the game away in the fourth quarter.
- D+** **running backs:** Hughes didn't play and neither Allen or Aldridge could find running room or make anything happen on their own.
- B+** **receivers:** Tate was the Irish offense, making great touchdown catches on a pair of fades and hauling in a fourth-down hail mary that set up the final field goal try.
- D-** **offensive line:** Clausen was sacked twice and the line couldn't open up holes against a poor defense. The line was responsible for a pair of big holding calls as well.
- D** **defensive line:** The line struggled again to generate pressure, especially on the final drive in obvious passing situations. Brinkley and Bailey had room to run all day.
- B-** **linebackers:** Harrison Smith had a sack but was flagged for a questionable but crucial pass-interference penalty on Syracuse's final drive.
- B-** **defensive backs:** The corner backs were put on an island all day when Notre Dame's blitzes couldn't hurry Dantley. For the most part, though, they didn't get beat deep.
- B-** **special teams:** The Orange muffed a punt and had two more blocked, but a mis-handled hold on a field goal really hurt the Irish. Walker missed two long kicks late.
- F** **coaching:** senior day loss to a 2-8 Syracuse team is inexcusable, especially after the Irish led 23-10 in the fourth quarter. The Trojans must be licking their chops.
- 1.89** **overall:** A senior day loss to a 2-8 Syracuse team is inexcusable, especially after the Irish led 23-10 in the fourth quarter. The Trojans must be licking their chops.

adding up the numbers

- 47** Yards-to-go on a second down play for the Irish in the third quarter after a sack and two holding penalties.
- 3** Points the Irish scored on three third-quarter drives that began inside the Orange 25-yard line.
- 1.5** Average yards per rushing attempt for Notre Dame.
- 2** Blocked punts by Notre Dame.
- 15** Tackles by Orange defensive tackle Arthur Jones. He had 1 1/2 sacks and four tackles for a loss.
- 6** Third-down conversions by Syracuse on 13 tries. Last week, the Irish held Navy to 1-of-13 on third downs.
- 13** Receptions of more than 30 yards for Golden Tate on the season. The Irish had six as a team last season.
- .583** Charlie Weis' career winning percentage at Notre Dame, which matches those of Bob Davie and Ty Willingham when they were fired.



DAN JACOBS/The Observer

The Irish look on in disbelief after sophomore kicker Brandon Walker, far left, missed a 51-yard field goal try as time expired Saturday. Notre Dame lost to Syracuse 24-23 on senior day.

It's hard, but let's be proactive

I live in Annapolis, Md., about 15 minutes from the Naval Academy. My parents hold Navy season tickets, and in 2003 we had tickets to the Army-Navy game in Philadelphia. Neither team was particularly good, but the tradition and strength of the rivalry made the game interesting every year. It would have been a great experience, in retrospect, to see what the game was like.



Bill Brink

Sports Editor

I didn't go. I stayed home to watch Notre Dame lose to Syracuse, 38-12, in the Carrier Dome.

The way the Irish played yesterday reminded me of that game in 2003. The team looked flat and unprepared even for a terrible team like the Orange, who had won two games before Saturday. It's a good thing the students were preoccupied with trying to hit the TV timeout guy with snowballs to pay close attention to the game, because it was an ugly one to watch.

If there was ever an opportunity to bounce back from a terrible season, this year was it. Combine a cushy schedule, a good recruiting class with some studs who can contribute right away and a quarterback with a year of experience and you get a team who can compete with — if not beat — upper-echelon programs. The Irish fulfilled that idea in the first half of the season, but somewhere along the line the idea became hazy.

Notre Dame's opponents average just under five wins this season. The schedule worked perfectly to allow Notre Dame to regain its feet and bring itself back to the place it would like to be after last year's aberration. Despite the soft schedule, the team couldn't produce.

Last year, the 3-9 team still had

enough desire to get a big enough lead over Duke on senior day so that Tom Zbikowski could play quarterback. This year, the team prayed for a gust of wind that would send Brandon Walker's 53-yard field goal through the uprights to squeak out an undeserved win.

I know Syracuse doesn't fulfill the formidable-opponent ideal that USC will next week, but the Orange still must be prepared for. The penalties the Irish committed displayed the lack of preparation.

A pass interference penalty in the fourth quarter extended a Syracuse drive that led to Syracuse's winning touchdown. A holding penalty negated a long completion to Kyle Rudolph. Syracuse and Notre Dame both had 50 penalty yards, but Notre Dame's penalties cut the Irish deep.

How about the possession when Notre Dame got the ball on the Syracuse 23-yard line? A 17-yard sack and two holding penalties later, and Eric Maust couldn't even punt the ball to the original line of scrimmage because the Irish had lost so much yardage. Three plays, minus-30 yards. A team can't expect to win a game, no matter who it plays, with possessions like that.

Against a 2-8 team, winning the game can't come down to two long field goals in sub-zero temperatures in the fourth quarter. A good team has to drive down the field and score. Like it has most of the season, the rush yardage differential helped to decide the game. Notre Dame allowed 170 yards on the ground, 126 of them to Antwon Bailey. The Irish rushed for 41 yards on 28 carries, an average of 1.5 yards per carry. If a team can't run the ball on Syracuse, who can they run on?

Rather than go on about the examples of terrible play, let's be

proactive. Let's try to fix the problem. Part of it comes from expectations. Notre Dame's special place in today's college football atmosphere stems from the school's play in years past, which included Heisman winners, national championships and consistent nine-win seasons. Saturday was the first time in school history the Irish lost to an eight-loss team. The special deal with the BCS, the special bowl selection exceptions, the TV deal — all of it comes from a time in the past.

This team is not that team, so let's separate the two. Let's also exclude the angry alumni, who whine when the Irish don't beat Navy by more than 35 points, from the discussion. Those are confounding variables. Let's look at this as a regular football team without the traditions

and expectations, because that's the only way to solve the problem.

Many things went wrong Saturday, just like many things went wrong this season. Changing one part of the team may solve some of those problems, but the idea is to change the whole program, get it to reverse direction, rather than make a snap decision to eliminate one part of the system.

It might not be quick, it might not be easy, but the school and the coaching staff need to shift the whole system.

It's like performing surgery. To heal a person, a surgeon must follow a procedure to ensure minimal suffering to the person as a whole. Sawing off somebody's foot may get rid of the broken ankle, but it causes more pain to the person than he was originally in.

Likewise, Notre Dame can't just fire a coach, or change quarterbacks, or play its star recruits. The system needs a broader change to bring the parts together again.

Want more thoughts on Notre Dame sports?
Check out The Casual Observer at
observersportsblog.21cr.info.

Lack of running game kills Irish

By MATT GAMBER
Associate Sports Editor

Those looking to pinpoint the source of Notre Dame's inability to close games need look no further than the running game.

The Irish rushed for 41 yards and gave up 170 on the ground to lowly Syracuse en route to blowing their third double-digit lead of the season Saturday.

"You have to be able to run the ball more opportunistically, especially when you get an opportunity to finish a team out," Irish coach Charlie Weis said at his Sunday press conference. "I think that becomes critical. And I think we had too many runs for no gain or losing a couple yards that put us in a little bit of a bind."

In their six victories, the Irish have averaged 164 rushing yards per game while outgaining their opponents by an average of 48 yards per game. Notre Dame has failed to rush for 100 yards as team just once in those six games and have eclipsed the 200-yard mark three times.

In their five losses, the Irish average 65 rushing yards per game — 85 yards less than their opponents. Notre Dame rushed for less than 70 yards in three of its losses and totaled at least 100 just once.

The ground game's inconsistency has been a mystery all year. Just last week, the Irish racked up 230 total rushing yards against a hard-nosed Navy team.

"Depends week by week," Weis said Sunday of the running game's issues. "Like what were the problems [Saturday]? Because they weren't the problems last week ... Last week the running game was fairly efficient."

But not against a Syracuse team that had given up 209 rushing yards per game. The Irish managed just 17 yards per carry against the nation's 107th ranked run defense.

"We just went out and played. We really just played our game," Orange coach Greg Robinson said after the game. "... I thought we knocked 'em around pretty good."

Syracuse defensive tackle Arthur Jones, who had 15 tackles and four for a



Irish running back Armando Allen tries to escape a group of Syracuse defenders during Notre Dame's 24-23 loss Saturday.

loss, added: "I had a blast. It was the best game I played I think, I had a lot of fun."

Sophomore Armando Allen's nine-yard scamper early in the third quarter was Notre Dame's longest rush of the day. Neither James Aldridge (five carries) or Robert Hughes (none) gained a single yard.

"It seems like every time we made a play, we'd hurt ourselves," Weis said. "I think we did have a little action there to the weak side,

a couple of draws. But I think we couldn't really get into a consistent flow ... We never could establish in the running

game itself, the true running game, the line of scrimmage."

Notre Dame, and particularly its offensive line, can take comfort in the fact that the running attack has shown flashes in the form of 200-plus yard games against Purdue, Washington and Navy. But that doesn't make it much easier to swallow another tough loss in which the ground game was utterly ineffective.

"It's painful but we keep learning lessons," junior right tackle Sam Young said. "It just keeps reinforcing to this team how important it is to finish teams off. Sooner or later we are going to learn, and whoever we take it out on, I feel bad for them."

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu.

scoring summary

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Syracuse	3	7	0	14	24
Notre Dame	3	10	10	0	23

First quarter

Notre Dame 3, Syracuse 0
Brandon Walker 34-yd field goal with 11:39 remaining. Drive: 4 plays, 8 yards, 1:28 elapsed.
Notre Dame 3, Syracuse 3
Patrick Shadle 48-yd field goal with no time remaining. Drive: 5 plays, 32 yards, 2:28 elapsed.

Second quarter

Syracuse 10, Notre Dame 3
Curtis Brinkley 1-yd run (Shadle kick) with 6:48 remaining. Drive: 13 plays, 81 yards, 5:47 elapsed.
Syracuse 10, Notre Dame 6
Brandon Walker 45-yd field goal with 2:19 remaining. Drive: 10 plays, 33 yards, 4:29 elapsed.
Notre Dame 13, Syracuse 10
Jimmy Clausen 35-yd pass to Golden Tate (Walker kick) with :02 remaining. Drive: 5 plays, 76 yards, :38 elapsed.

Third quarter

Notre Dame 20, Syracuse 10
Clausen 36-yd pass to Tate (Walker kick) with 2:49 remaining. Drive: 8 plays, 68 yards, 3:01 elapsed.
Notre Dame 23, Syracuse 10
Brandon Walker 23-yd field goal with 1:34 remaining. Drive: 4 plays, 0 yards, :57 elapsed.

Fourth quarter

Notre Dame 23, Syracuse 17
Antwon Bailey 26-yd run (Shadle kick) with 12:30 remaining. Drive: 9 plays, 68 yards, 4:04 elapsed.
Syracuse 24, Notre Dame 23
Cameron Dantley 11-yd pass to Donte Davis (Shadle kick) with :42 remaining. Drive: 8 plays, 68 yards, 4:16 elapsed.

statistics

total yards

ND	332
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Syracuse 117

rushing yards

ND	41
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Syracuse 170

passing yards

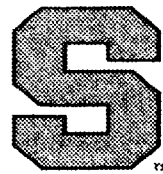
ND	291
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Syracuse 147

time of possession

ND	31:19
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Syracuse 28:41



passing

Clausen	22-39-291	Dantley	13-25-122
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rushing

Allen Tate	17-52 1-5	Bailey Brinkley	16-126 17-44
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receiving

Tate Grimes	7-146 7-83	Davis Provo	2-34 2-28
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Weis: Team not good, 'but decent'

By MATT GAMBER
Associate Sports Editor

Charlie Weis is not worried about his job status, Notre Dame's head coach announced at his press conference Sunday.

"I think that the team has a chance of being pretty darn good next year," Weis said. "I can't worry about my job status. I'm the head football coach. And that's what I intend to be."

After declining to comment on questions regarding his job security on Saturday, Weis said he had "given some thought" to some of the big-picture questions he is now facing.

"I've kind of reflected off of last year to this year to next year," Weis said. "So last year I think we were a pretty crummy football team ... There were multiple games last year where we just didn't lose but I felt we were basically noncompetitive as the game went on."

Weis said that while the Irish have lost five games this season, they led three by double-

digits — a sign the team is improving, he said.

"As a matter of fact, in none of the games were you non-competitive. There wasn't one game where you didn't have a chance to win the game, unlike last year where there were multiple games where the games were over early and just put away," Weis said. "So what you've really done is you have taken these guys who were a bunch of pups and now have a year under their belt."

"Going from a crummy team to what I think is a decent team. I wouldn't say we're anywhere near good but I would say we're decent."

The team's progression should be "at least as good, if not better" heading into next season, Weis said.

"With a good portion of these guys now with two years under their belt coming back for next year, you'd have to say you have a chance of being pretty darned good," Weis said.

Still going bowling?

Expected to beat Syracuse, the Irish were projected by

most to receive an invite to the Gator Bowl — the Bowl game's information sheets were even circulating around the press box during Saturday's game.

After losing to the Orange, however, ESPN analysts have the Irish headed to the Sun Bowl.

Asked Sunday whether Notre Dame would consider declining a Bowl invitation if it loses at USC Saturday to finish at 6-6, Weis said the opportunity to develop young players with extra practice time would be one advantage a Bowl game would provide.

"No one's jumping up and down to go to a Bowl, if you were to lose the [USC] game and end up 6-6, no one is jumping up and down to do that," Weis said. "But at the same time that's multiple practices and development that could be going on that you end up losing out on. And I think, in your program's sake, I think it ends up hurting you in the long run."

Last chance, career days

Several Notre Dame seniors saved their best for last, post-

ing big days in their final chance to play in Notre Dame Stadium.

With freshman Michael Floyd unavailable, wide receiver David Grimes posted a career-high 83 receiving yards on a season-best seven catches. His 31-yard reception was also his longest of the season.

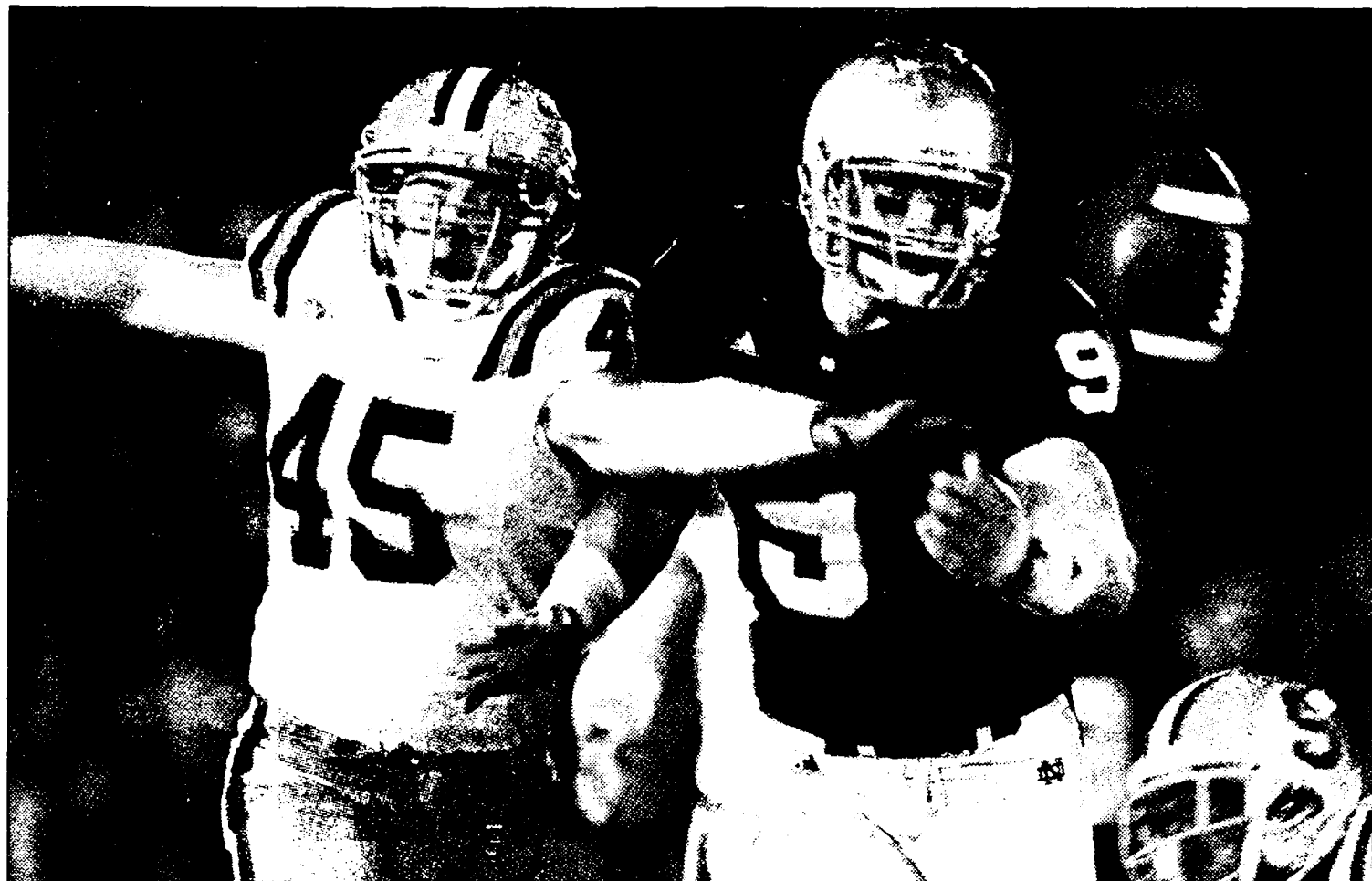
Linebacker Scott Smith, who has seen increased playing time with the injury to sophomore linebacker Brian Smith, forced the first fumble of his career. It set up an Irish field goal.

Defensive tackle Pat Kuntz's seven tackles were a season high, and he added 1 1/2 for loss.

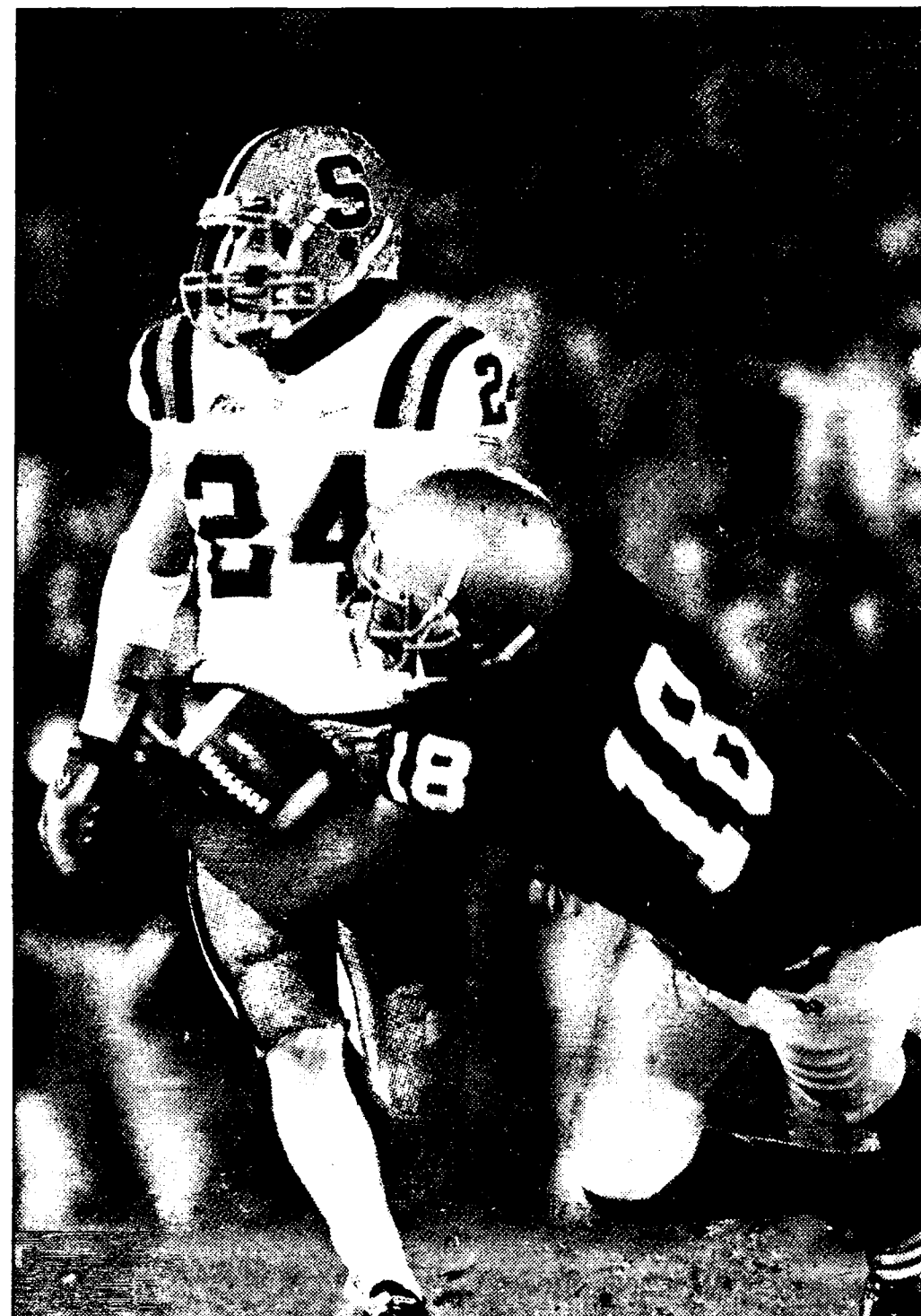
Defensive back Ray Herring posted a season-high six tackles, including the first sack of his career.

And special teamer Mike Anello continued to justify his cult hero status by forcing a fumble on Notre Dame's first punt and later deflecting a Syracuse punt.

