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NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

Reish helps develop new Web site

Social network collegegovs.com opens lines of communication between 118 student governments

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Writer

Student body president Bob Reish opened lines of communication between 118 student body presidents of national universities to discuss issues relevant to all schools, such as town and gown relations and smoking bans on campuses, through an online social networking forum.

Reish said the project began when he contacted Princeton's student government while researching for his campaign last semester and learned that the then-student government vice-president, Josh Weinstein, also had the idea to create a social networking site for student body

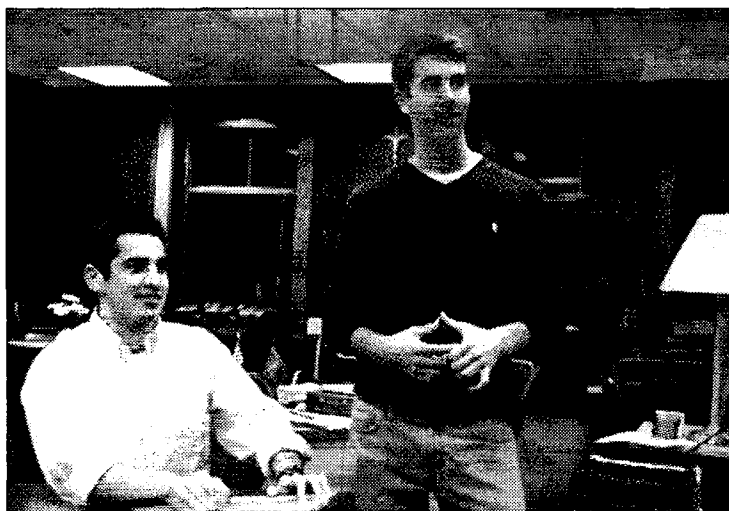
presidents. The two collaborated to create the site collegegovs.com.

"We only met because of that instance. We both had a shared vision for our student governments," Reish said. "We started brainstorming and the social networking site started."

Weinstein, now Princeton's student government president, said he had considered the idea, but did not formulate plans until he and Reish jointly started the project.

"Bob and I actually both came up with very similar ideas at different times but neither of us moved forward with it until we

see REISH/page 6



TOM LA/The Observer

Student body vice president Grant Schmidt, left, and president Bob Reish helped develop a new social networking site.

Hall hosts Christmas celebration

Carroll's annual event spreads holiday cheer

By LIZ O'DONNELL
News Writer

Students, faculty and community members will gather outside Carroll Hall tonight for the 11th annual "A Carroll Christmas," the dorm's signature event.

"[The goal of this event is] to spread Christmas cheer by singing loud and clear for all to hear," Carroll Hall president Kevin Jakopchek said.

With the organizers of "A Carroll Christmas" anticipating the largest crowd ever, the event's budget was increased 50 percent this year, from \$2,000 to \$3,000.

Among the reasons for the increase in budget was the addition of a heated tent on the Carroll lawn.

"Due to ever expanding attendance we needed to add a heated tent for more space," Jakopchek said.

The ceremony includes the blessing and lighting of Carroll's Christmas tree, along with a five-song set by the a capella group Big Yellow Taxi.

Following the outside portion of the evening, attendees are invited into the dorm to partake in more festivities.

"After the lighting ceremony, the party will move inside

see CARROLL/page 4

Notre Dame effort helps 'poorest of poor'

Collected items totaling 2,000 pounds transported via airlift to Dominican Republic, Haiti



Photo courtesy of Gregory Podolej

One of two U.S. Air Force C-130 airplanes carries the 50,000 pounds of clothing to Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

By JENN METZ
News Editor

Two United States Air Force C-130s took off from Youngstown, Ohio, today, headed for the Dominican Republic.

Their cargo: 50,000 pounds of clothing, in part collected by students, faculty, staff and alumni of the University, to help the 'poorest of the poor' in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

The Notre Dame effort, coordinated as part of a

project called "Poorest of the Poor: A Call to Solidarity — Round Table Discussions and A Clothing Drive for Haiti," contributed 300 boxes of clothing, totaling 2,000 pounds, senior Greg Podolej, a member of the Haiti Working Group, said.