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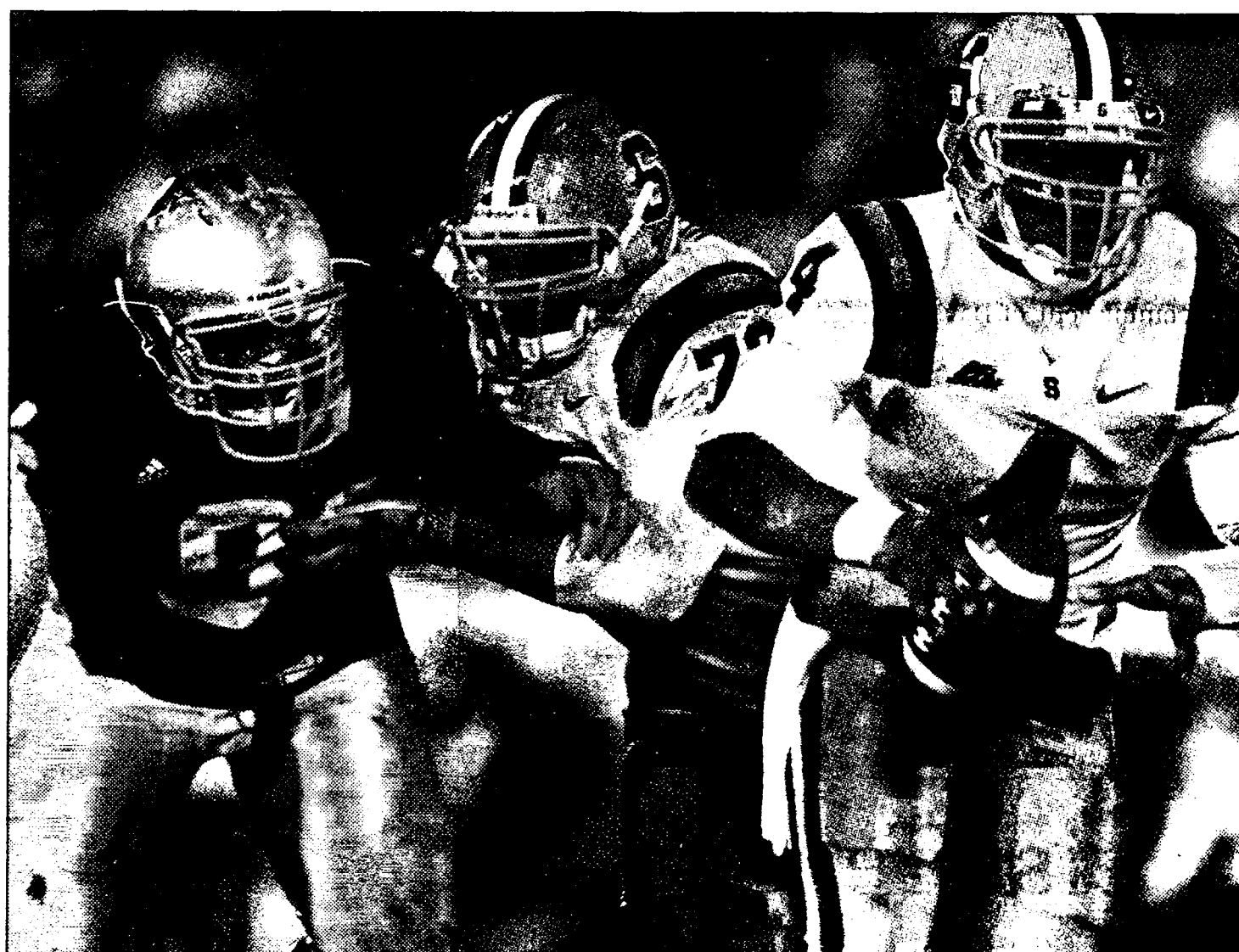
DAN JACOBS/The Observer



DAN JACOBS/The Observer

Seniors get G-Robbed

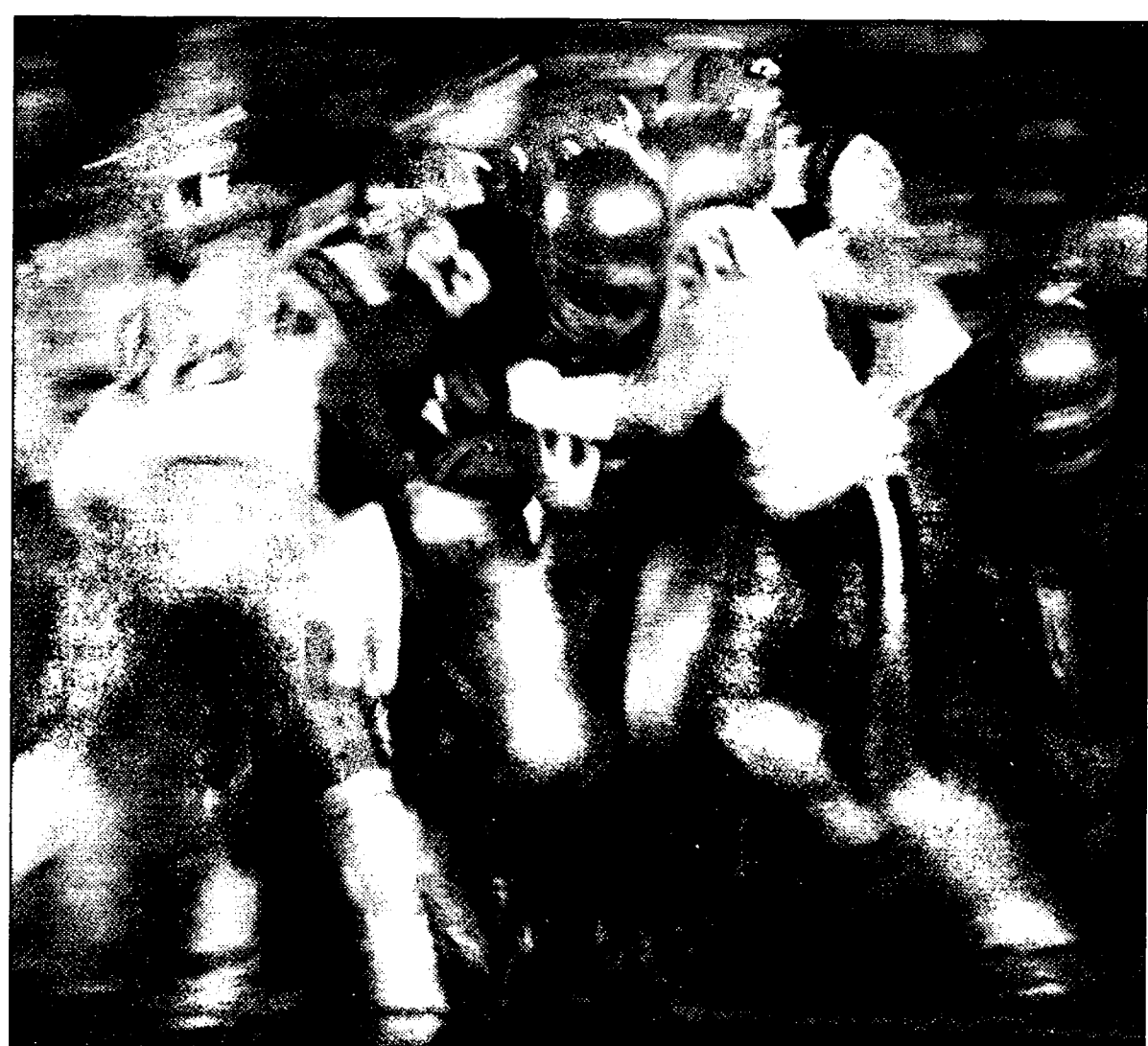
The Irish went 3-9 last season, but at least that team's seniors got to take one last lap around Notre Dame Stadium following a win over hapless Duke. Notre Dame may have doubled its win total this season, but this Irish squad will be remembered as the team that suffered a shocking senior day loss to a 2-8 Syracuse team with a lame duck coach. As the Irish trudged toward the disgruntled student section in utter disbelief, the Orange stormed the field and mobbed their head coach, Greg Robinson, who was informed of his dismissal earlier this week. Gathered in front of television cameras, the Orange players chanted "G-Rob! G-Rob!" and exclaimed words of support like "He's our coach!" Cameron Dantley, the son of a Notre Dame basketball legend, led a last-minute drive that culminated in an 11-yard touchdown pass to Donte Davis that gave Syracuse a 24-23 lead with 42 seconds to play. Facing fourth down from his own 26-yard line, Irish quarterback Jimmy Clausen threw up a prayer to fellow sophomore Golden Tate (seven catches, 146 yards, two touchdowns), who hauled it in at the Syracuse 34-yard line. The Irish lined up for a last-minute 51-yard field goal, but Brandon Walker's attempt fell just short.



DAN JACOBS/The Observer

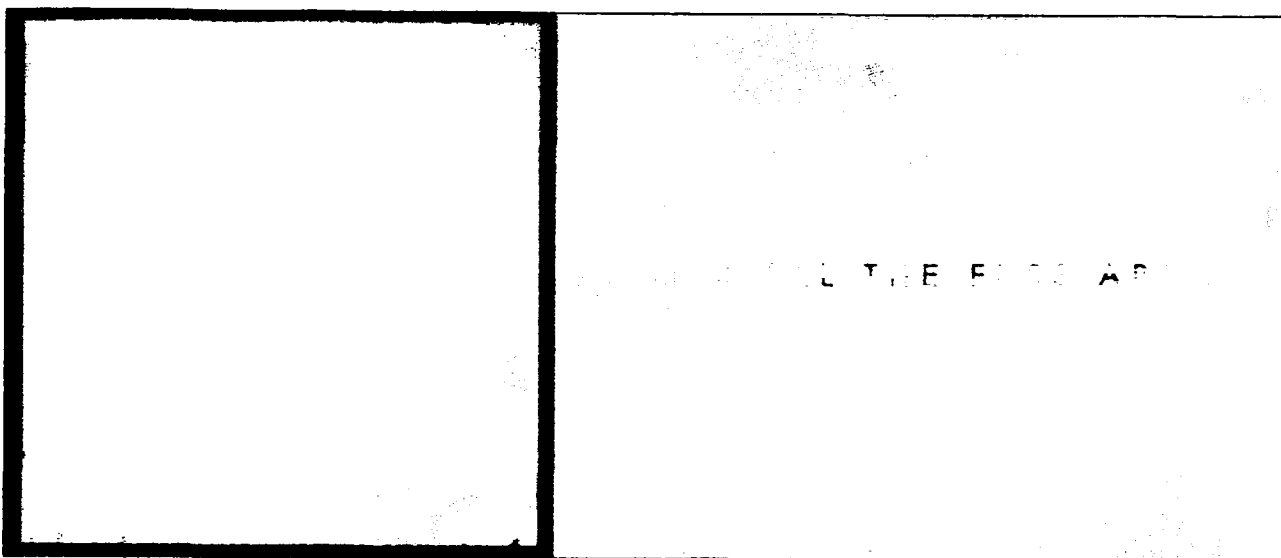


DAN JACOBS/The Observer



DAN JACOBS/The Observer

Clockwise from top, Kyle Rudolph can't haul in a deep pass on Notre Dame's final comeback attempt; Duval Kamara can't come down with the ball on the previous play; Cameron Dantley eludes the Notre Dame pass rush; Golden Tate fights through a herd of Syracuse tacklers; Scott Smith forces a Syracuse fumble.



ALEXANDRA KILPATRICK Scene Writer

The Killers may fall into the same post-punk revival category as bands like The Bravery and Fall Out Boy.

But unlike other pop punk bands of our generation, Brandon Flowers and crew pull off their music with poise and style while delivering insightful yet relatable lyrics and giving off energy you could clean your room to.

The Las Vegas band's 2004 debut studio album "Hot Fuss" was an excellent indie pop album at that brought them quick mainstream success.

"Hot Fuss" would go on to receive five Grammy nominations, and even earned a spot as one of the five most recent albums in Robert Dimery's "1001 Albums You Must Hear Before You Die."

"Hot Fuss" certainly has classic rock influences and a peppy glam musical style reminiscent of David Bowie and Duran Duran, appealing to fans with a layered sound that combines loud yet controlled indie garage vocals with simple dance beats and electronic hooks. The Killers create a music genre here that is still rock, but rock that you can dance to.

Beginning with the narrative confrontation of murder in opener "Jenny Was a Friend of Mine" and later "Midnight Show," it's made clear that the album's lyrics address a wide array of issues and not just the stereotypical relationship problems. "Andy, You're a Star" confronts a stalker, while "Believe Me Natalie" addresses the issue of AIDS.

The lyrics are dramatic, intriguing and narrative while still maintaining a universal meaning that's relatable to everyone.

The band's first single, "Mr. Brightside," demonstrates this universality in the lyrics ("Jealousy, turning saints into the sea/ Swimming through sick lullabies/ Choking on your alibis/ But it's just the price I pay/ Destiny is calling me/ Open up my eager eyes/ 'Cause I'm Mr. Brightside"). Along with

the catchy chorus, the dramatic yet all-inclusive lyrics could probably explain the widespread success of the song, which has been covered by the likes of jazz singer Paul Anka, Chris Martin of Coldplay, and even our own Undertones. While the songs often give off an upbeat air, Brandon Flowers also delivers insight in his music that allows introspectiveness in the listener. For example, "Smile Like You Mean It" discusses an empty relationship and recalling better times and memories when life is hard. The theme sounds cliché, but the band pulls it off with

fresh outlook and style ("Looking back at sunsets on the Eastside/ We lost track of the time/ Dreams aren't what they used to be/ Some things slide by so carelessly").

Much like "Smile Like You Mean It," the song "All These Things That I've Done" is simply about life in general, growing up and moving on from the past ("I wanna stand up, I wanna let go/ You know, you know — no you don't, you don't/ I wanna shine on in the hearts of men/ I wanna a meaning from the back of my

broken hand"). Led by piano, the coming-of-age anthem also features an extended gospel choir-like refrain of "I got soul, but I'm not a soldier," instilling the soulfulness of the Killers' music.

The Killers have changed much in musical style since "Hot Fuss." Brandon Flowers took on more vibrato vocals for their second studio album, 2006's "Sam's Town," also featuring pounding guitar riffs and keyboard sounds which lacked dynamics for good reason.

In 2007, the Nevada-based group released "Sawdust," a compilation album of B-sides, rarities, remixes and covers, including an impressive version of Joy Division's "Shadowplay."

The band recently released an upbeat yet emotional single called "Human" off of their new album, "Day & Age," which is set for U.S. release tomorrow, November 25.

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SHANE STEINBERG Scene Writer

Following in the footsteps of Cristi Puiu's "The Death of Mr. Lazarescu" and Corneliu Porumboiu's "12:08 East of Bucharest," writer/director Christian Mungiu's "4 Months, 3 weeks and 2 days" may very signal that Romania is undergoing a Renaissance in film.

Both brutally honest and immeasurably pure, "4 months, 3 weeks, 2 days," like the other two films, crosses the line between being a film and being an experience so real and penetrating that it grabs you and never lets go until long after the end credits roll.

Proving that a film does not need special effects or large budgets to succeed, Mingiu, with a cast of unknown actors and without a score or anything resembling a soundtrack, tells the gut-wrenching story of illegal abortion in the final days of the Soviet bloc. Otilia (Anamaria Marinca) and Gabita (Laura Vasiliu) are roommates in college living under the Ceausescu dictatorship. They are stressed and anxious, but not because of upcoming final exams. Gabita, an innocent, hard-working student, is pregnant and plans to get an abortion, which is illegal. Otilia agrees to help her and proceeds to book the hotel and meet with the abortionist, much to his dismay.

Mungiu carefully weaves his story, not revealing that the topic of the film is illegal abortion until nearly forty minutes have passed. The opening scenes may seem like an introduction to the film, but pay closer attention and you'll find that an ominously inauspicious air hovers over every scene. Enter Mr. Bebe (Vlad Ivanov), a frightening man without morals who is contacted by the girls through a friend to do the procedure.

It is with Mr. Bebe's arrival that Mingui

tightens the film and constricts the audience with an experience so unbearably real and heartbreaking that Gabita and Otilia's struggle becomes the audience's struggle. The audience watches as the abortion is slowly performed, the shivers down Gabita's back felt throughout the theater, and is left cringing at the sight of the four month old fetus lying wrapped in a towel on the bathroom floor. At the end of the film, Gabita is left affected by the experience, but it is Otilia who is left scarred by it, very much in the same way that the audience is.

There are no metaphors here, no dialogue to dissect in film class for the purpose of minning a deeper meaning, and no characters who reflect some greater perspective. Simply put, this is the story of abortion and the scars that the decision of whether or not to have one leaves on not only the mother but on those close to her.

Mingui isn't one for pity and as such doesn't shy away from using the medium to its fullest extent, thereby creating a latter half of a film that tears at one's insides, causing them to question at times whether this is still a movie and if not, or whether it is right to make something so real about something so controversial.

It is the rawness of the film, something that American films rarely capture, that propels "4 months, 3 weeks, 2 days" from being just another rehashed version of "Vera Drake" into being a masterpiece of the highest form.

The film takes no clear position in the abortion debate; instead it is a horrifying portrait of a numbed humanity. When the credits roll, half of the audience is disgusted either because they fundamentally disapprove of abortion or because they don't like how raw and uncensored the film is. The other half walks out the theater silent, deep in thought, some crying, and all reliving the essence of the film in their minds. It only takes one viewing, however, to realize that "4 months, 3 weeks, 2 days" is without a doubt this year's best film.

The DVD, released in October, features an insightful documentary about the making of the film, as well as two interviews, one with Mungiu, in which he explains why he stripped the film down to such a great extent, and the other with cinematographer Oleg Mutu, who also worked on "The Death of Mr. Lazarescu."

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Nevada-based rockers The Killers will release their fourth studio album, "Day & Age," tomorrow. "Hot Fuss," their first album, is still an influential work. image courtesy of the-killers.info



Romanian actress Laura Vasiliu stars as Gabita in "4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days," which won the Palme d'Or at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival. image courtesy of guardian.co.uk

NFL

Giants roll to 10-1 with win over Cardinals

Patriots' offense explodes for 48 against Dolphins; Turner runs for 2 TDs in Falcons' win over Panthers

Associated Press

GLENDAL, Ariz. — Eli Manning insists he never flashed back to his previous game in Glendale. Everyone who watched him Sunday must have.

Manning threw for three touchdowns in his return to the scene of his Super Bowl MVP performance and the New York Giants beat Arizona 37-29 to snap the Cardinals' seven-game home winning streak.

"It's just a totally different feel, it's just a different time," Manning said. "You never really compared it to the last time we were here. We knew we'd have a tough contest with Arizona."

Defensive end Justin Tuck, though, admitted to "a little déjà vu."

"Once you got back out here, you see the field and this stadium looking like a space ship, you start to think about that night and how it felt," he said.

With starting running back Brandon Jacobs out with a knee injury, the Giants took to the air to win their sixth in a row. Manning completed 26 of 33 for 240 yards with no interceptions as the Giants moved to 10-1, tied for the best record in the NFL.

"He just continues to do whatever has to be done to win a game," New York coach Tom Coughlin said.

Kurt Warner, under fierce pressure most of the afternoon, was 32-for-52 for 351 yards and a touchdown for Arizona (7-4). He was intercepted once and fumbled once, both leading to Giants touchdowns.

"They're a good defense and we matched up with them very well and went toe to toe with them for 60 minutes," Warner said. "Of course, you never want to go

away a loser and that part is disappointing. I think you leave from this game and move ahead. If we eliminate some of the mistakes we can play with anybody in the league."

Besides the turnovers, the Cardinals allowed two long kickoff returns to set up scores.

"Whenever you can put our offense in that type of field position, it's a great thing," Tuck said, "especially with the weapons that we have."

On the field where they upset New England in last season's Super Bowl, the Giants (10-1) took the lead late in the first half and never relinquished it.

"That's a well-coached football team with a tremendous amount of depth that doesn't make many mistakes," Arizona coach Ken Whisenhunt said. "To me that was the key today. We just made too many mistakes."

In the second half, Manning completed 16 of 18 for 156 yards and two scores.

Warner topped 300 yards for the fifth consecutive game, one shy of the NFL record he shares with Steve Young and Rich Gannon. Warner's 5-yard touchdown pass to Anquan Boldin cut the lead to 34-26 with 4:02 to play. The Cardinals' subsequent onside kick bounced off the hands and chest of Arizona's Ralph Brown and was recovered by Chase Blackburn for New York.

"It hit the ground and came up on me quick," Brown said. "I felt somebody coming up on me on the right. When it came to my hand, I kind of looked away and it bounced off my hands."

John Carney's third field goal, from 33 yards, put the Giants ahead 37-26 with 1:55 remaining.

Neil Rackers' third field goal, a 44-yarder, cut it to 37-29 with 32

seconds left, but New York's Steve Smith recovered the onside kick.

Already without Jacobs, the Giants lost wide receiver Plaxico Burress early in the game when he aggravated a hamstring injury.

Still, Manning had plenty of targets. Domenik Hixon had kickoff returns of 83 and 68 yards and caught six passes for 57.

Six plays after the second-half kickoff, Tuck stripped the ball from Warner and Mathias Kiwanuka recovered for New York at the Cardinals at the Arizona 40. On third-and-2, Manning threw 30 yards to Smith at the Cardinals 2. Manning's two-yard touchdown toss to Madison Hedgecock boosted New York's lead to 24-12 with 10:35 left in the third quarter.

Arizona went 90 yards in nine plays, cutting the lead to 24-19 on Tim Hightower's 1-yard TD run. But New York took the kickoff and went 80 yards in 10 plays for the score, Manning throwing 10 yards to Kevin Boss to make it 31-19 with 11:15 remaining.

Patriots 48, Dolphins 28

The standards are awfully high for the New England Patriots, who were annoyed Sunday by a handful of penalties, a couple of turnovers and the necessity to punt once.

By the way, they beat the Miami Dolphins.

"At times we sputtered," receiver Randy Moss said with a straight face. "We've got a little work to do."

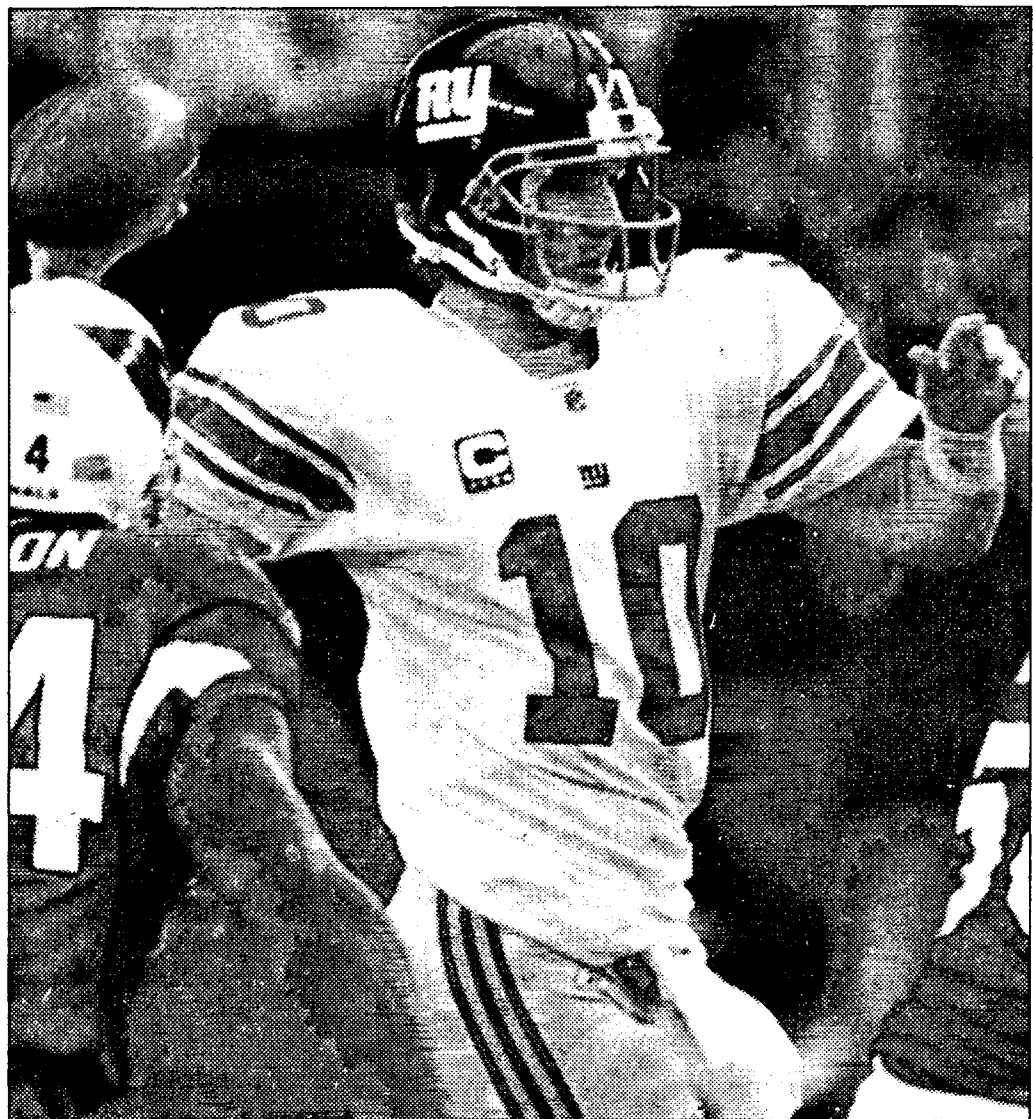
There actually were some rocky moments: Three times the Patriots lost the lead, and three times they took it back. Matt Cassel threw for 415 yards, Moss caught three touchdown passes and resilient New England pulled away in the fourth quarter against the feisty but outgunned Dolphins.

The Patriots (7-4), who remained a game behind the AFC East-leading New York Jets, avenged an upset loss to Miami in September. New England hasn't been swept in a season series by a division opponent since 2000.

"Every game is important," coach Bill Belichick said. "It was a division game, and they got us the first time. At least we squared it up with them."

For the Dolphins (6-5), the loss snapped a four-game winning streak and hurt their chances of an improbable playoff berth after going 1-15 last year. They unraveled as the game slipped away, drawing three late personal-foul penalties, and defensive linemen Vonnie Holliday and Jason Ferguson apologized for the emotional lapses of teammates.

"We didn't show much class at



Giants quarterback Eli Manning throws a pass during the first quarter of New York's 37-29 win over Arizona.

the end," Holliday said. "What's so disappointing about this loss is not only were we beaten, but the way we handled the loss, especially at the end."

They couldn't keep up with Cassel, who had his second consecutive 400-yard day, doubling Tom Brady's career total. Working mostly from the shotgun, Cassel completed 30 of 43 passes, including touchdowns of 25, 8 and 29 to Moss, and ran for a score.

The Patriots netted 530 yards. Their only higher total was 597 against the Jets in 1979. They've gained 1,041 yards in the past two games.

"The production is starting to come around," Cassel said. "When it all works together and works right, it's easy for me."

Moss was impressed by Brady's backup.

"Matt is getting in the comfort zone," Moss said. "He's playing some hellified ball."

Falcons 45, Panthers 28

Michael Turner handled the power game, lowering his head and ramming into would-be tacklers time after time. Harry Douglas turned up the speed, finishing off Carolina with an electrifying dash to the end zone.

Thunder and Lightning carried the Atlanta Falcons to an impressive win Sunday in a game they couldn't afford to lose in the NFC South.

Turner tied a team record with

four rushing touchdowns, Douglas scored the first two TDs of his career - the second on a 61-yard punt return - and the Falcons romped to a win over the Panthers to move within a game of the division lead.

Turner went over 1,000 yards rushing for the first time in his career and scored his first three TDs on bruising runs of 1, 4 and 1 yards - the last of those on fourth down when the Falcons decided to go for it instead of settle for a field goal that would have given them just a six-point lead with about 7 minutes to go.

"I think it makes the decision a little easier when you've got a physical running back like Michael," said rookie quarterback Matt Ryan, who had another solid day. "His effort is the biggest thing. He continues to run hard from the first quarter through the fourth quarter. He's tough to bring down."

So was Douglas, but for a very different reason. Showing off his blazing speed, the rookie receiver scored his first TD on a 7-yard end around and took off with a 69-yard pass that set up another score. But it was his final play everyone will remember.

Carolina's Jason Barker got off a booming punt from the back of his end zone, but that merely gave Douglas some time to decide what he wanted to do. He surveyed the field for a split-second, took off suddenly to his left, then cut back right through a huge hole.



Miami quarterback Chad Pennington hands the ball off to running back Ricky Williams in the first quarter of the Dolphins' 48-28 loss.

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If I can't practice, I can't practice. It is as simple as that. It ain't about that at all. It's easy to sum it up if you're just talking about practice. We're sitting here, and I'm supposed to be the franchise player, and we're talking about practice. I mean listen, we're sitting here talking about practice, not a game, not a game, not a game, but we're talking about practice. Not the game that I go out there and die for and play every game last it's my last but we're talking about practice man. How silly is that?

Now I know that I'm supposed to lead by example and all that but I'm not shoving that aside like it don't mean anything. I know it's important, I honestly do but we're talking about practice. We're talking about practice. We're talking about practice. We're not talking about the game. We're talking about practice. When you come to the arena, and you see me play, you've seen me play right, you've seen me give everything I've got, but we're talking about practice right now.

I wanna kiss you. I couldn't care less about the team struggling. What we know is we can improve. Chad Pennington, our quarterback, missed the first part of the season, and we struggled. We're looking to next season, we're looking to make a noise now and ... I wanna kiss you!

Playoffs? Don't talk about playoffs. Are you kidding me? Playoffs? I'm just hoping we can win a game, another game.

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

Monday, November 24, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 13

NCAA Football BCS Top 25

team	BCS avg	previous
1 Alabama	0.987	1
2 Texas	0.920	3
3 Oklahoma	0.912	5
4 Florida	0.875	4
5 USC	0.797	6
6 Utah	0.785	7
7 Texas Tech	0.778	2
8 Penn State	0.752	8
9 Boise State	0.658	9
10 Ohio State	0.620	10
11 Georgia	0.601	11
12 Oklahoma State	0.570	12
13 Missouri	0.558	13
14 TCU	0.470	16
15 Ball State	0.437	17
16 Cincinnati	0.397	19
17 Oregon State	0.313	21
18 BYU	0.262	14
19 Michigan State	0.211	15
20 Florida State	0.188	NR
21 Boston College	0.186	NR
22 Georgia Tech	0.181	NR
23 Oregon	0.155	24
24 Northwestern	0.113	NR
25 Pittsburgh	0.041	20

NCAA Football AP Top 25

team	points	previous
1 Alabama	1622	1
2 Florida	1512	3
3 Oklahoma	1486	5
4 Texas	1482	4
5 USC	1352	6
6 Penn State	1238	7
7 Texas Tech	1212	2
8 Utah	1206	8
9 Boise State	1064	9
10 Ohio State	1043	10
11 Oklahoma State	997	11
12 Missouri	917	12
13 Georgia	874	13
14 TCU	750	15
15 Ball State	731	14
16 Cincinnati	640	19
17 Oregon State	604	21
18 Georgia Tech	339	NR
19 Oregon	320	24
20 Boston College	309	NR
20 Brigham Young	309	16
22 Michigan State	274	17
23 Florida State	214	NR
24 Northwestern	145	NR
25 Mississippi	127	NR

NCAA Hockey USA Today Rankings

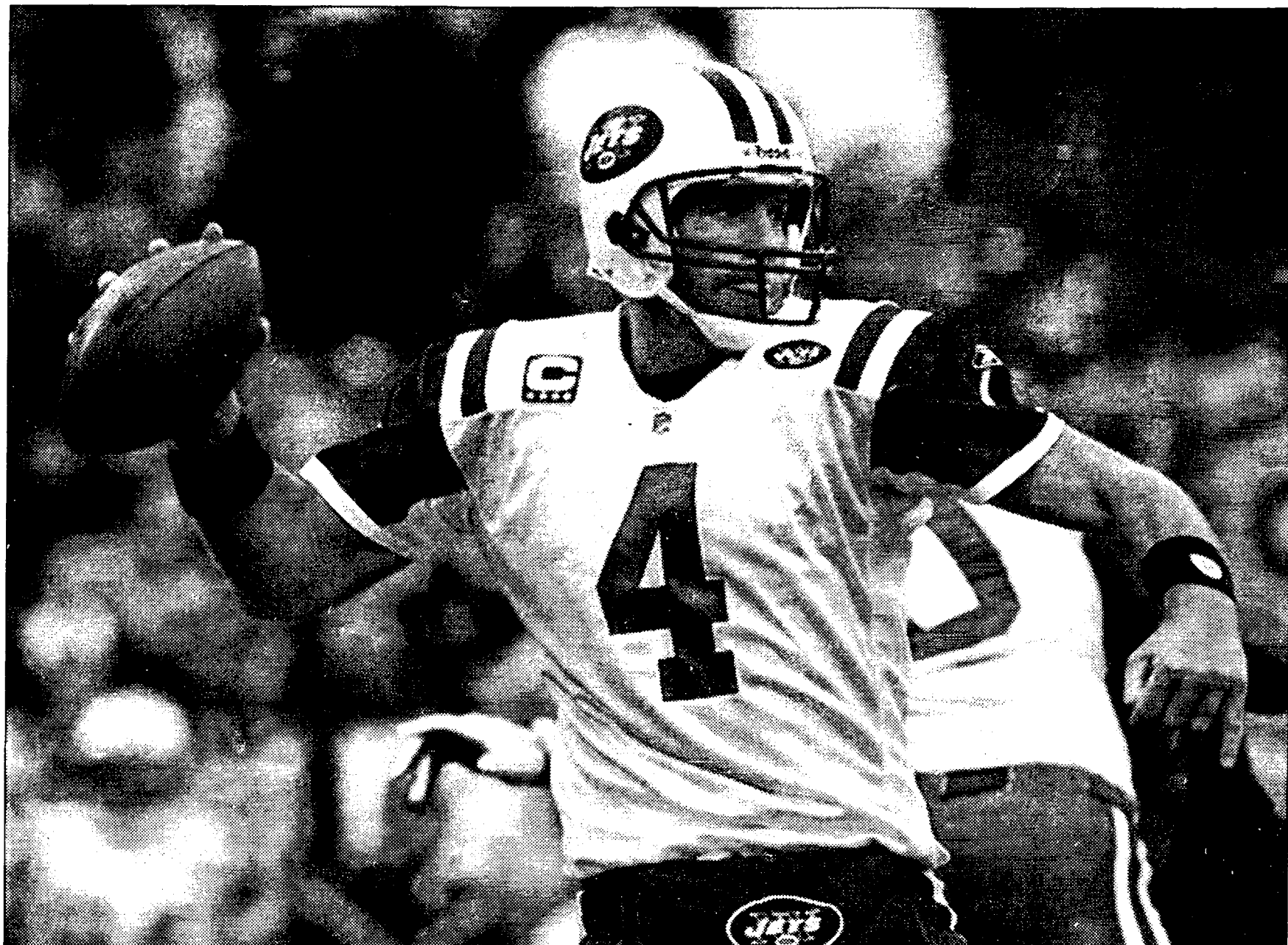
Men	Record
1 Minnesota	6-0-4
2 Boston University	7-2-0
3 Connecticut College	7-2-3
4 Boston College	6-3-1
5 Northeastern	7-2-2
6 NOTRE DAME	7-3-1
7 Miami (OH)	6-3-3
8 Princeton	5-1-0
9 Michigan	8-4-0
10 Denver	6-4-1

around the dial

NFL

Packers at Saints
8:30 p.m., ESPN

NFL



Jets quarterback Brett Favre drops back to pass in the fourth quarter of New York's 34-13 win over the previously undefeated Tennessee Titans. The loss snapped Tennessee's streak of 13 consecutive regular season wins.

Jets hand Titans loss in blowout

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Brett Favre gave the Tennessee Titans a painful reminder Sunday. He will pick apart the best NFL defenses when given too much time.

Favre threw two touchdown passes, Leon Washington ran for two scores and the New York Jets served notice they will be a factor in the AFC this season by routing the Titans 34-13, ending the perfect start by the NFL's last undefeated team.

The Jets (8-3) came in atop the AFC East after a victory over New England at Foxborough. They have

won five straight for the first time since October 2004 and seven of their last eight. The win also pulled them within two of Tennessee (10-1) with five to play in the race for home-field advantage through the playoffs.

Jets linebacker Bryan Thomas called it a statement to the rest of the NFL.

"Now people are going to start looking at us and say, 'They are a team you have to reckon with,'" Thomas said.

New York coach Eric Mangini said he was proud of his team for playing, and winning, in a challenging environment.

The Titans sold out their 101st consecutive game.

"We've been down here the last three years. It's loud, and it's always been a tough place to play," Mangini said.

The Titans had won 13-straight regular-season games dating to Dec. 16, 2007, in becoming only the 11th team since 1970 to win its first 10 games.

"It was a great run, and we've got to win our next game," Titans coach Jeff Fisher said of playing Detroit on Thursday.

This time, the NFL's stingiest scoring defense that had been allowing 13.1 points per game had no answer for Favre and

the Jets, even with the return of defensive end Kyle Vanden Bosch.

The Jets spread out Tennessee, Favre threw fast and often, and they wore the Titans' defense down by keeping it on the field for more than 40 minutes. New York overcame two turnovers and two sacks in the first half by outgaining Tennessee on offense 409-281.

"We really didn't have an answer for it today," Vanden Bosch said. "Favre had a really good game. Give him credit. We knew what to expect from him. He's a great player, and he beat us today."

IN BRIEF

San Diego State fires coach Long after 10-loss season

SAN DIEGO — Chuck Long spent the last 4 weeks presumably thinking his job as San Diego State's football coach was safe through next season.

His bosses, president Stephen Weber and athletic director Jeff Schemmel, spent the last two weeks working behind Long's back to raise just more than \$1 million in private money to help buy out the remaining two years of his contract.

Once the money was secured, Long was gone. The school announced Sunday that Long was fired; the coach was informed of the move by athletic director Jeff Schemmel on Saturday morning, several hours before the Aztecs' surprising 42-21 win over UNLV. San Diego State finished 2-10, the school's first 10-loss season.

Hired in December 2005 with no previous head coaching experience, Long was 9-27 in three seasons.

Montgomery admits doping before Sydney Olympics

NEW YORK — Disgraced former world record holder Tim Montgomery said he took testosterone and human growth hormone before the Sydney Olympics, and does not deserve the gold medal he won in the 400-meter relay.

The admission was made during an interview scheduled to air Tuesday night on HBO's "Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel."

Montgomery never tested positive for drugs, but he was banned from track for two years and his world record in the 100 was erased after he was linked to the BALCO investigation. He retired after the ban was imposed in 2005.

The International Olympic Committee has taken a tough stance toward doping, stripping entire relay teams of their results and medals if even one member is found to have cheated. The U.S. men's team that won the 1,600 relay in Sydney had to give up its medals after Antonio Pettigrew admitted doping.

Paterno undergoes successful hip replacement

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — Penn State coach Joe Paterno had successful hip replacement surgery Sunday, a day after the Nittany Lions clinched the Big Ten title and a trip to the Rose Bowl.

The 81-year-old coach was expected to get back on his feet Monday following the procedure at Mount Nittany Medical Center, the team said in a statement. Dr. Wayne Sebastianelli, the school's director of athletic medicine, led the surgical team.

Paterno is expected to resume coaching on Dec. 1, when players return to school following Thanksgiving break.

He said Saturday after the 49-18 win over Michigan State that he planned to return in 2009. It was the Hall of Famer's 383rd career win, most among major college coaches.

Paterno suffered his injury while demonstrating an onside kick two days before the season opener on Aug. 30 against Coastal Carolina.

NFL

Owens leads Dallas to victory

Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — With Tony Romo scrambling, Terrell Owens kept chugging down the sideline. Once the pass went up, Owens went to work.

He caught the ball and turned upfield, getting pushed out of bounds after a 52-yard gain. Then he kept going, drawing more attention. With all eyes and TV cameras on him, Owens stretched his arms out to form a T, then curled them over his head to form an O.

Yes, T.O. is back.

And the Dallas Cowboys might be hitting their stride, too.

Bottled up all season, and his frustration starting to show, Owens broke out with seven catches for 213 yards and the Dallas defense played great when it had to, helping the Cowboys beat the San Francisco 49ers 35-22 Sunday.

"They unleashed me today," Owens said, smiling.

Dallas (7-4) has won consecutive games for the first time since starting 3-0. With sputtering Seattle coming to Texas Stadium on Thursday, the Cowboys could distance themselves even more from their recent 2-4 rut and could go steaming into December in prime position for a wild-card playoff berth.

Thanks to this game, they also shouldn't have to worry about an uproar from Owens.

T.O. had the second-most yards of his career, behind only the 283 he had for San Francisco when he caught an NFL-record 20 passes in 2000. It was the fourth-most in Cowboys history, the best in the NFL since Philadelphia's Kevin Curtis had 221 in September 2007 and tops by a Dallas player since Tony Hill had 213 against the Eagles in 1979.

"He's still got it," quarterback Tony Romo said. "He's a fantastic player."

To appreciate the significance of Owens' big day, consider the background: 13 games without cracking 100 yards, nothing more than 89 all season and 38 or fewer the past five games. Earlier this week, he told the NFL Network's Deion Sanders, "It's not that I can't play, it's the system in which I'm in."

Things were still out of synch at the start, with Romo's first three passes to Owens falling



Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo drops back to pass in the third quarter of Dallas' 35-22 win over San Francisco.

incomplete. One of them even hit Owens because he didn't turn to look for it quick enough.

Then, early in the second quarter, he caught a deep pass between two defenders and bullied past them for a 75-yard touchdown, erasing a 6-0 deficit. His next catch went for 45 yards. Add in the 52-yarder and three of his five longest catches this season came in this game.

"I've been telling you guys all along, it's not anything wrong with me," said Owens, a few weeks shy of turning 35. "Performance-wise, I can play. ... It showed."

Everyone had a different theory about what unleashed Owens.

Owens said there were some new wrinkles in the game plan and credited the offensive line with giving Romo more time. Romo said it was the 49ers giving Owens more room to roam, mainly by having cornerback Nate Clements play several yards off the line of scrimmage instead of jamming him during the first 5 yards.

"Nate can cover T.O.; he did not today," interim 49ers coach Mike Singletary said. "I'm not going to say that T.O. is the greatest wide receiver in the world. I think he does a heck of a job. When you're not playing smart that's going to happen. But I'm not going to say Nate can't

cover him."

San Francisco (3-8) was looking to build off its first win under Singletary. The 49ers certainly had their chances early, but the Dallas defense refused to buckle.

San Francisco missed a 53-yard field goal on its opening drive, then reached first-and-goal from the 4 on its next two drives — yet managed only a pair of field goals. That 6-0 lead shriveled into a 29-6 deficit early in the third quarter. The 49ers trailed 32-9, getting only a field goal out of two more drives inside the Dallas 20, before finally getting into the end zone.

Shaun Hill was 21-of-33 for 303 yards, but also was sacked four times, including consecutive plays inside the 20 in the first quarter. He threw a pair of late TD passes, to Isaac Bruce and DeShaun Foster.

The Cowboys also limited Frank Gore to 26 yards on 14 carries and one catch for six yards.

Romo was 23-of-39 for 341 yards and three touchdowns in his second game playing with a splint protecting a broken pinkie on his passing hand. He probably will need the protection for another game.