The drive began Sept. 30 and lasted until Nov. 9, when student volunteers helped sort and load the clothing onto a truck headed for Youngstown, home of Dr. Paul Wright, a 1972

see HAITI/page 4

Waller explains financial crisis

Professor says subprime mortgage mess will be hard to resolve

By KAITLYNN REILY
Associate News Editor

The Montgomery Auditorium in LaFortune was filled to the brim Thursday night with people interested to hear Notre Dame economics professor Christopher Waller explain the subprime mortgage mess and financial crisis or, as he wrote on a PowerPoint slide, "what in the hell just happened."

Waller, the Gilbert F. Schaefer Chair in Economics, will be joining the Federal Reserve in St. Louis as senior vice president and director of research next summer. He spoke for nearly an hour, and he ended by saying that the current financial crisis



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Economics professor Christopher Waller explains the roots of the recent financial crisis in the Montgomery Auditorium Thursday.

see ECONOMY/page 6

New study space available for finals

By LAURA McCRYSTAL
News Writer

The Career Center's interview rooms in Flanner Hall, as well as North Dining Hall and South Dining Hall, will be available as study space for the first time during finals week this semester.

The opening of these rooms is a response to student concerns about a lack of guaranteed group study spaces, student body vice president Grant Schmidt said.

"From what I understand, a lot of students are excited about this availability. I definitely believe that it will be useful," he said. "Our goal is

simply to provide students with the best accommodations for their study plans during the exam schedule."

Schmidt and Academic Affairs Committee Chair Ryan Brellenthin worked with the Advisor Committee on Academic and Student Life (ACASL) and the Career Center.

"We wanted to strive for a location, particularly during exam week, for students to be able to get together to prepare as a group," Schmidt said.

Schmidt met with Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Ann Firth and

see STUDY/page 4

INSIDE COLUMN

To Chevy, with love

I got the news Thursday morning that one of the longest relationships of my life was coming to an end. A friend sent me the link to the Washington Post article, and my heart sank as I read of your imminent end. Your own Web site had no such announcement, and I wonder if the pain is too overwhelming for you to announce yourself that you are leaving me. The article said you could not comment.

Kaitlynn Rielly
Assistant News Editor

The Post's headline — "Capitol One to buy local banking icon Chevy Chase" — broke my heart.

Times are tough, I know, but I thought you were going to be okay. When other banks around the country failed, you seemed to remain resolute. I trusted my money with you. I knew you would keep it safe.

But I read that you are unable to survive the current financial crisis, and that within the first three months of next year, Capitol One will buy you, for a sum of \$520 million in cash and stock, acquiring the 250 branches that have bordered the highways and byways of my youth.

I read that your branches will be "rechristened under the Capitol One logo." But I'll always remember your beautiful brick buildings, your white-columned porticos, your large red signs and your plentiful ATMs.

And I'll never forget our good times together.

The first time I was aware of the concept of banking was at one of your branches. My Girl Scout troop was given a tour, and we all received little Chevy Chase duffel bags. I used mine for sleepovers and soccer practices until it was worn.

Growing up, I placed every check I received, for birthdays, for graduations, for First Communion, in my Chevy Chase Bank savings account. Per my parent's rules, I could not take the money out until I went to college, but you kept it safe and my money grew, if only a little, with interest.

My friend's mom worked for you when I was younger, and one time, she took us to see an Orioles game from your box seats. Those were the days.

The summer before I left for college, I opened a checking account, and received my first Chevy Chase Bank check card. You've watched as I've turned in different paychecks from different jobs. You let me withdraw money from ATMs when I studied abroad, with no extra fee.

And this summer, when my check card was close to expiring and I was afraid I would not receive my new card before I left to return to school, I called you, nervous. You told me you would send it to me right away, and two days later, I received my brand new card in the mail.

I didn't know at the time it would be the last new Chevy Chase Bank card I'd ever receive.

After I learned that Capitol One would soon buy my beloved bank, I opened my wallet. What's in my wallet?

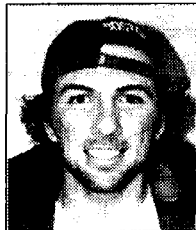
My Chevy Chase Bank check card.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Kaitlynn Rielly at kreilly@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO IN THE SNOW?



Brenden Andrew
freshman
Duncan

"I like to throw snowballs at cars."



Brett Strand
grad student
Duncan

"Sleigh rides. Only sleigh rides."



Elleen Gillespie
freshman
McGlenn

"Make snow angels!"



Lisa Floren
senior
Lyons

"I like to wear mittens—I don't touch snow without them."



Ryan Kavanagh
freshman
Duncan

"Tackle Tiffany."



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Students begin the Jingle Jog in front of South Dining Hall Thursday night. They ran to raise money for the Student Alumni Club.

OFFBEAT

NJ woman sues Pa. sports bar for toilet seat break

ALLENTOWN, Pa. — A woman is suing a Pennsylvania sports bar and restaurant, saying she got stuck inside a toilet bowl for 20 minutes after the seat broke.

Kathleen Hewko of Delran Township, N.J., says she was in the bathroom at Starters Pub near Allentown when the handicapped toilet seat she was sitting on cracked and dumped her into the bowl.

Hewko says in her lawsuit filed in federal court in November that she had hip surgery prior to the Nov. 19, 2006, incident and was re-injured when the seat broke.

The lawsuit names Starters and Kohler Co., the company that made the toilet seat.

Representatives from both companies said they couldn't comment.

Forget socks, adopt a koala for Christmas

SYDNEY — They're cute, they're cuddly

and, in these times of financial woe, they make an affordable festive gift that's also good for the soul — adopt a rescued koala.

The "Adopt a Wild Koala Program" has been in operation for 15 years and is a major source of funding for The Koala Hospital, the world's only medical facility dedicated to the care and preservation of the animals.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Badin Hall is hosting A Conscious Christmas today from noon to 5 p.m. They will be selling Fair Trade goods from Nepal.

Community Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights will be held at UAW Local #5 at 1426 S. Main St. south of downtown South Bend. The Celebration will take place on Saturday from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Please bring a donation for the Food Bank.

Members of Saint Mary's Women's Choir will perform at the College's 36th annual Madrigal Dinners this weekend. Performances are Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday and Saturday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$40 for evening performances, \$35 for matinee performances and \$15 for children.

Circle K, Knott Hall and the Class of 2009 will make fleece blankets to donate to cancer patients as part of The Aidan Project. The project will take place Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the East Wing of South Dining Hall.

Notre Dame Women's Basketball team plays Purdue at 2 p.m. Sunday in the Joyce Center. Call 574-631-7356 for tickets or visit the Athletic Ticket Office Web page.

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

LOCAL WEATHER	TODAY		TONIGHT		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW
	25	20		25		34		28		27		30
				20		15		7		20		18

Atlanta 50 / 39 Boston 41 / 32 Chicago 25 / 16 Denver 40 / 12 Houston 55 / 41 Los Angeles 69 / 53 Minneapolis 26 / 9 New York 40 / 32 Philadelphia 41 / 32 Phoenix 74 / 51 Seattle 47 / 34 St. Louis 38 / 22 Tampa 77 / 57 Washington 43 / 33

Christmas program helps those in need

By ALICIA SMITH
News Writer

Students and faculty members, as well as clubs and organizations at Saint Mary's, can "adopt" a family or an individual as part of the program and purchase Christmas gifts for them as part of the College's 12 Days of Christmas.

During the 12 days, participants also raise money to donate to their families.

The program, run by the Office for Civil and Social Engagement (OCSE), began on Dec. 1 and will continue until Dec. 12.

"We adopted 15 families and 15 individuals," Carrie Call, director of the OCSE, said. "Usually, we take about this number because we've found it's manageable given the number of people at Saint Mary's College involved and the amount of money we can raise."

This year, the College adopted more families than usual, Call said, in order to "try and alleviate some of the pressing need that local agencies are experiencing due to the poor economy."

Families were chosen from the Salvation Army, the College's partner Title 1 schools and an organization called Grandparents as Parents. Some individuals came

from Mental Health America and REAL Services.

Throughout the event, the OCSE is hosting multiple fundraising functions. Each residence hall will participate in a fundraising event called Penny Wars. Candy grams, T-shirts and mugs are also being sold during the 12 days. On Dec. 12, the College will hold a Craft Show and Sale, which will also benefit those in need.

Although the program promotes helping these families during the holiday season, there are also other events on the schedule, Call said.

"The event is not meant to be just about gift giving. It's also meant to be an educational time to learn about traditions like Posadas and Kwanza and to engage in opportunities for spiritual reflection," she said.