"I don't know if I could aggressively make the throws I made today without the splint on it," Romo said. "It was still painful when I tried this week."

NCAA FOOTBALL

Longhorns jump to second in BCS

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The initial news from the BCS standings looked good for Texas. The long-range forecast, however, favors Oklahoma.

The Longhorns stayed ahead of the Sooners on Sunday — but not by much — and moved into the coveted second spot in the standings, thanks to a better computer rating.

The Sooners surged in the standings on the strength of a 65-21 victory against Texas Tech, which dropped to seventh place.

"This was a good week for Oklahoma," said Jerry Palm, an independent BCS analyst and blogger, in a telephone interview. "It wasn't really to be expected that they'd catch Texas this week."

Alabama remained on top of the standings, a comfortable No. 1 in both the USA Today coaches' poll and Harris poll, and best according to the computers. The Crimson Tide are two wins away from playing for their first national title since 1992. The Tide plays Auburn on Saturday and Florida in the Southeastern Conference title game.

Texas is close behind Oklahoma in both polls, but has the second-best computer rating. The Longhorns' BCS average is .9209 out of a possible 1.000.

Oklahoma is at .9125. But the Sooners have a road game against Oklahoma State (9-2) on Saturday that — if they win — should boost their computer score and likely sway a few more voters their way.

Texas plays Texas A&M (4-7) on Thanksgiving, a game that will weigh down the Longhorns' strength of schedule — a vital part of the computer ratings — and won't give voters much reason to move them up.

"I don't think this week was good news for Texas," Palm said of Sunday's standings. "Oklahoma can only get better in all three parts of the formula and Texas can't."

"I would expect if Oklahoma wins next week they'd finish ahead of Texas."

That's important because the Big 12 South division title will be decided by the BCS standings if

Texas, Texas Tech and Oklahoma finish in a three-way tie.

"We're happy to see that we're still in the BCS conversation," Texas coach Mack Brown said. "We talked to the team briefly about that after practice today, like we do every Sunday, but after that, we decided with the kids and everyone in the program that we need to turn all of our attention to Texas A&M. None of it matters if we're not ready for the Aggies so after our discussion today, there will be no more talking about the BCS until after the game."

Florida (.8755) is in fourth, but the Gators still control their own destiny, too. If Florida wins at Florida State on Saturday and beats 'Bama for the SEC title, Tim Tebow and the Gators will be back in the national championship game for the second time in three seasons.

Southern California (.7974) is in fifth place, but with one less team to jump after the Red Raiders were handed their first loss of the season.

Utah was in sixth, but the Utes are just waiting to find out what BCS game they'll play in.

Utah finished its perfect regular season with a 48-24 victory against BYU on Saturday that gave the Utes the Mountain West Conference championship.

Teams from the MWC and four other conferences without an automatic bid to the BCS earn a guaranteed spot in the four big-money bowl games by finishing in the top 12 of the final BCS standings. Utah is safe.

That means Boise State, which is in ninth place, is probably out of the BCS mix, even if the Broncos remain undefeated. Boise State would be eligible for an at-large bid, but that isn't likely.

Eighth-place Penn State locked up the Big Ten's BCS spot and is likely heading to the Rose Bowl.

Oregon State, in 17th place, could be next to earn a BCS bid, taking the Pac-10's automatic spot in the Rose Bowl if it beats Oregon on Saturday.

Sixteenth-place Cincinnati is also a win away from locking up a BCS bid and its first Big East title. The Bearcats face Syracuse at home on Saturday.

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CFL

Stampeders win Grey Cup

Associated Press

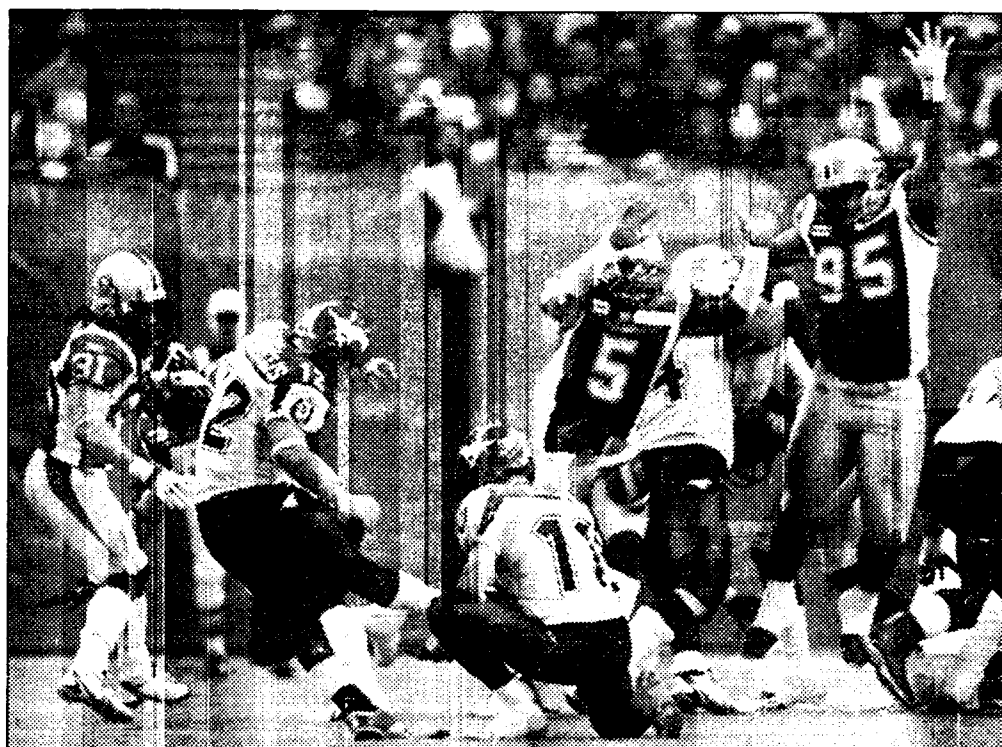
MONTREAL — Sandro DeAngelis led Calgary to its sixth Grey Cup championship Sunday night, kicking five field goals in the Stampeders' 22-14 victory over the Montreal Alouettes in the Canadian Football League title game.

DeAngelis gave Calgary a 16-14 lead with a 21-yarder on the last play of the third quarter. He connected from 30 yards early in the fourth and completed the scoring with a 50-yarder with 4:12 left.

"This is one of the greatest days of my life," DeAngelis said. "We are immortal. ... I'm very proud to be a member of this Calgary Stampeders organization. This has been a dream for me since I was a little kid."

Game MVP Henry Burris threw a 20-yard touchdown pass to Brett Ralph late in the first half to cut Montreal's lead to 13-10. Burris completed his first 11 passes and finished 28-of-37 for 328 yards. He also ran for 79 yards.

"I'm trying to hold back tears right now," Burris said. "Just the thought of being a champion — wow. To win in such a tough circumstance, on the road and in the Grey Cup against a team that was playing at home in front of a million people at Olympic



Calgary Stampeders' Sandro DeAngelis kicks a field goal during the third quarter of the CFL Grey Cup championship game.

Stadium — it's huge. But it shows the character of this team."

Avon Cobourne had a 16-yard scoring run for Montreal, and Damon Duval made two field goals and a single.

"We all know this will take a few days for us to get over," Montreal coach Marc Trestman said. "We've spent a lot of time together the last six months. We can't let the last three hours define our team."

A crowd of 66,308 attended the game at Olympic Stadium. The Stampeders also won their last previous title at

Olympic Stadium, beating Winnipeg in 2001. Montreal lost for the fifth time in six Grey Cup appearances since 2000.

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity and we just let it slip through our hands," Montreal quarterback Anthony Calvillo said. "This is what you thrive for, to compete, to get a chance to play in this game and of course to win it and the record is not good on our side, and it's never fun losing your chance. It's going to make it a long offseason and it's not going to be fun."

NFL

McNabb replaced in Eagles loss to Ravens

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Pulled at half-time after a second straight dreadful performance, a perfectly healthy Donovan McNabb was asked the last time he left a game under similar circumstances.

"Never," he replied, shaking his head. "Never."

While Kevin Kolb ran the Philadelphia offense, McNabb watched stoically from the sideline as the Baltimore Ravens beat the Eagles 36-7 on Sunday, presenting first-year coach John Harbaugh with a lopsided victory over the team he served as an assistant for 10 years.

McNabb was 8-for-18 for 59 yards with two interceptions and a fumble in the first half — a miserable 13.2 quarterback rating. One week earlier, he threw three interceptions and lost a fumble in an overtime tie with Cincinnati.

Seven turnovers in seven quarters was evidently enough for Philadelphia coach Andy Reid, who benched McNabb and turned to Kolb, a second-round pick who had attempted nine throws in two seasons before Sunday.

"I thought it might be a little bit of a spark, and we might be able to get some things going," said Reid, who had quarterbacks coach Pat Shurmur tell McNabb of the decision.

"My first (reaction) was, 'Wow.' But you go along with it," McNabb said. "I am upset about us losing the game, and I'm upset that I wasn't able to contribute. But I am going to focus on trying to help this team get better by eliminating mistakes and turnovers."

Kolb failed to cure the ailing Eagles (5-5-1), going 10-for-23 for 73 yards and two interceptions — a 15.3 rating. One of his interceptions was returned an NFL-record 108 yards for a touchdown by Ed Reed.

"Obviously, it didn't go good and I'm not going to pretend that it did," Kolb said.

Reid said he would decide Monday whether to start McNabb or Kolb in Thursday's home game against Arizona.

"That will be a decision he will make. The thing I will do is I will continue to prepare as if I am the starter," McNabb said. "I've been a part of this thing for 10 years. You have to have short-term memory in this league, be able to focus on who you're playing and be able to move on."

Philadelphia's lone touchdown came on a 100-yard kickoff return by Quintin Demps in the first half.

Baltimore (7-4) went up 12-7 in the third quarter when Jameel McClain blocked a punt by Sav Rocca and the ball bounced out of the end zone.

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ND MEN'S BASKETBALL

ND hangs on to win in L.A.

Harangody scores 27 to lead team to win

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

It's probably a good thing No. 8 Notre Dame had a warm-up test before the Maui Invitational. Playing on stiff legs after their flight to Los Angeles was delayed for seven hours by bad weather, the Irish did just enough to beat Loyola Marymount '65-54 in the Lions home opener Friday.

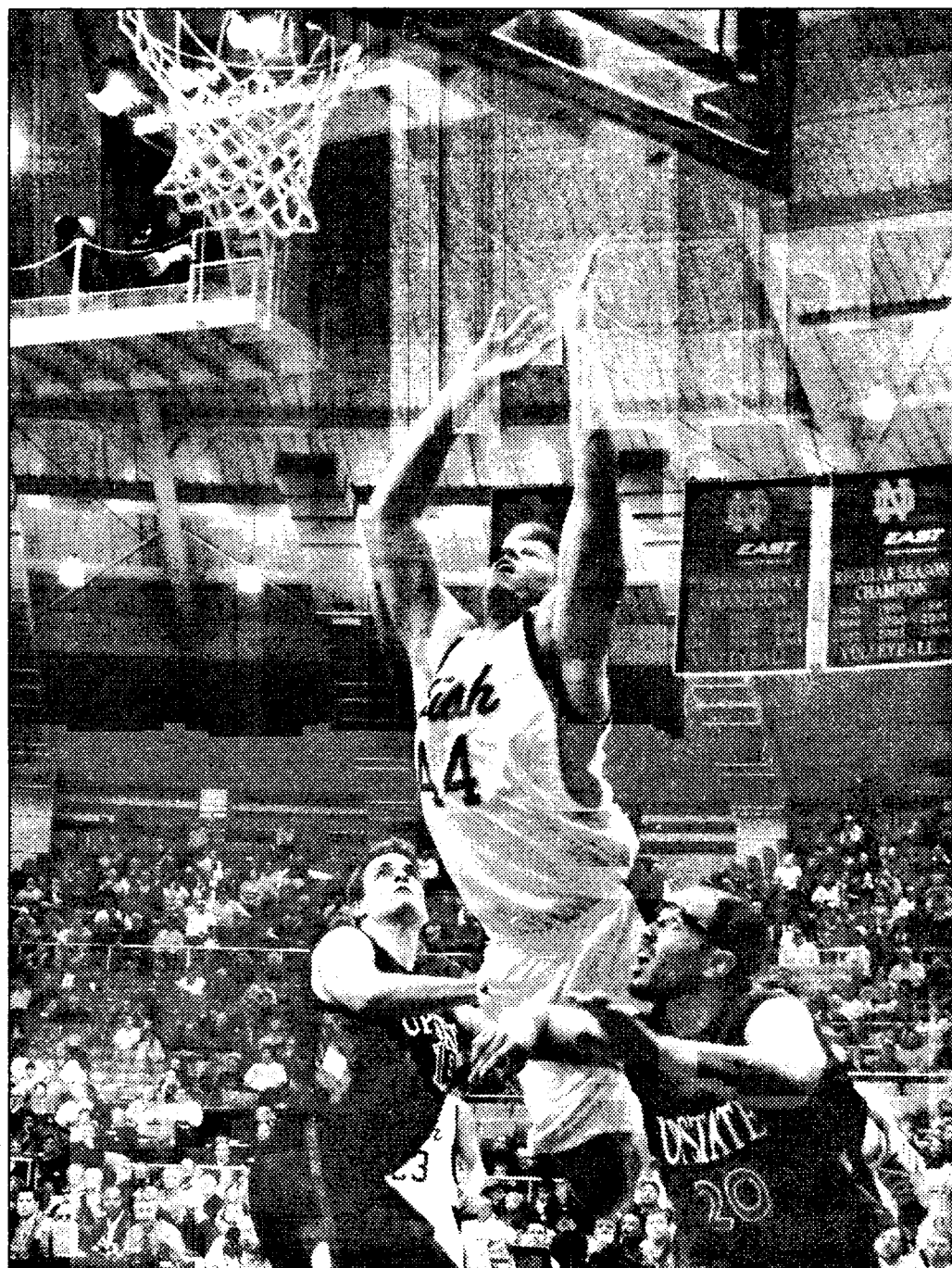
Loyola used streaky shooting to keep the game close all night, and when Corey Counts hit his second straight three pointer with seven minutes remaining, Notre Dame's lead was down to three points.

After that, the Irish combo of Luke Harangody and Torny Jackson made sure it wouldn't get any closer. The two players combined for 12 of Notre Dame's final 15 points helping Notre Dame pull away in the final minutes.

Harangody recorded his standard double-double and then some, finishing with 27 points and 17 rebounds on the evening. Jackson chipped in with 16 points, seven rebounds and four steals.

"Those two guys were men when we needed men," Notre Dame coach Mike Brey said. "We were fortunate to win the game. When you play on the road, you're happy to get it. I never thought it was going to be easy here. You knew you were going to have game pressure."

Loyola Marymount managed to keep the game close living behind the three-point line all night. Although the Lions only shot 33 percent for the game,



Irish junior Luke Harangody skies to the hoop during Notre Dame's 94-58 win over USC Upstate on Nov. 16 at the JACC.

they shot 44 percent from behind the three-point line. The Irish, meanwhile, shot unusually poorly from behind the arc making only 27 percent of their attempts. Kyle McAlarney missed all four of his attempts on the evening.

With the win, Notre Dame handed Loyola Marymount their 30th consecutive loss to a ranked opponent. The Lions last

victory over a top-25 team came in 1990 when they defeated No. 23 Alabama in the third round of the NCAA Tournament.

The Irish now head to Hawaii for the Maui Invitational where they will take on Indiana in the first round. The game will be televised on ESPN2 at 5:30 p.m.

Contact Greg Arbogast at garbogast@nd.edu

McGlinn

continued from page 20

captain and quarterback Sarah deGroot said. "We completely dominated the second half both offensively and defensively."

The second half was dictated by McGlinn's passing game, as deGroot threw for three touchdowns. The passes were spread around to several receivers as Lauren Miller, Casey Robertson, and Kathleen Stanley all caught touchdown passes.

"This was our chance to quell everyone's doubts," linebacker Maddie Boyer said. "Not many people thought we would have a chance in this game, since Welsh Fam was undefeated coming into the game."

Upsetting Welsh Fam was a big accomplishment for the Shamrocks, but the surprising win was no fluke. McGlinn knows that they earned that win through their dedication in practice.

"We put in a lot of practice time, and worked for this victory," defensive lineman Jill Stinchcomb

said.

"We've set the bar for future McGlinn teams," de Groot said.

Welsh Fam, on the other hand, is certainly disappointed in the loss.

"We had a 12-0 lead going into the second half but really just didn't play well on either side of the ball in the second half," Welsh Fam captain Jenni Gargula said.

"We made mistakes we don't normally make."

It was a disappointing loss for Welsh Fam as McGlinn spoiled their undefeated season, but, although they are discouraged, Welsh Fam is proud

of their season and the tremendous success that their team has had in the past few years.

"Obviously the loss is disappointing because we had control of the game and let it slip away," Gargula said. "I think the hardest part is that we

all wanted to win for someone else on the team more than we wanted to win it for ourselves.

It's tough when you feel like you've let your team down. Overall, though we had a great season and played as a team

all year. As for the seniors, while it would have been nice to go out on a high note, we've had four extremely successful years, so we can't be too upset."

Welsh Fam has been the most successful women's interhall team over the past several years, making the playoffs every year for the past four years. Their success will likely continue in upcoming seasons and they hope to have another shot at the championship next year.

This year, however, the championship belongs to McGlinn, and they are enjoying every moment of it. They believe that their positive attitude throughout the season boosted their play.

"At the end of the day the most important thing for us was to have fun," deGroot said. "We never let the pressure get to us. Enjoying ourselves helped us relax and allowed us to play better."

Contact Ryan O'Connell at roconn3@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish soar past Eagles for blowout victory

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Managing Editor

Coming off a 96-61 blowout of Evansville Wednesday night, Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw said there were a number of things her team needed to work on before they played Boston College Sunday.

The team fixed those problems in a big way in Chestnut Hill, Mass. beating the Eagles 102-54 — the largest margin of victory in the 17-game series between the two schools.

But even with the 48-point win, McGraw still said she saw some room for improvement.

"I think we can do a lot of things better. Are we ever going to shoot the ball like that again? I don't know. I'm just so happy with the defense because that is what we can control. We rebounded well, defended well. I think it just gives us confidence in our defense," she said in a telephone interview with The Observer.

The Eagles with Notre Dame early in the game, and kept the Irish lead to within single digits for the most of the first 10 minutes of the game. But the Irish exploded to finish out the half, sending Boston College into the locker room down 24.

But the Irish did not sit on the lead, increasing their second half lead by leaps and bounds.

"We were up 24 at halftime and we talked about it was 0-0, let's go out and start over, and we got up 24 again. So we were very consistent from half to half," McGraw said.

Perhaps the biggest reason for the Irish win was the play of their defense, which limited Boston College to 42.4 percent shooting from the floor and forced 28 turnovers. McGraw said she was especially proud of her team's defensive effort when compared to the Evansville game Wednesday night.

"They want to improve, we've got a great commitment at the defensive end today, which I didn't think we really had against Evansville. I think they came out and played harder on defense," she said.

On the other end of the court, the Irish had too many scorers to have a standout player on the stat sheet, with six players in double figures. Forward Becca Bruszewski led the team by tying her career-high with 18 points, followed by forward Erica Solomon with 15 and guards

Brittany Mallory with 14 and Lindsay Schrader with 13 points. Center Erica Williamson and guard Ashley Barlow each chipped in 10 points in the win.

"Offensively, things just flowed so well. We were incredibly unselfish tonight. We made so many great passes, found each other. It was great team chemistry on the floor tonight," McGraw said.

The Irish also had a solid performance from 3-point land, going 7-of-8 from beyond the arc.

"That's really important to continue to shoot the ball well from [3-point range] because it really opens things up for the inside game. We were able to bring the defense out, then we were able to go inside a little bit more. So it worked well for everybody," she said.

Going into the matchup with Boston College, McGraw said she wanted to see how center Erica Williamson could handle post defense against 6-foot-6 Eagles center Carolyn Swords, who averaged a double-double going into the game. Williamson and Solomon combined to limit Swords to 16 points and seven boards. As a team, the Irish outscored Boston College 54-32 in the paint.

"I thought Erica Williamson did a nice job on [Swords], so did Erica Solomon. They both played well on her. We tried to really pressure the passer and not let them get inside, and when she got it, she was pretty efficient with it," McGraw said.

The other point of emphasis for this game was rebounding, McGraw said, and it was another facet the Irish excelled at. Notre Dame managed to rebound the Eagles 36-22 Sunday.

"That was very important after the performance we had the other night. That was definitely one thing we were keying on in practice and working on quite a bit. Worked on the boxed out and I was really pleased with the effort," McGraw said.

But even after two blowout wins, McGraw is still not satisfied.

"We want to add some things. We want to keep adding some things to the offense, we want to add some defensive looks. We certainly don't want to stay where we are, we want to keep improving," she said.

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"I think we can do a lot of things better."

Muffet McGraw
Irish coach

"Offensively, things just flowed so well. We were incredibly unselfish tonight."

Muffet McGraw
Irish coach

Ramblers

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elected to attempt the two-point conversion, which would give them a one-point lead. But the Rambler offense stepped up as it has all season, batting down an intended pass for senior receiver Jim Zenker.

"It was a risky decision, but we thought we could get it," Keenan captain Barton Dear said. "There's no guarantee we would have executed a good snap, hold, and kick for the PAT. It's disappointing, but I'm still proud of these guys."

The Ramblers established themselves from the first whistle, forcing Keenan to go three-and-out on the first drive of the game. Siegfried proceeded to block the punt, giving the offense excellent field position well within Keenan territory.

Senior quarterback Max Young and the Rambler offense wasted little time putting points on the scoreboard.