Each day there will be a different event that takes place at the College, such as a holiday dinner where children and residents from the Center for the Homeless will join the students for a meal. Other events include ornament decorating, vespers services, card decorating, bell ringing for the Salvation Army, gingerbread house making and a cookie decorating party.

Contact Alicia Smith at
asmith01@saintmarys.edu

Madrigal dinner to be held at College

Choir hosts three-night event, renaissance themed performances

By MANDI STIRONE
News Writer

This weekend, the Saint Mary's Madrigal choir, along with students, staff, faculty and community volunteers, will host the 36th annual Madrigal Christmas Dinner.

The three-night event features four separate renaissance-themed performances and meal productions, said the Leighton Chair of Music and director of the Madrigal choir Dr. Nancy Menk.

While the event originally showcased a co-ed choir for two matinee and two evening shows, the program switched over to an all-women choir about four years ago due to trouble finding male volunteers, Menk said.

The 24-member Madrigal choir is composed by Saint Mary's students at all levels and in various fields of study, she said.

There are also student and faculty servers, actors, trumpet players and crew, she said.

Other participants, like the Andrews University Early Music Ensemble, who are playing the part of The Royal Consort, come from outside of Saint Mary's, Menk said.

The menu for the dinner, provided by Saint Mary's/Sodexo Dining Services, consists of roast beef au jus at the evening showings, and stuffed Cornish game hen at the matinees.

There are also roasted potatoes, glazed carrots, a winter salad and bread.

In addition to the adult courses, last year, a children's menu and children's ticket price of \$15 was introduced.

"Now they have chicken fingers," Menk said.

The new menu and ticket option were implemented to try and draw more children to the event, Menk said.

"Kids love it," she said.

Though this is the 36th appearance of the dinner at Saint Mary's, it is Menk's 25th performance.

Menk said she enjoys performing, but her favorite part

of the dinner is when the boar's head is brought out.

The traditional song that is sung during this, The Boar's Head Carol, had to be arranged differently after the choir became all-women, she said, so she asked a composer from Alaska, Grant Cochran, to modify a four-part male arrangement to a four-part female arrangement for the choir.

"It's always fun to watch the people's faces as we pass the boar's head around on a platter," Menk said. "It's a really traditional part of any Madrigal dinner."

The Madrigal Christmas Dinner has become an important part of the Christmas celebration for many South Bend residents, Menk added. Some people bring office groups to the dinner, while others make it a family tradition, she said.

"There are people who make it a part of their annual holiday traditions," she said.

Contact Mandi Stirone at
mstiro01@saintmarys.edu

Christopher's coming to SMC

By MEGAN LONEY
News Writer

The Christmas Spirit is coming to Saint Mary's Moreau Center for the Arts this weekend when the Werbrouck School of Dance will present Christopher's Christmas in O'Laughlin

Auditorium Saturday and Sunday.

Christopher's Christmas is the tale of a young mouse that attempts to bring the joy of the holiday season to his scrooge of a great uncle.

Chris Sallak, who is in charge of the marketing and media for events happening in the Moreau Center, said it is important for Saint Mary's to be involved with community organizations.

"I think it is very important that we host community events at Saint Mary's," Sallak said. "Hosting these events provides the community an opportunity to see why Saint Mary's College is a special place and hopefully encourage them to come back for another event or even to attend Saint Mary's as a student."

This is not the first time the Werbrouck School of Dance has worked in collaboration with Saint Mary's to put on performances. The

company has been having shows at Saint Mary's for at least 15 years.

"I think that the long term partnership demonstrates the dedication and professionalism of our staff, the love of the arts by the College and the desire to assist the community," Sallak said.

Approximately 500 people are expected to attend each performance of Christopher's Christmas this weekend.

"Some Saint Mary's students do attend the event, however the majority of the patrons are from the surrounding community," Sallak said.

"Some patrons make this a yearly Christmas tradition while others are coming to see their child or grandchild perform."

Show times will be Saturday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and a matinee performance on Sunday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Contact Megan Loney at
mloney01@saintmarys.edu

"I think it is very important that we host community events at Saint Mary's."

Chris Sallak
head of marketing
and media for
Moreau Center

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Observer.

Carroll

continued from page 1

where we will have cookies, hot chocolate and cider as well as a chocolate fountain," said Jakopchek. "We will also have Christmas karaoke, card signing for our troops abroad and Santa and his elves will be available for picture taking."

Along with the planning of the events of the evening, members of the planning committee have been working to decorate Carroll to ensure its decorations are the best they have ever been. Traditional Christmas adornments, such as wreaths, garland, and paper snowflakes, will decorate the dorm, in addition to an eight-foot inflatable Santa. There will also be lights strung around nearly every possible place within the vicinity of Carroll Hall.

"There will be lots of lights," Jakopchek said.

Jakopchek said there would be around 1,000 people in attendance. This is partially due to the multiple ways the men of Carroll publicized the event.

Jakopchek said they created a Facebook group to invite massive amounts of people to attend. The organizers also printed off over 1,200 flyers to hand out to the student body at various locations around campus.

"We had 1,200 flyers and candy canes that will be distributed ... at the dining halls and LaFortune," Jakopchek said. "We also had table tents on every table at South Dining Hall, LaFortune and at most tables at North Dining Hall."

As Notre Dame prepares for Christmas, many dorms are taking time to decorate their exteriors as well as their interiors. The men of Carroll feel that their event will raise Christmas spirit around campus "immeasurably," Jakopchek said.

Contact Liz O'Donnell at edonnell1@nd.edu

"[The goal of this event is] to spread Christmas cheer by singing loud and clear for all to hear."

Kevin Jakopchek
Carroll Hall president

Study

continued from page 1

Director of Food Services Dave Prentkowski before Fall Break to finalize the use of the dining halls as study space.

The east side of South Dining Hall will be available for study. In North Dining Hall, one room on the south side will be open for quiet study while the other will serve as a group study space. Each of these rooms will be open Dec. 14 through Dec. 19, between 9 p.m. and 2 a.m. Student Government will pay the security costs of the two dining halls during these hours.

The Dining Halls may be used as study space during spring semester finals if Student Government sees a large turnout and positive response from students, Schmidt said.

ACASL, which has been addressing the issue of study spaces since last year, began to consider the use of the Career Center in early November, Brellenthin said.

University Vice President for Student Affairs Fr. Mark Poorman and Career Center director Lee Svete organized the use of the rooms

with the help of Brellenthin, who advised them about student needs.

"One of the nicest features about these rooms is that they are able to be reserved up to a week in advance," Brellenthin said. "That is something that cannot be said about LaFortune, the library, or just about any other study space on campus."

The Career Center has made arrangements so that students may access the building and restrooms with student IDs.

Students must call the Interview Center to reserve a room in advance. If the program continues in the future, Brellenthin said ACASL will explore online reservation options.

Contact Laura McCrystal at lmccryst@nd.edu

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Haiti

continued from page 1

Notre Dame graduate who began collecting clothes for those in impoverished countries after meeting Mother Teresa.

Erin Wash, a member of the Class of 2009 Council, discussed the idea of a drive bringing together the joint efforts of students and alumni at a conference last April, as reported in an Oct. 28 Observer article about the clothing drive.

In addition to the clothing drive, the project featured lectures and the showings of two documentary films to help raise awareness of the situation in Haiti.

Podolej said collection boxes were placed in various locations around campus — including dormitories, dining halls and academic buildings. Students at Notre Dame, he said, "made a tangible contribution" to the clothing drive, and alumni returning to campus during the football season also made an impact.

Collection boxes were also placed in the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore, which offered a 20 percent-off coupon to those who made donations, Podolej said.

When the boxes arrived in Youngstown, they were added to the 48,000 pounds of clothing Wright had previously collected.

The Observer was given a copy of a letter Wright wrote



Photo courtesy of Gregory Podolej

Notre Dame students help sort the 2,000 pounds of clothing collected in the Stepan Center this November.

to the Air Force, expressing his gratitude for its help in the delivery of the clothing.

"The Air Force was instrumental in helping take [the clothing] down," Podolej said.

The letter said one of the planes, manned with four pilots is destined for Santo Domingo,

while the other, with three pilots, will land in Santiago, both in the Dominican Republic. At the two airports, representatives from the 64 Rotary Clubs in the Dominican Republic will unload the cargo and place the boxes of clothing on trucks to be taken to distribution locations, like churches and mission cen-

ters that serve the poor.