Resilient running back Dex Cure powered through the holes for an 18-yard run on the second play of the drive. Rolling out of

the pocket, Young found receiver Gary Burke in the back of the end zone for a 5-yard touchdown pass. The PAT made the score 7-0 at the end of the first quarter.

The Knights were poised to score on the subsequent drive when quarterback Terry Mahoney completed multiple passes to his receivers for large gains. But the Siegfried defensive line simply overpowered Keenan in the trenches. Led by senior Jamie Silverson and sophomores Pat Kelly and Chris Skubis, the Ramblers sacked Mahoney twice and forced a fumble that was recovered by Skubis.

"They're a big bunch of guys, bigger than any other team's line," Siegfried head coach P.J. Zimmer said. "They start off slow, but once they get going they thrive off hitting the quarterback."

Nevertheless, Keenan refused to finish the first half with zero points on the board.

After forcing a Siegfried three-and-out, the Knights scored on the first play of the drive when Mahoney hit Zenker with a 6-yard pass. The elusive receiver proceeded to sprint 65 yards downfield, weaving between defenders and breaking no less

than six Siegfried tackles on his way to the end zone.

"Zenker had a great game for us," Dear said. "He's been a playmaker all year, today was no different."

Entering halftime with a 7-7 tie, Keenan seemed to have all the momentum.

But in the second half the Rambler defense showed the fans in attendance why Siegfried is undefeated and untied. Cornerback Gary Burke intercepted a Mahoney pass, who was hit by the Siegfried defensive line as he was throwing.

Gary returned the ball down to the Keenan 17-yard line, giving the Ramblers excellent field position.

The offense took care of the rest, as three different players carried the ball on the ground. Senior Marcus Young displayed great vision and agility as he skirted past Keenan defenders and ran the ball into the end zone. After the extra point, the Ramblers led Keenan 14-7.

Coach Zimmer said his team was playing signature Siegfried football.

"All season long we've grinded out victories," Zimmer said. "This is a senior-laden team that's downright gritty at times. When we can run the football, we have success."

The Rambler defense continued to pressure Mahoney, who rushed another throw that was intercepted by senior Vince Andrews. Andrews returned the ball to the Keenan 29-yard line.

The Ramblers were unable to score another touchdown, however, as Dear and the Knight defense recovered a fumble late in the third quarter.

With time running out, Mahoney led the Knights down the field as they tried to launch a historic comeback for the Interhall title. The balanced Knight offense converted consecutive first downs, as running back Andres Villalba fought for yards on the ground. On the

ninth play of the drive, Mahoney hit Zenker for a 25-yard pass, who eluded multiple tackles en route to the end zone.

The Knights failed on the ensuing two-point attempt, and all but sealed their fate. Zimmer, though, applauded his opponent's decision.

"Hats off to them," he said. "We would have made the same call in that situation."

The running back duo of Cure and Young effectively ran down the clock, as Siegfried held on to win the Interhall Championship and take its place as one of the most successful teams in interhall history.

For the Keenan seniors, Sunday's loss is a bitter pill to swallow. This is the third year the senior Knights have lost in the Stadium in their standout careers.

"It feels terrible losing all three years, but it's an honor playing in the Stadium where so many greats have played," Zenker said. "Playing my last football game in the Stadium is the greatest experience ever. I'll never forget my interhall career."

Contact Chris Masoud at cmasoud@nd.edu

Hanks

continued from page 20

The snow and ice covered field kept the Irish from spreading the Gopher's formation and finding holes. With at least eight players obstructing the Irish offense, Notre Dame had to send players on runs into the box. Hanks sent Rose Augustin into the box half way through the first half, but the Minnesota's defense cleared her shot. The ball rebounded back to Augustin, who's second shot narrowly missed the net — one of many close calls for the Irish.

"I thought we were just a couple of times a pass away or just a step away from getting that look that we really needed to get the earlier goal," Irish coach Randy Waldrum said.

And a large part of that was in the Gopher's Big Ten style of play — a far more physical game than the Irish had seen all season until taking on Michigan State last week.

"I think sometimes it can take you out a little bit, the Big Ten, that conference is kind of known for that, more of a physical style of play and not so much a finesse and a skill set," Waldrum said. "So I think you saw a Minnesota team that's

played in that conference and that's what they're used to doing ... I think our kids can get physical with anybody if they want to, I think they can handle it well."

The second half brought the Irish a chance to adjust their style of play. Just two minutes into the second half, Hanks and Augustin paired up again. Augustin drilled a shot at Dare, forcing the rebound back to Hanks. Hanks curled a shot just over the Gopher's crossbar, and the score remained tied at zero. Despite failing to post a score, the Irish remained relentless in their offensive game.

"I thought we really started to dominate the game in the second half, I thought we were the better team in both halves, but I think they had some good opportunities in some of the play in the first half, but I thought the second half we really came out with a purpose," Waldrum said.

Waldrum also noted the field, which had been cleared of the snow that had fallen earlier Friday and Thursday, acted as an equalizer for the two teams. The Irish even feared that the field conditions might end their tournament run.

"We were just worried all along that they'd catch us on a counter, some kind of a counter, that we'd be attacking and turn a ball over in a bad spot or somebody would slip and fall on the field and miss something and so you're hoping that you don't give a mistake," Waldrum said. "I never felt like they were

gunna score one in the run of play, but I felt like these are the kind of games that a mistake can happen."

But even an icy field couldn't break the Irish concentration, and yet again they found a way to win.

Notre Dame remained calm even as the final seconds of regulation time ticked off the clock. And in the five minutes before the start of overtime, Waldrum said the players did most of the talking, confident they could step off the field with a win.

When Hanks stepped up to take her penalty kick, Waldrum wasn't even looking — mainly out of superstition. Like she had 12 times previously this season, Hanks had the keeper going in the opposite direction of her shot, but this time, it came with a spot in the quarterfinals.

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JESS LEE/The Observer

Sophomore forward Rose Augustin misses high during a 1-0 Notre Dame win over Minnesota to qualify for the Elite Eight.

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Big East

continued from page 20

third set. The Irish hit at a .419 clip as they took the set in convincing fashion, 25-15.

The Irish hoped that the momentum they had built up would carry over into the fourth set, but it was not to be. The Irish played catch-up throughout the set, getting as close as one point at 23-22, but the Cardinals were able to finish the Irish off and claim the Big East's automatic berth in the NCAA tournament.

The loss ended the Irish's title run and hopes of making the NCAA tournament. The Irish still have one more match against Xavier coming up, but the team has a bright outlook for next season with

many returning players.

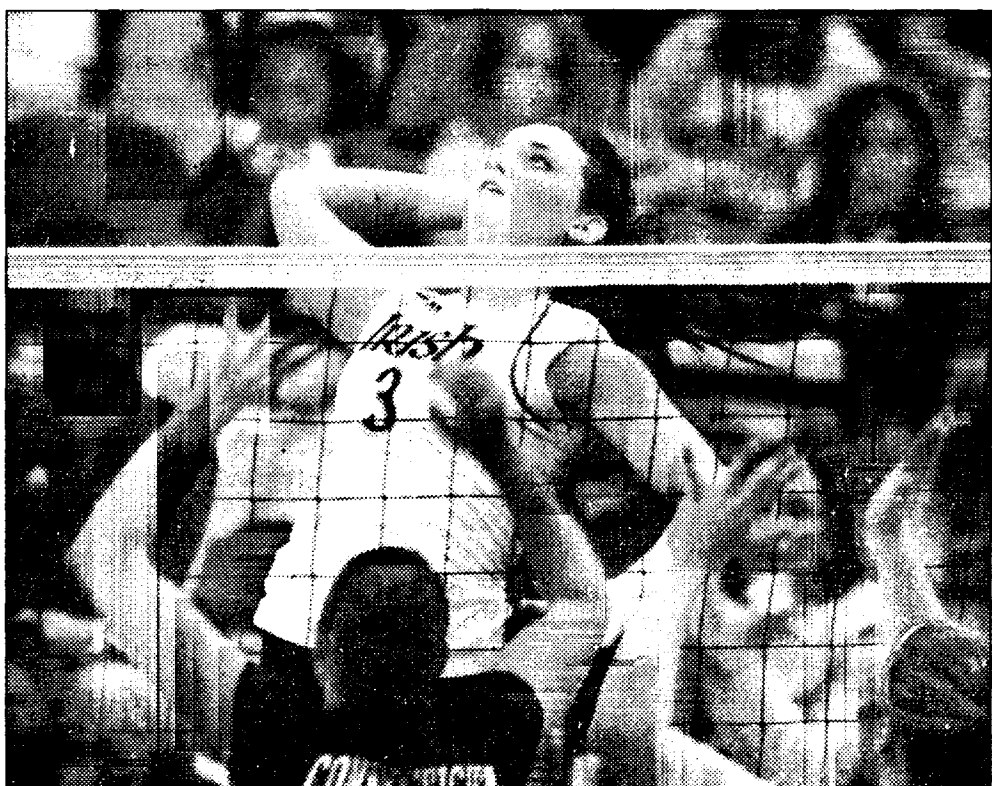
The Irish came on at the end of the season both offensively and defensively to build momentum going into the Big East Championships.

Fifth-seeded Notre Dame swept an impressive Connecticut team to open the tournament before knocking off the No. 1 seed St. John's in convincing 3-1 fashion. These victories showed what the team is capable of when they are at their best.

Stremick and Dealy both earned all-tournament honors for their impressive efforts on the unlikely run.

Coaches and players were unable to commit following Sunday's game because they were returning to campus.

Contact Jared Jedick at jjedick@nd.edu



Irish junior Christina Kaelin goes up for a spike during Notre Dame's 3-2 win over Connecticut on Nov. 16 at the JACC.

ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Falcons

continued from page 20

said. "I think our depth has helped us be successful with that because right now I can trust pretty much anybody on the ice in those situations."

The Irish added another goal at 17:49, when junior Christiaan Minella hammered a Hanson rebound past Spratt.

"The puck was bouncing around and I could see out of the corner of my eye Spratt coming over so I knew I had to either tuck it in the post or bank it off his leg," Minella said. "It kind of hung up there but then it trickled in."

Hanson notched his second goal with less than a second left in the period. After breaking his stick, Hanson went back to the bench and picked up a stick from teammate Teddy Ruth, who plays with a heavier stick than Hanson. Skating into the offensive zone, Hanson was blocked twice at the top of the left circle, Hanson took a third swipe at the puck and this time slammed it past Spratt.

"I looked up and saw there was about five seconds left, so I tried to just get a shot on goal," Hanson said. "The first one got blocked, but I think the momentum from the 10-pound Ted Ruth stick continued and I got a second and third whack at it."

Jackson praised Hanson after the game, and said he was proud of the way the senior has worked and improved since his freshman year.

"I used to tell him, 'Kevin Deeth's 5'8" and he plays with all kinds of jam, imagine what you could do if you were playing with

that same level of intensity,' and he does that now," Jackson said. "He's a much more effective player."

Jackson also said he was pleased with his team's physicality and aggressive play against the Falcons.

"We have to always remember that you always have to get a little gritty around the net if you're going to score goals," he said. Most goals aren't pretty."

Saturday night the Irish continued their offensive explosion by putting up nine goals – six in the final period – to finish the weekend sweep of the Falcons with a 9-1 win.

Notre Dame scored six of its goals on the powerplay and added another one short-handed in what quickly became a very physical game. Bowling Green collected a total of 46 penalty minutes on the night, leaving them shorthanded for more than two periods of the game.

Sophomore forward Calle Ridderwall continued his recent

hot streak to lead the Irish with a pair of goals and a pair of assists. Ridderwall has now picked up a point in five straight games, he has a total off 11 points during the stretch. Last week the Swedish sophomore scored a goal in a sudden death shootout to give Notre Dame a win over Lake Superior State.

Ridderwall wasn't alone on Saturday. Six different skaters found the back of the net against Bowling Green and 14 of the 18 players who made the trip

picked up at least a point.

Hanson also had two goals to push his season total to a team-leading eight. Coming in just behind Hanson with seven is Maday. He started the scoring Saturday night with a power-play goal ten minutes into the game.

Ben Ryan, Ryan Guentzel, Erik Condra and White all added goals as well.

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INTERHALL FOOTBALL

Champs!

Knights fall short on two-point conversion

By CHRIS MASOUD
Sports Writer

Keenan gave Siegfried its toughest test of the season, but the Ramblers held on for a 14-13 win to claim the Interhall Championship.

Siegfried's victory in the Stadium capped off a perfect season, who finish undefeated and untied through seven games.

"It's a great feeling," Siegfried senior captain Kevin Kelly said. "Just to be able to play in the Stadium is awesome, but to win a championship in it — that's special."

Trailing 14-7, Keenan scored a touchdown with just over two minutes remaining in the game. In a gutsy decision, the Knights



Left: Siegfried senior Marcus Young is tackled during his team's 14-13 win in the Stadium. Right: Members of the McGlinn team hoist their championship trophy following their win over Welsh Fam.



COLEMAN COLLINS/The Observer

'Rocks hand Welsh Fam first loss of year

By RYAN O'CONNELL
Sports Writer

For the second year in a row, Welsh Family went into the interhall championship game undefeated, and for the second year in a row, the Whirlwinds came away empty-handed.

McGlinn upended the previously unbeaten Welsh Fam 18-12 to claim the championship.

The match began with Welsh Fam controlling nearly every facet of the game, building a 12-0 lead by halftime. Despite the initial deficit, however, the Shamrocks never panicked.

"We started off shaky but weren't worried at halftime because our defense was holding strong and our offense was finding its rhythm," McGlinn

see MCGLINN/page 16

see RAMBLERS/page 17

ND VOLLEYBALL

Irish run comes up just short in Big East Championship

By JARED JEDICK
Sports Writer

The Irish brought some inspired play to the Big East Championships, beating two consecutive higher-seeded opponents in No. 4 Connecticut and No. 1 St. John's before finally falling to No. 3 Louisville in the finals match 1-3 (25-23, 28-26, 25-15, 25-22).

The Irish (16-14) reached the

Big East tournament for the 13th time since joining the Big East in 1995, and Louisville (18-10) won the finals for the second time in the past three years.

Notre Dame kept pace with Louisville throughout most of the match, at times even dominating the Cardinals, and yet they could not sustain the strong play long enough to defeat the Cardinals.

Senior middle blocker Justine

Stremick paced the Irish with 18 kills and four blocks, while junior outside hitter Christina Kaelin and sophomore outside hitter Kellie Sciacca added 12 kills apiece. Freshman outside hitter Kristen Dealy had 11 kills and 11 digs, and sophomore Megan Dunne pitched in with 15 digs and freshman Frenchy Silva had 10 digs. Junior setter Jamel Nicholas had 49 assists.

The first set started off well for the Irish with a quick 9-4

lead. Louisville stormed back, however, tying the set 14-14. The two teams traded points all the way to the wire until Louisville squeaked out the 25-23 victory.

The Irish outplayed Louisville for most of the first set with six more kills in the set, but they suffered from several faults and receiving errors that were very costly.

The poor play continued into the second set as the Cardinals

built an 11-3 lead. Things turned around quickly, however, as the Irish went on a 6-0 run to get back in the game. The Irish took the lead at 14-13. The Irish had set point at 24-23, but could not convert and Louisville took the second set 28-26. Coming out of the break, the Irish were on fire, seeming to take control of the match in the

see BIG EAST/page 18

ND WOMEN'S SOCCER

Golden goal clinches win

By DEIRDRE KRASULA
Assistant Managing Editor

One mistake was all anybody needed — fortunately for the Irish, Minnesota tripped up.

In the sixth minute of overtime senior Kerri Hanks was dragged down from behind in the box. Given the chance to win the game, Hanks buried the penalty kick to knock off Minnesota 1-0 Friday night and secure a spot in the elite eight of the NCAA tournament.

That goal wasn't the only chance Notre Dame had at a win, out shooting the Gophers 26-11 (11-2 on net). But even with that spread, the Irish just couldn't get the early lead. Set in a 3-5-2 formation, Minnesota managed to keep the Irish away from its goal, allowing shots that were mainly directed at goalkeeper Lindsey Dare.



JESS LEE/The Observer

Irish senior Kerri Hanks, left, and Michelle Weissenhofer battle the elements in Notre Dame's 1-0 win over Minnesota.

see HANKS/page 17

ND HOCKEY

Team puts up 14 goals to sweep the Falcons

By SAM WERNER and DAN MURPHY
Sports Writers

The Irish extended their winning streak to eight games, and did so in convincing fashion, beating Bowling Green 5-1 and 9-1 this weekend.

Friday night in the Joyce Center, Notre Dame (8-3-1, 4-2-1-1 CCHA) took advantage of two goals and an assist from senior Christian Hanson and cruised to victory over the Falcons (5-6-2, 4-4-1-0).

Hanson got the Irish on the board first at 16:04 of the first period. With the Irish on the powerplay, Hanson found himself all alone in the low slot and pounded Kevin Deeth's centering pass past Bowling Green goalie Jimmy Spratt to give the Irish a 1-0 lead.

A Justin White goal gave the Irish a 2-0 lead, but the Falcons responded with a short-handed goal of their own to cut the lead to 2-1 and swing the momentum in their favor. The Bowling Green rally was short-lived, though, as freshman Billy Maday gave the Irish a two-goal lead 1:03 later.

"That goal was huge for us," Hanson said. "Especially after giving up a short-handed goal. It's a momentum goal where we gave up the goal and came back to score on the same power play. Coach always talks about getting a momentum goal and that was one that changed things for us."

Notre Dame coach Jeff Jackson also emphasized the importance of responding to Bowling Green's goal.

"Those next few shifts [after a goal] are always crucial," he

see FALCONS/page 18

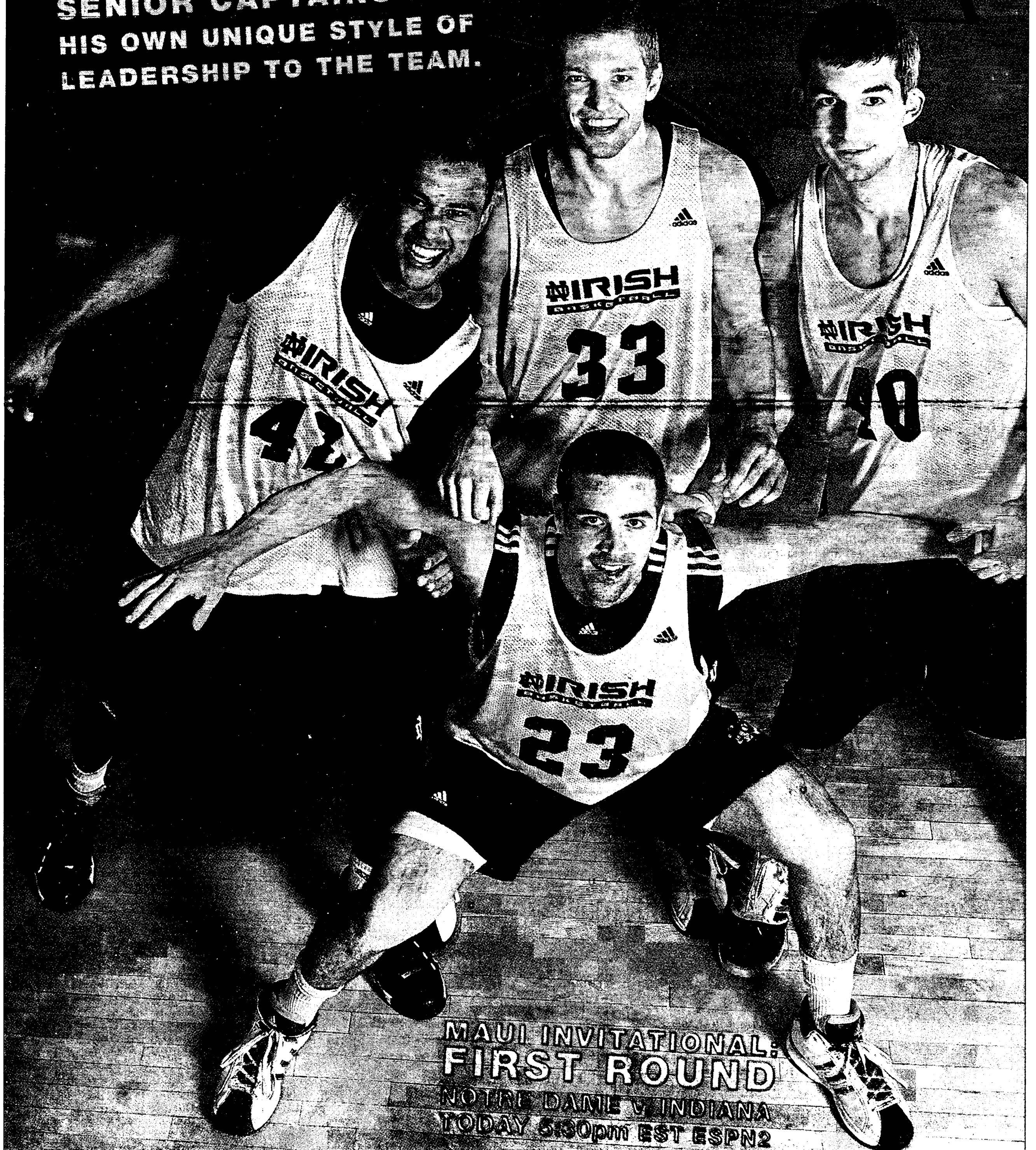
IRISH INSIDER

Monday, November 24, 2008

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Irish schedule is high risk, high reward

Notre Dame coach Mike Brey joked during his media day press conference that he didn't know what he was thinking when he booked such a tough non-conference schedule for the Irish this season.

If you haven't heard by now, Notre Dame will be playing every ranked team in the country and will have to shoot on theme park-style, oval-shaped rims that don't allow you to make any shots.

OK, so that last part may not be true, but that first part is actually not as far away from the truth as you might think. When potential matchups in this week's Maui Invitational are factored in, No. 8/9 Notre Dame might play as many as nine teams currently ranked in the Associated Press top 25 poll, including six top-10 teams and two of those teams twice (No. 2 Connecticut and No. 3 Louisville).