About one-third of the donations will help those in need in the Dominican Republic and the rest will be sent to Haiti.

Wright himself will travel to Santo Domingo Dec. 7, and remain in the Dominican Republic to develop a medical clinic to serve the poor.

Podolej, one of the many students from the Haiti

"The Air Force was instrumental in helping take [the clothing] down."

Gregory Podolej
member
Haiti Working Group

Working Group and Student Government who worked together on the project, expressed his gratitude to all of the members of the Notre Dame community who made a contribution to the drive: "We all want thank the students, faculty, staff and alumni who helped donate," he said.

Contact Jenn Metz at jmetz@nd.edu

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WORLD & NATION

Friday, December 5, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Prime minister closes government

OTTAWA — Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper shut down Parliament on Thursday in an unprecedented attempt to keep his government in power, fending off a no-confidence vote he was all but certain to lose.

Less than two months after winning re-election, Harper successfully asked the unelected representative of the head of state for the power to close down Parliament until Jan. 26, hoping to buy enough time to develop a stimulus package that could prop up the economy.

"Today's decision will give us an opportunity — I'm talking about all the parties — to focus on the economy and work together," Harper said after the private meeting.

Governor General Michaëlle Jean, who represents Britain's Queen Elizabeth II as head of state, granted the unusual request to suspend parliament. Had she refused, Harper would have had two choices: step down or face a no-confidence vote Monday he was sure to lose.

Cholera epidemic strikes Zimbabwe

HARARE, Zimbabwe — Zimbabwe declared a national emergency over a cholera epidemic and the collapse of its health care system, and state media reported Thursday the government is seeking more international help to pay for food and drugs to combat the crisis.

The failure of the southern African nation's health care system is one of the most devastating effects of the country's overall economic collapse.

Facing the highest inflation in the world, Zimbabweans are struggling just to eat and find clean drinking water. The United Nations says the number of suspected cholera cases in Zimbabwe since August has climbed above 12,600, with 570 deaths, because of a lack of water treatment and broken sewage pipes.

NATIONAL NEWS

Teenage workers charged with abuse

ALBERT LEA, Minn. — Two teenage girls who worked at a nursing home have been charged with abuse, accused of taunting, spitting on and groping the breasts and genitals of residents who suffered from Alzheimer's disease and other dementia disorders.

According to the criminal complaint, filed Monday, 19-year-old Brianna Broitzman and 18-year-old Ashton Larson laughed earlier this year as they spat in residents' mouths, poked and grabbed them, and at times mocked them until they screamed.

Broitzman and Larson, who worked as part-time aides at the home, have been charged as adults.

No one answered the phone Thursday morning at Broitzman's home. There was no information in court records on attorneys for either teen.

Couple charged with torture

STOCKTON, Calif. — A California couple has been charged with kidnapping and torturing a 17-year-old boy police say they sometimes kept shackled in their home.

The boy's one-time guardian, who also stayed in the couple's home with the teenager, was also charged with similar abuse allegations.

Kelly Layne Lau and her husband, Michael Schumacher, both of Tracy, are charged with 13 counts related to the alleged abuse. The former guardian, Caren Ramirez, is charged with 10 counts.

LOCAL NEWS

Man sentenced 17 years for tax crimes

INDIANAPOLIS — A Chesterton man has been sentenced to more than 17 years in prison for federal tax crimes.

A federal judge sentenced Timothy Shawn Dunn to 17 years and 6 months in prison. Dunn will also be liable for about \$315,000 for unpaid taxes, penalties and interest.

Dunn owned a Highland financial advisory business called Moneyfacts. Authorities say Dunn and five other defendants were part of a scheme to market and sell sham trusts through the Aegis Company. The Aegis Company was based in Palos Hills, Ill., but is now defunct.

3 men, gun club indicted in shooting

Police chief also charged with involuntary manslaughter in 8-year-old's death

Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — Three men, including a small-town police chief, were indicted Thursday on involuntary manslaughter counts in the gun-fair death of an 8-year-old who accidentally shot himself in the head with an Uzi that a prosecutor said he never should have been allowed to handle.

The club where the fair was held also was charged. The fair had promised shooters would have certified instructors in an advertisement, but District Attorney William Bennett said the child, Christopher Bizilj, was supervised by an uncertified 15-year-old boy.