So while the Irish come in with high expectations this season, fans hoping for a duplicate or an improvement over last year's 25-8 record and 14-4 record in the Big East shouldn't get overly excited. It might not happen, even though the Irish are built to compete this year. Brey's right,

the schedule is brutal.

"I said 11-7 and 12-6 in this league I hope means a hell of an NCAA Tournament seed because of what you played against. I think the league champion can have 12 wins," Brey said. "I swear to God, it's just too hard a league."

But that's not necessarily a bad thing. It can actually set Notre Dame up for a deep run in the NCAA Tournament, regardless of their seed.

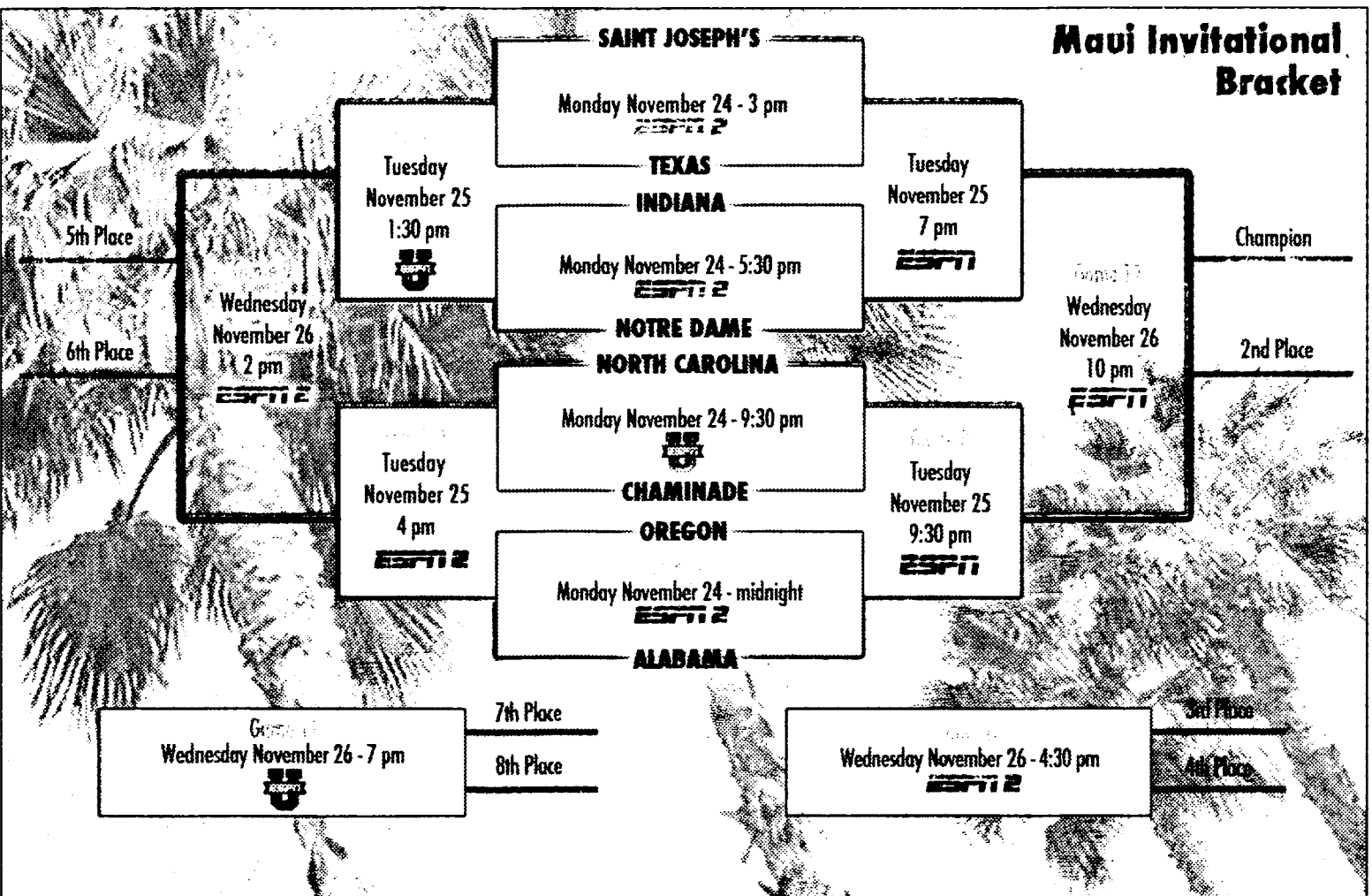
Let me explain.

My father coached high school basketball at the same school, the now defunct Bishop Hoban High School, in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., for over 30 years. For a few years in the mid- to late- 1990s, his teams were classified AA, but the conference schedule was set up so that his teams played AAA, or even AAAAA teams — bigger schools that usually had more talent — on a nightly basis.

Needless to say, their schedule was brutal, and for a few years, his teams finished at .500 or barely above in the regular season. But then the playoffs would roll around, when Hoban was playing AA competition again, schools more on their level, his teams would be ready.

Routinely, they would enter as a low seed in the district playoffs, but run through the top teams in the district to get into the state playoffs.

One year, they entered as the No. 8 seed, the last team to make the playoffs, and ended the season of No. 1 Scranton Prep in the first round of the district playoffs — Scranton Prep



was ranked No. 1 in the state that year in AA.

Hoban wouldn't just stop at districts. They made runs deep into the state playoffs, and while they never won the state title, they were able to regularly get to the quarterfinals and even made a state semifinals appearance before the league was finally realigned. Looking back, my dad said the schedule, while tough at the time, benefited his teams when it really mattered.

So all bragging for my father's coaching abilities aside, the Irish are in a similar situation this season. Their schedule is tough

and they will have their share of bumps and bruises along the way, maybe even some this week in Maui. But come Tournament time, even if Notre Dame is doesn't get a top four seed, as some are predicting, they should still be in good shape to make it into the second weekend of the Tournament.

After that, the Irish will be playing those top-tier teams again and all bets are off, just like all bets were off for dad's teams when they made it into the state playoffs. Only the Tournament will be the time when Notre Dame shows

whether or not it can win a national title. Any conclusion that is reached before then would be premature. Notre Dame might learn and improve more from a couple of tough regular season losses than from wins.

So hang on for a bumpy ride this season, but don't get off before reaching the final destination.

The views in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

Tory Jackson, a kid in a candy store trying to control himself

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

Like a kid in a candy store. That's how Irish coach Mike Brey described point guard Tory Jackson's play during his first two years at Notre Dame. And why not? What point guard wouldn't be excited to play with the likes of Colin

Falls, Russell Carter, Kyle McAlarney and Luke Harangody. The Irish haven't finished 10th and 20th nationally in scoring offense the past two seasons by accident.

Leading an offense blessed with so many weapons has its challenges though. In his first two years, like any kid surrounded by sugary goodness, Jackson found that deciding

between his many options hasn't been the easiest task.

"I think when he was young and had weapons, he said to me 'There's so many options I get confused,' and that was youth speaking," Brey said.

If preseason expectations are any indication, Brey's point guard is now all grown up. Entering his third season running the Irish offense, Jackson has learned what each of his weapons' firepower is, and how to maximize each contributor's potential within such a dynamic offense.

In other words, the candy store is still just as stocked and Jackson still likes to go, but he doesn't lose control upon entering the way he did in the past.

"I think the biggest thing is he's really learned how to use these weapons around him," Brey said. "I think he really knows, this is where McAlarney likes it, I can get it to him in these three spots. He's really learned where to distribute and at what time to get the ball to people."

What gives Brey such opti-

mism that his point guard has turned the corner? After all, Jackson's key offensive stats from his freshman and sophomore year are nearly identical.

"I think when he was young and had weapons, he said to me, 'There's so many options I get confused' and that was youth talking."

Mike Brey
Irish coach

As a freshman, Jackson started 20 games and averaged 3.3 assists-per-game with 1.83 assist-to-turnover ratio. Last year, Jackson assumed a more prominent role as the offense's facilitator averaging 5.8 assists-per-game, but his assist-to-turnover ratio remained a near identical 1.85.

Perhaps Brey's optimism stems from the studying Jackson put in this off-season. Over the summer, Jackson spent his time studying video of two point guards — Steve Nash and Chris Paul — who run their offenses like the way that Jackson hopes to run this year's Irish offense.

"I'm trying to make myself better," Jackson said. "I take some of the good things they're doing and use them in my game. With some of the weaknesses I have, I try and figure out what they're doing to make myself better."

In Nash, Jackson sees a point guard whose decision-making has managed to involve multiple key players in a dynamic offense. Over the past four years, Nash has seamlessly integrated players like Joe Johnson, Amare Stoudemire, Shawn Marion and Shaquille O'Neal into the Suns' seven seconds or less offense. The result has been an offense that has finished the past four seasons in the NBA's top-three scoring offenses.

Paul, while averaging 11.4 assists in 2007-2008, managed to score 21.4 points per game, and Jackson would like to see himself become a similar type of dual threat.

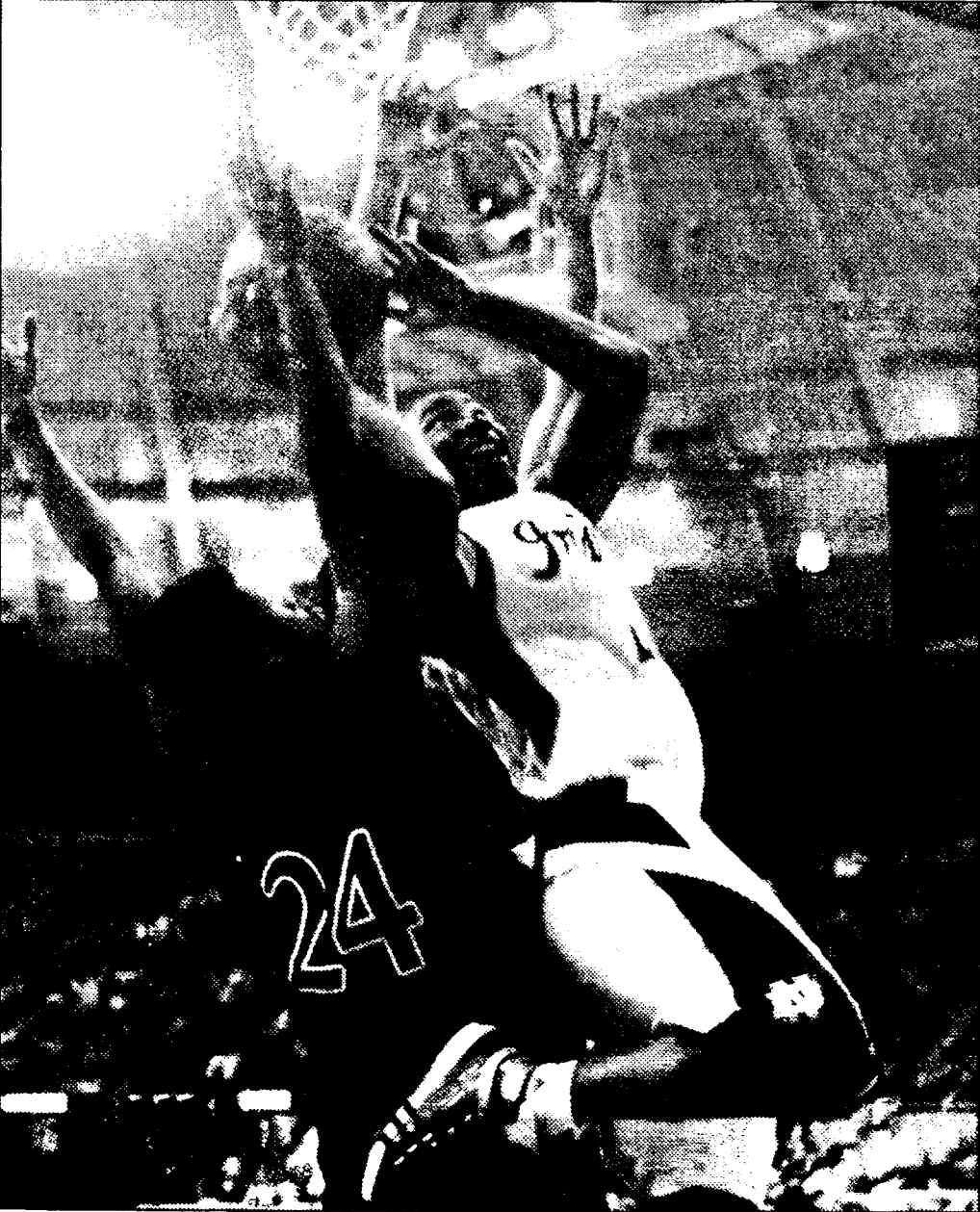
"Controlling the game, pushing it, even taking some shots for myself when the shots are open," Jackson said about his role this year. "Working myself inside and out to make myself a threat and take some of the pressure off 'Gody and K-Mac.'"

The scary thought for opposing defenses is the ramifications if Jackson becomes a more efficient, dynamic offensive facilitator.

In the past two seasons, Notre Dame's offense has finished eighth and 20th nationally in offensive scoring efficiency. That has occurred despite the fact that the Irish's point guard hasn't finished inside the top 50 players nationally in assist-to-turnover ratio.

But if Jackson has the kind of season he and his coach envision, Notre Dame fans will be the ones in the candy store.

Contact Greg Arbogast at garbogast@nd.edu



Irish junior Tory Jackson is entering his third season as Notre Dame's point guard.

Back for an encore

Luke Harangody returns after a dominating sophomore season, still with a lot to prove

By CHRIS HINE
Editor-in-Chief

Last season, every so often, Notre Dame coach Mike Brey would slip press clippings into forward Luke Harangody's locker, clippings that criticized Harangody's ability on the floor. Those clippings would provide a little extra motivation for Harangody to go out and put up big numbers.

This year, Brey didn't want to do that anymore, in an attempt to keep the Big East player of the year on an even keel throughout the season — but then Hasheem Thabeet opened his mouth.

There it was, on the cover of ESPN the Magazine, a quote from 7-foot-3 Connecticut center: "I played Luke Harangody and he was not tough."

"I try to downplay it now because I don't think there needs to be any extra juice," Brey said. "I almost try to say they kind of baited Thabeet into it. I try to diffuse it because I don't think any extra juice is needed for him. I don't want him distracted."

Thabeet may or may not have been joking, but Harangody is taking it seriously.

"That will go up in my locker," Harangody said. "The fact of the matter is, it's on the cover of ESPN the Magazine, so I'm not taking that as a joke."

The quote will act as a fuel to Harangody's fire throughout the season, but the junior won't let it get under his skin too much.

"I think if this would've happened freshman or sophomore year, my emotions would take over but if you talk to coach Brey now, he'll tell you I'm more mature enough to realize that I'm not going to go out in

that game and be all crazy thinking about, 'Hley, I'm going to put 40 up on UConn because he said that,'" Harangody said. "I'm just going to go out and do the same thing I always do."

With or without the extra motivation, if Harangody does the same thing he usually does on the floor, he may very well put up close to 40 points on Connecticut, and a lot of other teams for that matter.

A season to remember

For Harangody, last season was a transformation. He improved his game offensively and became one of the best big men in the country and whether he knew it or not, Thabeet had a hand in that transformation.

It was Notre Dame's first m a t c h u p against the Huskies last season that provided the inspiration for Harangody to expand his game.

On Jan. 5, the Irish d o w n e d Connecticut 73-67 in the Joyce Center even though Harangody shot just 5-for-23 from the

field. He struggled against Thabeet, who finished with 10 blocked shots.

"That motivated me a lot because I realized in that game that I couldn't power through people and bully people and that my game has to be a little more finesse at times," Harangody said. "I do have to go outside on the perimeter, handle the ball a little bit and be able to hit that 15-foot jumper to be successful."

As the season progressed Harangody became more comfortable with taking that jumper and going to the basket more, and he put up impressive numbers over the next few games, on his way to averaging 20.4 points and 10.5 rebounds for



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Over the past two seasons, Harangody expanded his offensive arsenal and can now regularly hit mid-range jump shots and take defenders to the basket off the dribble.

the season.

"When coach talked to me, he put that confidence in me [to hit that shot]," Harangody said. "That's when I play at my best, when I know coach has confidence in me to be that type of player. I always had that shot, but once my teammates and coaches told me I could do it, that's when I felt like I had the opportunity to go out and take that shot."

But questions still lingered about Harangody's ability to go up against the taller, dominant players of the Big East — like Thabeet, Roy Hibbert of Georgetown or David Padgett of Louisville.

Before playing Louisville and Connecticut for a second time last season, Harangody told The Observer: "I've watched tape and saw where I could use my body to get around [the big

guys] and bring them away from the basket. I'm learning. This is the first year I've really played against players like that. That's one of the things this year that I've had to deal with the most and learn the most from."

And he learned pretty fast.

Thabeet may not have remembered — or just forgot to mention to ESPN — that Harangody scored 32 points on 13-of-24 shooting and grabbed 16 rebounds in that second meeting in Storrs, Conn. Harangody put on an offensive display in that game, hitting that jumper from the outside multiple times, driving to the basket, and scoring with his usual hustle and intensity in the paint.

Harangody wasn't done. He put up 40 points on Louisville just days later. Then he picked up some hardware for all that hard work, the Big East player of the year trophy.

"It was surreal, coming into college as a nobody and kept making my mark as the season went on and getting to that point, that was definitely the high point of my career, getting that award," Harangody said. "When you think about all the great players that are around the Big East and then to be honored by it."

Getting even better

So how can Harangody improve even more this season?

"Poise, poise, poise and tempo" Brey said. "Picking spots, changing speeds. Not getting distracted as much with a mistake or a call that he feels isn't a good call. Just being more focused and getting on to the next play and I think it's just maturity, getting older as a college player."

Harangody also said he needs to improve defensively, especially in the absence of the graduated Rob Kurz.

"My lateral quickness needs to be better and that's one big thing I'm trying to work on right now and I think it's getting better," Harangody said. "Going

up against guys like Zach Hillesland and Tyrone Nash help me get better."

Then there are those pesky double and triple teams Harangody is sure to face this year. Harangody and his teammates have said he's become a much better passer out of those traps. But Harangody said Notre Dame's other threats offensively could make teams reluctant to double- or triple-team him in the first place.

"I don't think people realize that with this group, when they're the most confident in me, that's when I play my best," Harangody said. "You know, throwing it in, telling me to go to work. We have so many weapons on this team that it's great for me not to get double or triple-teamed all the time."

If the increased attention causes Harangody's numbers to dip slightly from the standard he set last season, that doesn't mean his impact on the team is any less, guard Kyle McAlarney said.

"The numbers he put up last year were pretty impressive and a lot of people will be quick to say if he doesn't put up the same numbers he's not as successful, which I would disagree with," McAlarney said. "There are a lot of other things that he can bring to the table that really stamp him down as a better player."

"He has a leadership role on this team. He's the base of our program, so he's going to get a lot of attention, a lot of double teams, something he's definitely improved on the last few weeks."

Harangody hopes he can parlay all of his hard work and success into a career in the NBA. He said he'll evaluate where he is as a player after this season before making any decision regarding the NBA Draft.

Odds are, there's a certain big man in Connecticut who would be glad to see him go, even if he says otherwise.