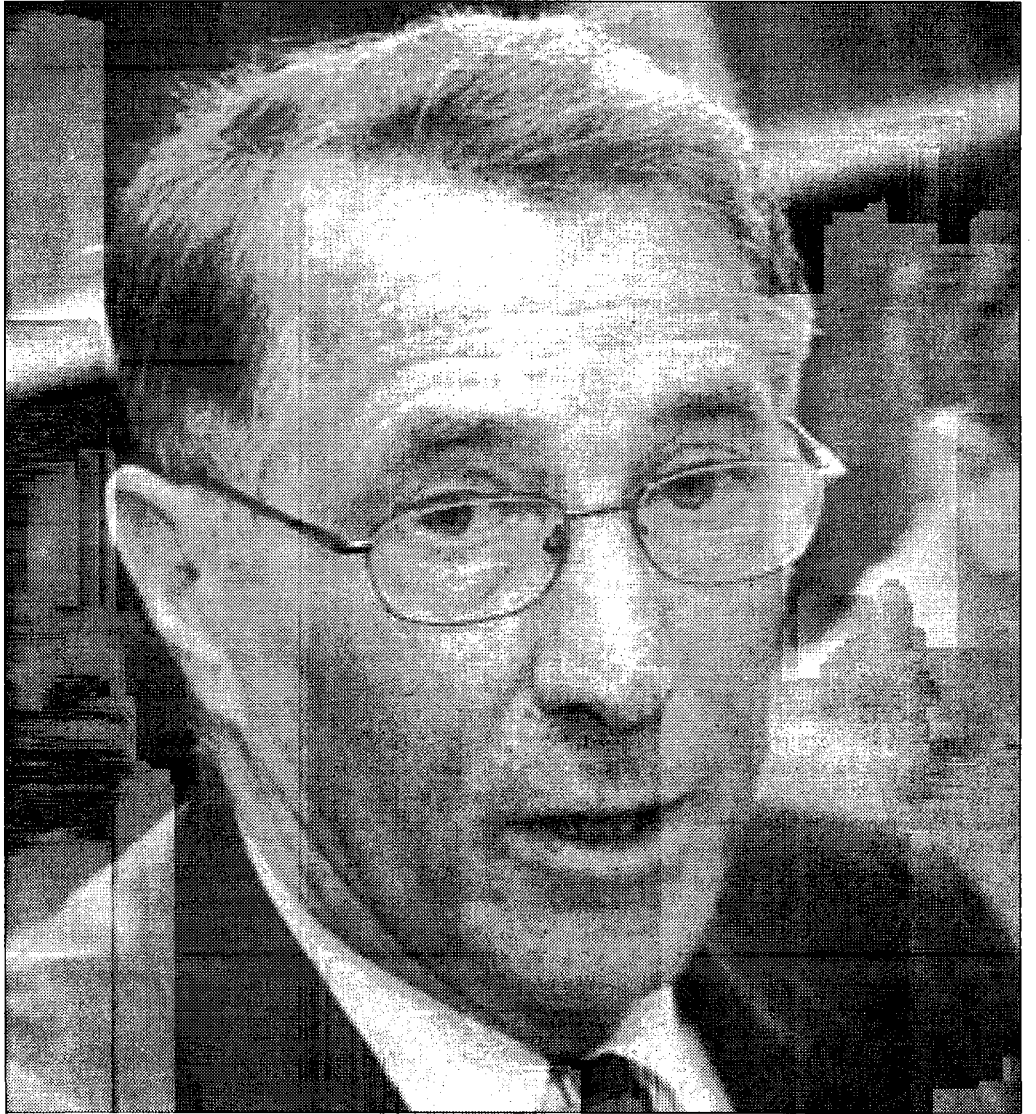
Christopher, of Ashford, Conn., lost control of the 9mm micro submachine gun as it recoiled while he was firing at a pumpkin Oct. 26 at the Machine Gun Shoot and Firearms Expo at the Westfield Sportsman's Club in western Massachusetts.

Pelham Police Chief Edward Fleury was charged because he owns the sponsor of the gun fair, COP Firearms & Training. Two men who brought the automatic weapon to the show, Carl Guiffre of Hartford, Conn., and Domenico Spano, of New Milford, Conn., also were indicted.