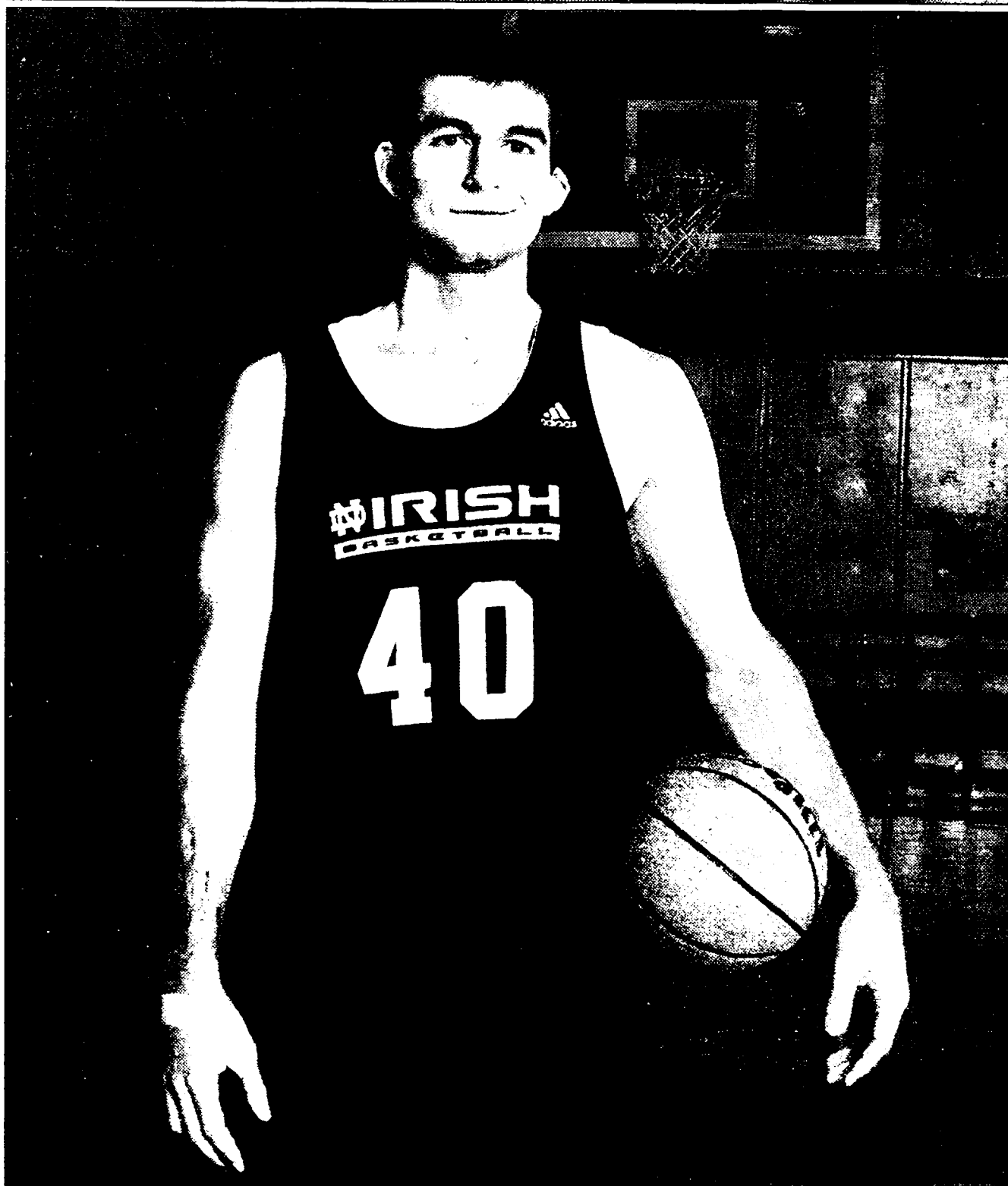
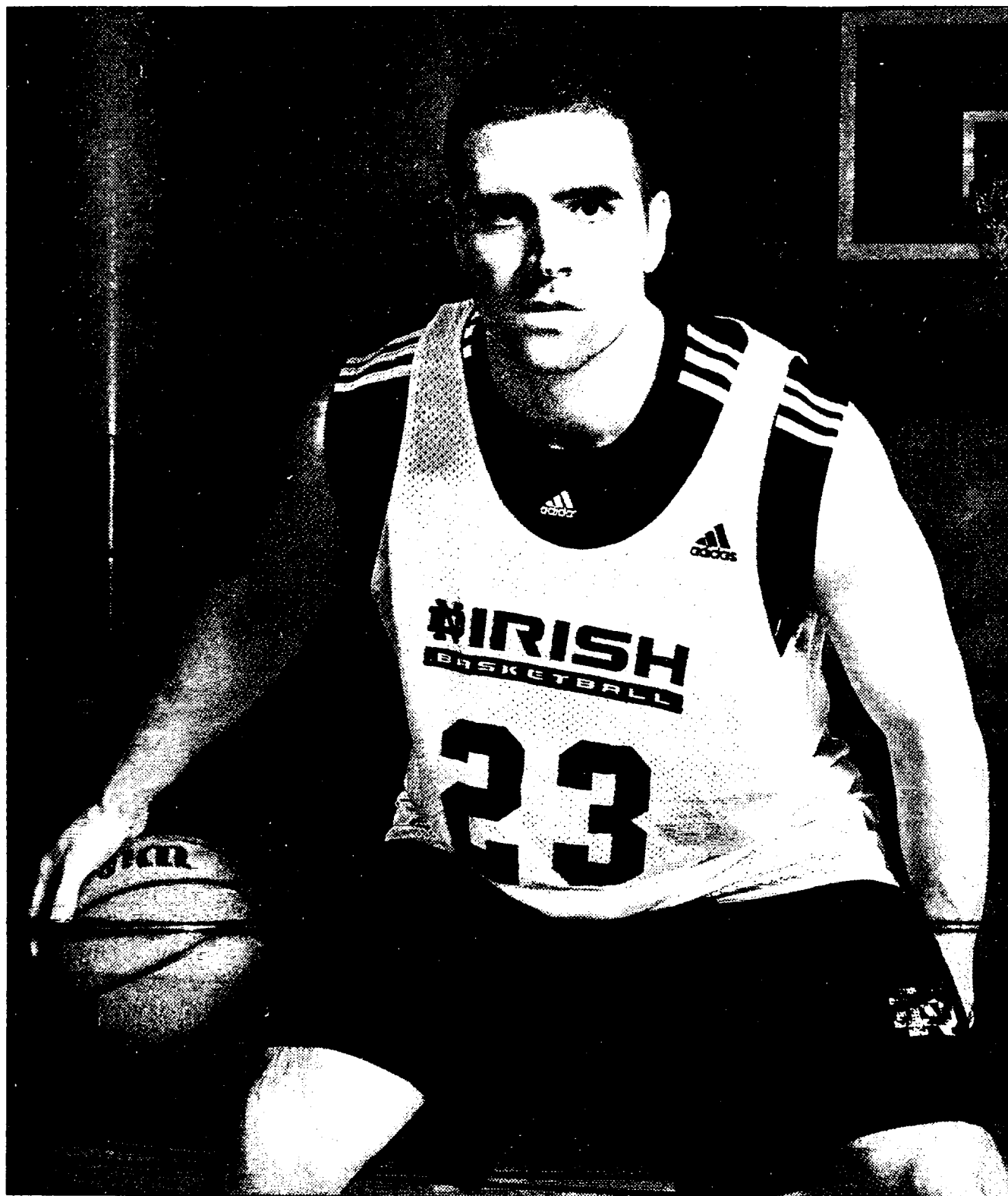
Contact Chris Hine at
chine@nd.edu



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Harangody won the Big East player of the year award for a sophomore campaign in which he averaged 20.4 points and 10.5 rebounds per game.

different styles » SA



Kyle McAlarney, top, has a serious leadership style, much in the legacy of last year's captain Rob Kurz. Luke Zeller, bottom, says he is more of a quiet leader.

By GREG ARBOGAST and FRAN TOLAN
Sports Writers

Notre Dame's leadership is special.

Just ask Ben Hansbrough. Who better than the sophomore transfer from Mississippi State to explain what makes the Irish team dynamic unique?

"Mississippi State did not have the leadership that Notre Dame has at all," Hansbrough said. "The whole core is all about the team. Nobody's individualized in any way. Just being around this group makes you feel like you're welcome."

A family-like atmosphere. That's what's described above by Hansbrough, and it's the word senior co-captain Luke Zeller used to describe the culture that pervades the entire Notre Dame team.

This family-like atmosphere has multiple meanings for the Irish. It means that a culture of inclusion exists where each player feels comfortable and equally part of the team. It means that the leaders of the family know what the team is capable of, and they won't allow each other to settle for anything less. As such, the Irish players constantly push each other to work harder and improve their flaws.

The Irish have leaders of this family-like atmosphere. Notre Dame's senior quartet of captains — Kyle McAlarney, Zach Hillesland, Ryan Ayers and Zeller — each work to create this singular culture, but each goes about it in his own way.

And for Notre Dame, their strength lies in that diversity.

Kyle McAlarney: The serious leader

This role was filled by Rob Kurz last year. So, it's no wonder that coach Mike Brey has said the workaholic McAlarney sometimes gets the "Kurz face."

McAlarney said he has made a conscious effort to play the part of the serious leader for Notre Dame.

"I think more than anything else on this team that is my role," he said. "... I think the most important thing for me this year is to be a leader, to be a solid rock for these guys."

Brey agrees. The Irish coach noted that his senior guard has developed into the true leader of the team and the one most responsible for getting his teammates to focus on the task at hand.

"He has been our best voice," Brey said of McAlarney. "Just hearing Kyle talk this year it's been his team, a lot of responsibility."

McAlarney said his willingness to take that responsibility has developed steadily over the course of his Notre Dame career.

"Coming in as a freshman here was a really humbling experience ... You really learn from the older guys," he said. "My freshman year I kind of said to myself, 'I'm going to learn, take a backseat and learn from the older guys and just wait my turn.'"

Former Irish captains have had a profound effect on McAlarney in the past four years.

"Chris Quinn, Colin Falls, Rob Kurz — those guys really set a great example for me about how to lead a team and that's what I'm trying to do this year," McAlarney said.

When Notre Dame practice is about to start, McAlarney almost always has a ball in his hand. He said he hopes the eagerness to work on his game rubs off on the younger Irish players.

"Part of it is leading by example, being here early, doing your work every day,

being professional about it," he said. "... Hopefully it filters down to these young guys. We have a great culture of work in this program, we have a lot of guys who work really hard."

Perhaps none works harder than McAlarney, though. He said he spent much of the off-season trying to improve his defense.

"My defense right now, I feel has made the most improvement as far as just guarding the ball and being in good position," McAlarney said. "I'm a senior here now so I understand how we kind of play defense and I've really become accustomed to that. That's one thing that's definitely improved in my game this year."

Still, McAlarney's serious leadership on and off the court might be just as important as his performance during games.

"I'm a senior, veteran guard and I've watched when we've been successful is when it starts at the top — those guys just really leading the young guys," he said. "I think that's my role bigger than anything else with this team, so I take that very seriously."

Zach Hillesland: The relaxed leader

Serious would not be the first word used to describe Zach Hillesland.

If McAlarney says the things needed to get the guys to focus, Hillesland says the things needed to get guys to relax.

Part of Notre Dame's family-like atmosphere is a light-hearted culture in which every member on the team feels comfortable joking around with each other, and nobody is more important to that particular culture than Hillesland.

"I think so," Hillesland said when asked if he's lead jokester on the team. "[My teammates] would describe me as unique. There aren't too many topics that are off-limits for me."

Hillesland's joking nature with his teammates is reflective of more than his personality on the team. It stems from his approach to life on and off the court.

"I don't believe in getting too worked up about things," Hillesland said. "Whether we're playing an exhibition game or getting ready for a Big East Tournament game, I think my tone will be the same as far as keeping it light and just trying to go out there have fun and play our best."

It's an approach that Hillesland tries to instill in the rest of the team, believing it will help each member of the team play at his highest level.

"It all works towards having people feel comfortable out there and play their game," Hillesland said. "You don't want guys to get too worked up, too tense out there. You want guys to go out and play loosely and have a lot of fun, not be afraid to make mistakes. That helps everyone to go out and play their game."

That's not to say that Hillesland is all jokes all the time. While Hillesland doesn't believe in being too serious, he certainly believes in honesty and saying what needs to be said, and Hillesland still manages to combine that honesty with his lighthearted personality.

A simple story about Hillesland and teammate Luke Harangody illustrates the point.

"After a game, 'Godly will be like 'Yeah I

"Chris Quinn, Colin Falls, Rob Kurz — those guys really set a great example for me about how to lead a team and that's what I'm trying to do this year," McAlarney said.

Kyle McAlarney
Irish guard

ME GOAL

IN THEIR FINAL SEASON, *Notre Dame's senior captains are ready to lead the Irish deep into the NCAA tournament.*

didn't have too good of a game. I didn't pass too well', and I'll be like 'Yeah, you didn't,'" Hillesland said. "I'm just being honest with him, and we move on from there."

"We always have a good laugh about it. He'll be like 'Come on man give me a boost.' But you just got to keep it real, keep it honest."

Ryan Ayers: The teaching leader

Ayers brings a necessary complement to McAlarney's down-to-business mentality and Hillesland's joking nature — teaching.

If McAlarney gets the Irish to focus while Hillesland prevents Notre Dame from getting too wound up, Ayers ensures that the entire team learns in the process.

Having been in South Bend for three-plus years, Ayers has been through a wide range of experiences, from his freshman year when the Irish made the NIT to the bitter NCAA Tournament exits of the past two seasons.

He now feels his role is to pass that information on to the underclassmen.

"I think it just comes with experience," Ayers said. "The more you have, the more you can tell, the more you can share with everybody. I'm the oldest guy on the team, so I feel I have a lot of knowledge to spread to the younger guys."

"It's just from being here and learning from all the older guys. I'm trying to use what they taught me and tell the younger guys the same system and how we work here."

But a teacher is only as effective as his students allow him to be. The students have to be open to what the teacher has to say, and that's where Ayers believes he's able to excel.

"I feel like I can reach out to anybody," Ayers said. "I think guys feel comfortable coming and talking to me. I have a real good rapport with everybody on the team, and I take pride in that."

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Ayers has the ability to be a teacher for many of his teammates, but just as importantly for Notre Dame, it's a role he's ready to assume.

"I do feel much more comfortable because I am a senior this year," Ayers said. "It's just something that's developed over time. It's something you kind of work for and earn here."

Luke Zeller: The quiet leader

While the other three senior captains have no qualms about opening their mouths, Zeller prefers to lead by example.

"[I'm] quiet, lead by example, I don't always say everything, but joke around every once in a while," Zeller said.

Zeller said that, through his play, he has inherited a leadership role rather than seized it over the years. Still, he takes the

label of captain seriously.

"Getting respect of the teammates over the years, I have the huge responsibility to take that and use it for the team, bring everybody together," he said. "The other guys know that we've been through a lot, they know we've played a lot, understand the game, [have] done well. With our experience, I think they rely on us."

And Zeller said that, even though he is quiet, he communicates well with the other three captains.

"We're all very close, we've gone through a lot of stuff. Sometimes we can say one or two words and we'll be able to say more than people say in a five-minute conversation, so that makes a huge difference," he said.

Zeller's eagerness to lead by example was evident in his career-high 18 points against USC Upstate last Sunday. He was taken out of the starting lineup due to the return of Hillesland — who had been injured during the exhibition season — but Brey said Zeller did not complain.

"I give Luke Zeller a lot of credit. I mean, he was like, 'No problem, coach,'" Brey said.

And the coach said the performance was no surprise, given the way Zeller has been playing in practice.

"What he did [Sunday] — that's how he's been practicing," Brey said. "...

I think every shot he gets off is going in right now, that's how well he's played in practice. I'm shocked when he misses."

But despite Zeller's 6-for-9 shooting against USC Upstate, Brey said one of the biggest plays of the game was a charge Zeller took before Notre Dame took the lead for good.

"The charge he took, that came at a time we were trying to find ourselves a little bit defensively," Brey said. "They were getting to us and he gets all the way back and takes that charge."

Zeller said little things like that epitomize his leadership style.

"Just working hard, always showing up on time, coming early, staying late," he said. "I just put in extra work whenever I can, getting in the gym late at night, shooting, working out, just trying [to get] guys caring about what's going on."

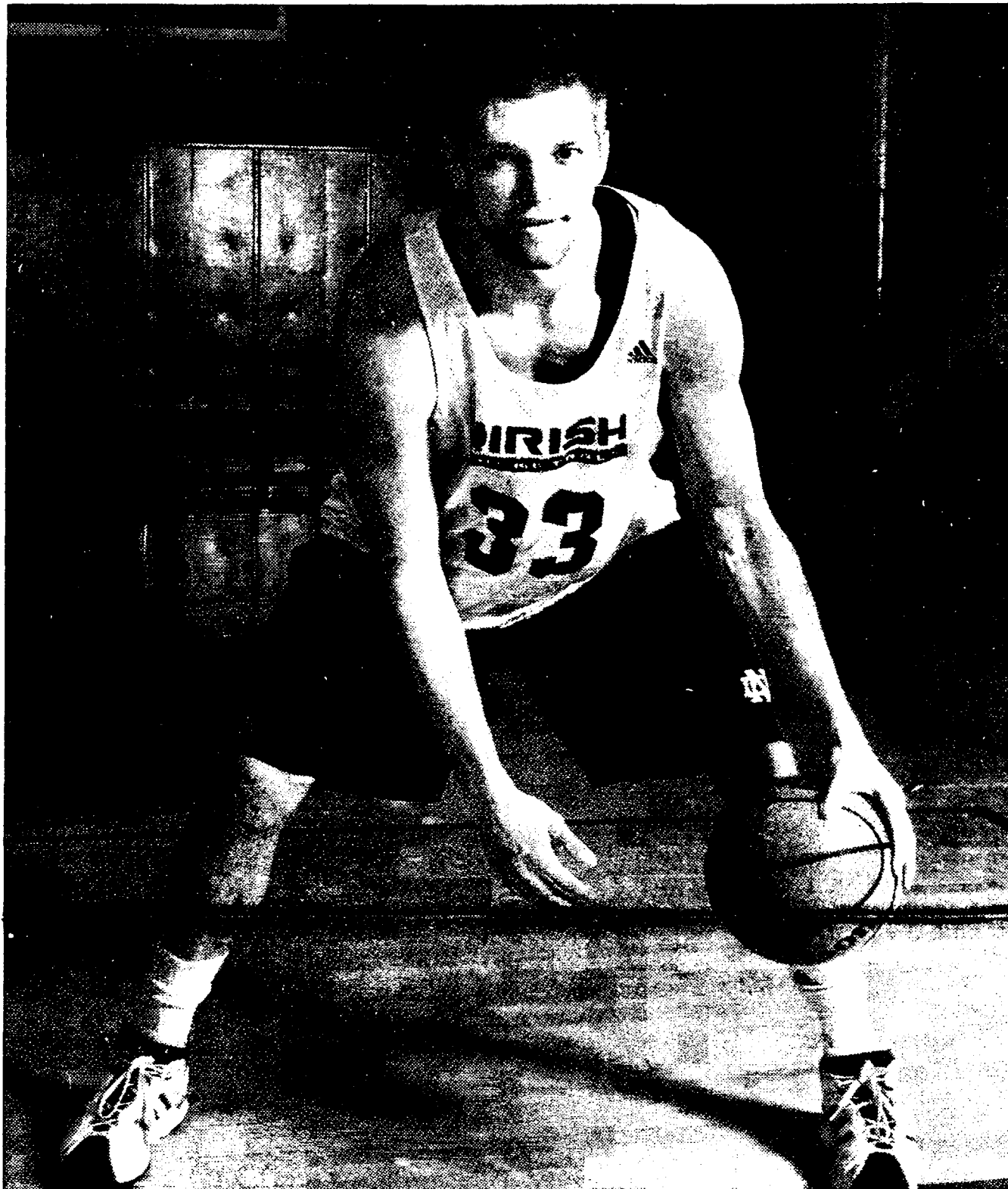
Advantages for the Irish

The Irish don't have many flashy players who will be guaranteed exorbitant contracts and endorsement deals once they leave college. They don't have anybody who generated mass hysteria when they announced where they would be playing college ball.

But what the Irish do have can be just as important. They have a team that genuinely likes each other and enjoys playing with one another. They have players who are committed to the idea of staying for four years and developing within the Notre Dame family. And they have four leaders who foster this family, and work tirelessly in their own way to bring the best out of each member.

"It really helps to be around guys that you like, guys that you fit in with, and that's something you really can't put a price on," Hillesland said. "I think if you ask anyone on our team what their favorite thing about being at ND is, they'd say their teammates, and I think that's a rarity in college basketball."

Contact Greg Arbogast at garbogas@nd.edu and Fran Tolan at ftolan@nd.edu



IAN GAVLICK and ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer
Notre Dame's resident goofball Zach Hillesland, top, likes to keep his teammates loose while Ryan Ayers, bottom, passes on what he's learned from his past three seasons.

Big East at a glance

By CHRIS HINE,
GREG ARBOGAST and
FRAN TOLAN
Sports Writers

Likely Tournament teams:
(Teams in no particular order underneath their grouping.)
Connecticut: The preseason No. 2 team in the country and the coaches' pick to take the Big East regular season crown this season. Connecticut possesses a lot of weapons. Hasheem Thabeet developed into a threat on both ends of the floor late last season. Jeff Adrien complements Thabeet nicely inside. Freshman Kemba Walker can handle things in the backcourt while A.J. Price gets back into the swing of things following an anterior cruciate (ACL) tear in Connecticut's final game last season. Connecticut will be tough to beat, but the same can be said about a lot of teams in this league.

Louisville: The Cardinals made it to the Elite Eight before falling to North Carolina last season and look poised for another deep Tourney run. Louisville adds the high school USA Today National Player of the Year, Samardo Samuels, to a frontcourt that was already one of the best in the country. Forwards Terrence Williams and Earl Clark, both of whom could have been NBA draft picks after last season, give the Cardinals a good shot at taking the conference title.

Marquette: The Golden Eagles have had basically the same team for the past three years. Coach Tom Crean left for Indiana, replaced by Buzz Williams – who has a lot of talent on his squad. The backcourt trio of Dominic James, Wesley Matthews and Jerel McNeal are among some of the best guards in the country and McNeal is a great lockdown

defender. If Marquette wants to go far this year, they'll need some help in the front court from Lazar Hayward

Notre Dame: The Irish have a well-rounded, experienced team that has proven it can compete with the elite in the Big East. They have reigning Big East player of the year Luke Harangody inside, sharpshooter Kyle McAlarney outside, the always-improving Tory Jackson running the show at the point, and a confident group of seniors in Ryan Ayers, Luke Zeller and Zach Hillesland. And don't forget that Mike Brey has won the conference coach of the year award two years in a row. If ever there was a year for Notre Dame to make a run at a national title, this is it.

Georgetown: After losing Roy Hibbert, Jonathan Wallace and Patrick Ewing, Jr., from back-to-back regular-season conference champions, the Hoyas will look to some lesser-known players if they are to again compete for the title. But Georgetown has good coaching in John Thompson III and a star-in-the-making in junior forward DaJuan Summers. The loss of several mainstays will not take the team out of contention.

Pittsburgh: Last year's young Pittsburgh team found their stride late winning the Big East Tournament – a sign of things to come for 2008-2009. Their two-headed front court monster of Sam Young and DeJuan Blair should be even better in the post this year, and senior Levance Fields returns to bring a steady hand at point guard. Mike Cook, Benjamin Keith and their 20 points per game from a year ago are gone, but they're replaceable. Look for the Panthers' big three to have this team near the top of the Big East.

Possible Tournament teams:
West Virginia: Never count out a Bob Huggins-coached team. Returning to Morgantown to coach his alma mata, Huggins took West Virginia to the Sweet 16 upsetting Duke along the way. Junior Joe Mazzula had a breakout game against the Blue Devils, and he takes over the point guard duties from Darius Nichols. The Mountaineers also lost first-round draft pick Joe Alexander and starting center Jamie Smalligan. Senior guard Alex Ruoff, talented underclassmen and a nationally-ranked recruiting class should ease the transition.

Villanova: Villanova has almost everybody back. Scottie Reynolds, who averaged 15.9 points per game last season will lead the offense once again, as is Dante Cunningham, who averaged 10.4. Last year, the Wildcats were one of the last teams in the Tournament and made a nice run to the Sweet 16, but Villanova will need another offensive threat to emerge if they want to get in the Tournament this year.

Syracuse: Freshman sensation Donte Green was drafted in the first round by the Houston Rockets, but the Orange have plenty of other scorers to pick up the slack. Guards Jonny Flynn, Eric Devendorf and Andy Rautins are all back, as is forward Arinze Onuaku. All four averaged double figures in scoring in 2007-2008. If Syracuse hopes to improve this year upon their NIT berths the last two seasons, it needs to improve a defense that yielded over 74 points per game last season.

Providence: The team Irish coach Mike Brey said will surprise a lot of people this season. The Friars finished 6-12

last year but lost a lot of close games, including an overtime thriller in the Joyce Center last season. Coach Tim Welsh lost his job. Drake's Keno Davis came in, after being named Associated Press coach of the year last season, and the Friars return most of their players from a roster that had five players average over double figures last season. Providence is balanced and experienced, and that will be needed in the tough Big East.

Cincinnati: If Another team that can make a move in the standings this year is Cincinnati, who finished 8-10 last year, good enough for 10th. Texas transfer Mike Williams brings a little bit of everything to the frontcourt, and Deonta Vaughn will provide the bulk of the scoring. Throw in freshman Yancy Gates who led Cincinnati in points and rebounds in the team's first game, and the Bearcats should improve over last season.

Little chance of making the Tournament:
South Florida: Coach Stan Heath is in the middle of rebuilding a program that just lost its best player, forward Kentrell Gransberry, who put up Harangody-like numbers the past two seasons. They do return Dominique Jones, who was arguably the best freshman in the Big East last season (17.1 points, 4.6 rebounds, 2.8 assists per game). The Bulls had a large amount of transfers and brought in a lot of recruits, but a young, inexperienced team won't get it done in the Big East this year.

Seton Hall: In point guard Jordan Theodore and big man Melvyn Oliver, the Friars added a pair of recruits that figure to contribute right away. The team also welcomes Robert Mitchell, who scored 16.5 points for Duquesne in 2006-07 before

transferring to Seton Hall. Bobby Gonzalez's squad looks to improve on a 17-15 campaign in which it nosedived after starting 15-6.

Rutgers: The Scarlet Knights have won just three conference games in each of the past two seasons but they finally appear to have rebuilt. They added highly-regarded recruits Greg Echenique and Mike Rosario, who is the program's first McDonald's All-American. Echenique, who spent the summer with the Venezuelan Junior National Team, joins shot-blocking center Hmady Ndiaye in the Rutgers frontcourt. J.R. Inman, who dropped 12.2 points per game last year, looks to lead the offense again.

St. John's: With seven freshmen seeing the court last year, the Red Storm struggled to a 5-13 conference mark. But coach Norm Roberts hopes the experience paid off for those players. Senior Anthony Mason, Jr. will lead this still-inexperienced team as it seeks to make the conference tournament. He will have his hands full as a pair of freshmen will start in the backcourt for the once-proud program.

DePaul: After just missing the NCAA Tournament two years ago, DePaul took a step backward in 2007-2008. The Blue Demons won only six conference games, finishing 13th in the Big East and failing to qualify for a postseason tournament. Things don't look much better this year as the Blue Demons lose leading scorer Draelon Burns and his 17.6 points per game. If DePaul wants to improve this season, they'll need guard Dar Tucker and center Mac Koshwal to improve after strong freshman campaigns.

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BIG EAST PREDICTION:
FRAN TOLAN • ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

1 PITTSBURGH	9 PROVIDENCE
2 CONNECTICUT	10 WEST VIRGINIA
3 LOUISVILLE	11 DEPAUL
4 NOTRE DAME	12 CINCINNATI
5 MARQUETTE	13 SETON HALL
6 SYRACUSE	14 ST. JOHNS
7 GEORGETOWN	15 RUTGERS
8 VILLANOVA	16 SOUTH FLORIDA

BIG EAST PREDICTION:
CHRIS HINE • EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

1 NOTRE DAME	9 VILLANOVA
2 CONNECTICUT	10 PROVIDENCE
3 PITTSBURGH	11 CINCINNATI
4 LOUISVILLE	12 SETON HALL
5 MARQUETTE	13 DEPAUL
6 GEORGETOWN	14 ST. JOHNS
7 SYRACUSE	15 RUTGERS
8 WEST VIRGINIA	16 SOUTH FLORIDA

BIG EAST PREDICTION:
GREG ARBOGAST • SPORTS WRITER

1 CONNECTICUT	9 GEORGETOWN
2 PITTSBURGH	10 PROVIDENCE
3 NOTRE DAME	11 CINCINNATI
4 LOUISVILLE	12 DEPAUL
5 VILLANOVA	13 SETON HALL
6 MARQUETTE	14 RUTGERS
7 SYRACUSE	15 SOUTH FLORIDA
8 WEST VIRGINIA	16 ST. JOHNS

Check out The Observer's sports blog, observersportsblog.21cr.info as writers Chris Hine and Fran Tolan and photographer Allison Ambrose travel to Maui to cover the Irish.

THE OBSERVER CLASSIFIED



JONATHAN PEOPLES JR.
6'3" 215 LB.
HOMETOWN: BELLWOOD, IL

Observer: What was your best basketball moment as a player?

Jonathan Peoples: Senior night in high school. I got two nice dunks and it was my last game in high school, so it was really special. We won by a lot.

Obs: Favorite moment watching basketball?

JP: Watching Michael Jordan. I'm from Chicago so I loved watching him.

Obs: What was your hardest class at Notre Dame?

JP: Foundations of Social Theories. It was just really confusing. I had a hard time understanding what the professor was talking about. It was the lowest grade that I ever got here.

Obs: What's your biggest pet peeve?

JP: I already have too many. I'll say someone that talks a lot, that's always bragging. It gets on my nerves.

Obs: Which teammate is all talk and no walk?

JP: Oh, you're putting me on the spot.

Hm ... All talk and no walk ... I'll probably say Ty Nash, because that's my boy.

He's always saying what he's going to do but he never does it.

He always says he's going to shoot in practice, but he never does it, he never shoots.

Obs: Favorite video game?

JP: NBA Live.

Obs: Best piece of advice someone's ever given you?

JP: My grandmother, she told me to make sure I finish college and to take care of my family.

Obs: You, Tory Jackson and Luke Harangody have never lost at home in your careers. How do you view the home-winning streak?

JP: We've got such great chemistry in the [Joyce Center]. We just go out and play hard. All three of us came from winning programs in high school. Tory won state championships. 'Gody always wants to win and I came from a great high school program.

Nash and Scott, competitors for minutes, remain 'family'

By FRAN TOLAN
Associate Sports Editor

Notre Dame has seven upper-classmen that will see the bulk of the team's playing time this season. So between the pair of sophomores that will fight for the limited remaining minutes — Tyrone Nash and Carleton Scott — there must be some animosity. Right?

Wrong, according to Scott.

"We're tight off the court," he said after practice two weeks ago. "We never really get into too many arguments unless it's about the NBA or something like that. But like I said, we're like family off the court."

But don't get confused — the two sophomores are certainly competitive on the court. After all, they are both forwards and fall behind a group of experienced players on the Irish depth chart.

"We want to get out there and show everybody our stuff," Nash said. "So we're [both] competitive and I think it's a healthy competitive nature."

The sophomores realize the only way to crack the Irish rotation is to focus on doing whatever they can do to help the team win.

"We concentrate on all the small things — getting boards, screening, just every small detail," Scott said. "They help — anything little — because [Irish coach Mike Brey] loves the small things."

Brey, for his part, said his second-year players will see significantly more minutes than they did a year ago. Last season, Scott sat out the season to preserve a fifth-year of eligibility while Nash saw the court only during garbage time of blowouts. This season, another sophomore, Tim Abromaitis will sit out and preserve a year of eligibility.

Nash said spending time at the end of the bench helped him and Scott learn Notre Dame's system.

"This year is really based off our experience last year," he said. "We really got a lot of chances to watch and learn, [so we will] take the things we learned last year and try to [apply them] this year."

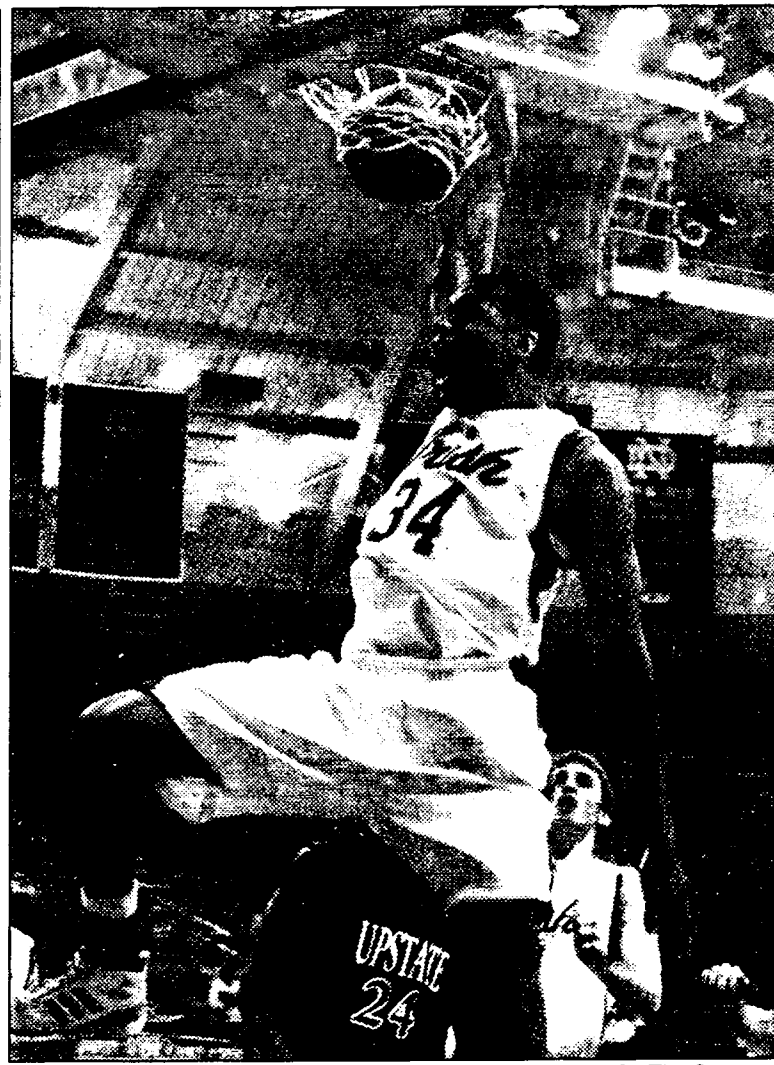
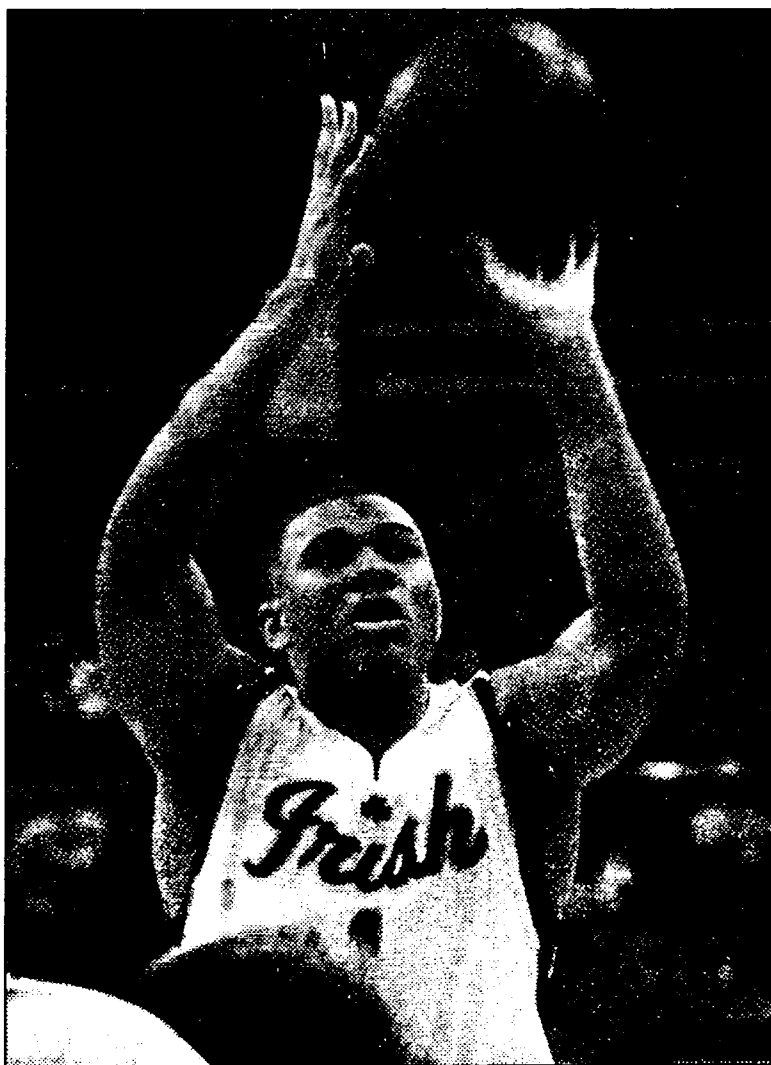
And with the departure of forward Rob Kurz from last year's

"We're tight off the court. We never really get into too many arguments unless it's about the NBA or something like that. But like I said, we're like family off the court."

Carleton Scott
Irish forward

"We want to get out there and show everybody our stuff."

Tyrone Nash
Irish forward



VANESSA GEMPIS and ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Irish sophomores Tyrone Nash, left, and Carleton Scott compete for minutes on the court, but off the court, the two said they are close friends.

squad, the sophomores will be asked to chip in to make up for that loss.

"We're going to need those bodies. Somebody asked me who is the eighth guy, and I would say [both] of them," Brey said in his media day press conference. "We're going to need them ... because this is a long haul and a brutal schedule."

Nash said one of his biggest assets is the versatility he developed during a year of preparatory school after high school.

"They can't defend you [at] every position so you can try to

cause matchup problems on the floor and you got the advantage," the New York native said. "It makes you hard to guard."

Scott, meanwhile, has shown off his dunking ability for over a year during warm-ups and said he could not wait to display his athleticism in game action. He got his first shot Sunday against USC Upstate and didn't disappoint the crowd. Scott threw down several thunderous dunks in the second half of a 94-58 win.

"I finally get to put [my dunking ability] to use, get out there

and actually show it to people," he said.

Nash said he and Scott are both mature but they know how to have fun with each other off the court.

"I mean, we're young but when it's time to get to business, it's time to get to business. And when it's time to have fun, it's time to have fun," he said. "You've got to know how to balance that and I think we know how to do that."

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Home streak a source of pride, motivation

By CHRIS HINE
Editor-in-Chief

When Tory Jackson was reminded that he, Luke Harangody and Jonathan Peoples have yet to lose a game in the Joyce Center entering their junior years at Notre Dame, he looked around for a piece of wood.

"Luke Harangody, Jonathan Peoples and I talk about that a lot," the junior guard said after he knocked on a wooden table. "Our class, the junior class. We talk about it a lot ... We kept it going our freshman year and now it's junior year and it's a nice accomplishment, but hopefully we can get out of here with it and at least I'll have something to say over some of the other players."

For Jackson and the rest of the Irish, the team's 38-game winning streak at home, the second longest such streak in the country, is a source of pride and serves to motivate the Irish at home, especially in close contests.

"It's been going on for so long that it's kind of meshed in with everything else," senior forward Zach Hillesland said. "It's not something that we put extra emphasis on, but at the same time, we really sit back and think about it and it's something we're proud of and would like to see continue as long as possible."

Senior guard Kyle McAlarney added: "It's definitely not a burden. I think it's something that

motivates us. Every time we step on this court, we know we're protecting it. I think it gives our fans a little extra boost, too. They come in, it gets them a lot of energy and we feed off each other in this place."

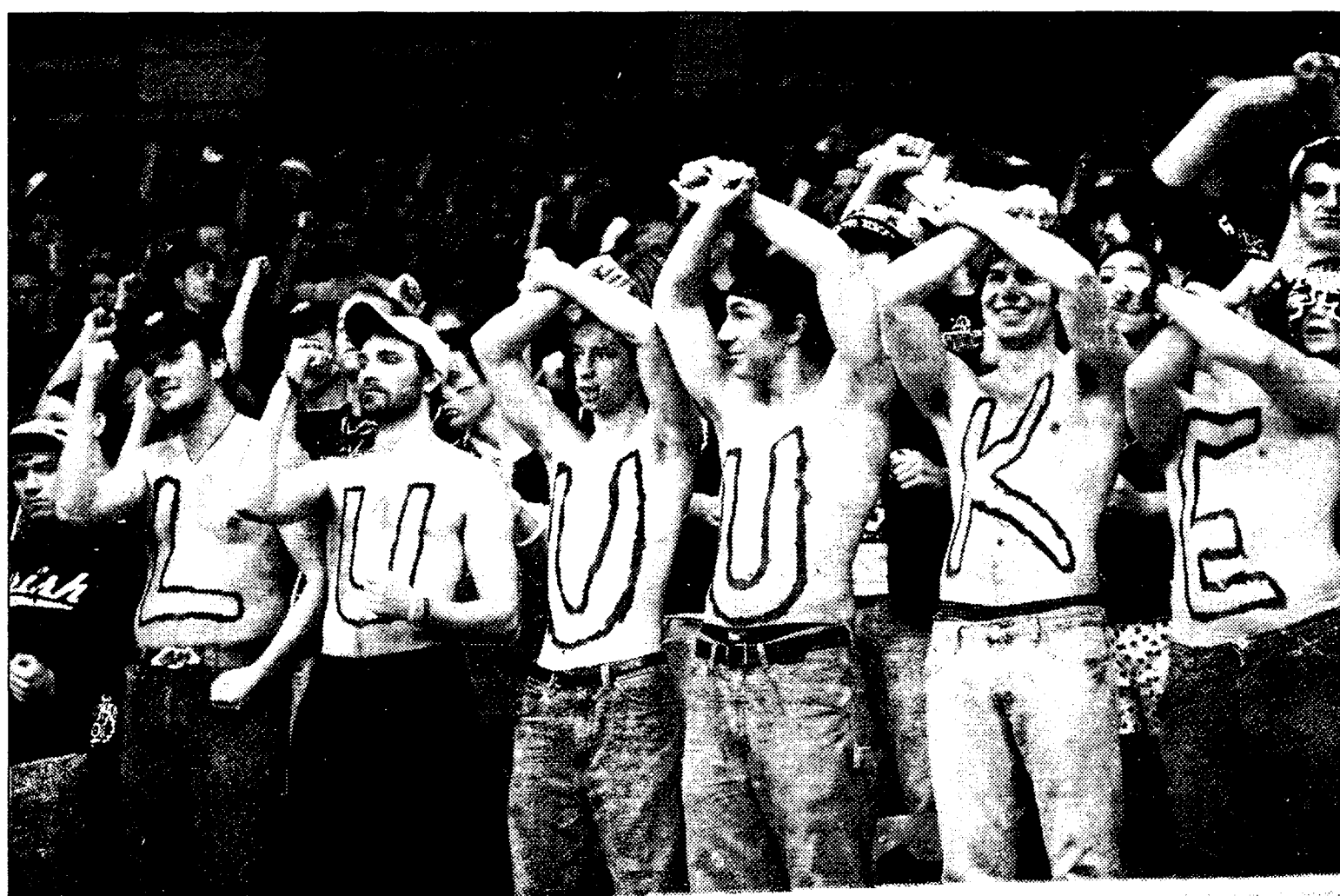
But the Irish nearly lost it a few times last season. Providence held a two-point lead with 22 seconds left and had just grabbed a defensive rebound, but Harangody stole the ball, was fouled and hit two clutch free throws to send the game into overtime, where the Irish won 81-74.

The Irish were staring another loss in the face against Pittsburgh on Feb. 21. The Panthers held an 11-point lead with just under 14 minutes to play, but rallied thanks in part to a 16-point, 13-rebound performance from Jackson, to capture the win and keep the streak alive.

"That was definitely I think a tone-setter for the rest of the games that we'll play in this building," Hillesland said of the game.

According to McAlarney, the outcome was never in doubt.

"There was a feeling that I had that I think some of the other guys can attest to in the huddles that we just knew we weren't going to lose that game," McAlarney said. "No matter how many points we were down, we were going to make a come back, put ourselves in position to win. I think that has a lot to do with just playing on this home court."



Notre Dame's players said the support of their fans and students have propelled them to a 38-game home winning streak, the second longest home winning streak in the country.

WU YUE/The Observer

"We feel so comfortable here. We have the fans behind us. After the game, when we thought about it, it was a little like 'Phew. That was close. We almost blew it right there.'"

As much as the players enjoy the streak, they don't think about it as much as their coach does.

"I think it's a challenge," coach Mike Brey said. "I think I get distracted by it much more than my team and that's a good

thing. They see it as a confidence-giver. We play so well here, they love playing here. Our sixth man, our students, have been awesome here. At times, I've been a little distracting by it but it's all about what the guys like."

If Notre Dame wants to keep the streak going this season, it certainly can't have an off night. Opponents on this year's home slate include No. 22 Georgetown, No. 15 Marquette,

No. 3 Louisville and No. 2 Connecticut.

"I have not put that as a goal for this group, but they have," Brey said of staying undefeated at home. "They'd like to keep the thing alive. Our schedule's so tough that for us to do it a third straight year with what's coming into this building would be a through the roof accom-

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Sustainability and Corporate Responsibility: The McDonald's Story
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Edie Weiner, President, Weiner, Edrich, Brown, Inc.

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