An involuntary manslaughter conviction carries a maximum 20-year prison sentence and \$1,000 fine. The term could be five years or less for someone with no prior convictions.

Fleury and the club also were indicted on four counts each of furnishing a machine gun to a minor. A conviction on each count is punishable by up to 10 years in prison, up to \$10,000 in fines and the loss of a firearms license for at least 10 years.

Bennett said prosecutors know of at least four children, including Christopher, who fired automatic weapons at the fair. He



Hampden County district attorney William M. Bennett speaks at a news conference on Thursday, in Springfield, Mass. AP

added that Fleury had wrongly assured Guiffre and Spano that it was legal for children to use the Uzi under Massachusetts law.

"A Micro Uzi is made by and for the Israeli Armed Forces and is intended to meet the operational needs of Israeli Special Forces," Bennett said, noting that the weapon has a rate of fire of 20 to 25 rounds per second. "It is not a hunting weapon."

Thomas Drechsler, an attorney for the club, said it continues to extend its "deepest sympathy" to the Bizilj family, but denies any wrongdoing. He said neither the club nor any mem-

ber gave the Uzi to Christopher or any children, and weren't in the immediate area when the accident happened.

"The club is disappointed by the indictment," he said. "The club's intention is to plead not guilty and the club denies they participated in any criminal act."

Fleury, Guiffre and Spano did not immediately return calls for comment.

The machine gun shoot drew hundreds of people to the sporting club's 375-acre compound. An advertisement said it would include machine gun demonstrations and rentals and free handgun lessons.

"It's all legal & fun — No permits or licenses required!!!!" reads the ad, posted on the club's Web site.

"You will be accompanied to the firing line with a Certified Instructor to guide you. But You Are In Control — FULL AUTO ROCK & ROLL," the ad said.

The ad also said children under 16 would be admitted free, and both adults and children were offered free .22-caliber pistol and rifle shooting.

Christopher's father was 10 feet behind him and reaching for his camera when the child fired the weapon.

IRAQ

Two soldiers killed by suicide bombs

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Suicide bombers killed 17 people — including two American soldiers — and wounded more than 100 in a string of blasts in two Iraqi cities Thursday as a timetable for withdrawing all U.S. troops won final government approval.

The brazen attacks in areas where the U.S. military has struggled for years to maintain order raised questions about Iraq's ability to ensure its own security as the U.S. scales down its own combat role under the newly ratified U.S.-Iraqi security pact, which calls for an American withdrawal within three years.

Iraq's three-member presidential council signed off on the pact Thursday, removing the last legal barrier so that the agreement can take effect Jan. 1.

But the latest bombings underscore the fragility of Iraq's recent security gains, adding new urgency to U.S. efforts to train and equip an Iraqi security force capable of maintaining order after American troops have gone home.

The two Americans were killed when a suicide driver detonated an explosive-laden car near an Iraqi checkpoint in the northern city of Mosul, military spokesman Lt. Col. Dave Doherty said. Iraqi police said

eight people were wounded, most of them civilians.

But the deadliest attacks occurred in Fallujah, the country's most heavily guarded city and once the symbol of Sunni Arab resistance to the U.S. occupation.

Truck bombers struck within minutes of each other outside the concrete barriers surrounding two police stations in different parts of the city, killing 15 people, wounding more than 100 and shattering nearby buildings, police and hospital officials said.

An al-Qaida front group, the Islamic State of Iraq, purportedly claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement posted on a militant Web site.

Economy

continued from page 1

is going to take a long time to figure out completely.

"It's going to take months and years to fully understand the ramifications, the impacts and the cost of this," Waller said.

But to begin to understand what happened, Waller went all the way back in time to before the Great Depression, referencing the Jimmy Stewart film, "It's a Wonderful Life."

Prior to the 1930s, if someone wanted to buy a home, he would go to a bank, and the bank would give a loan for five years. The person receiving the loan would pay off interest and pay off the principal. At the end of the five years, the person would ask for another five-year period, and the bank would roll the loan over.

This works well if everything is stable, Waller said.

But if the markets become unstable, a bank might be unable to keep up the loan. If one bank goes under, it can inspire a run on other banks.

This is a phenomenon unique to financial firms, Waller said.

"If McDonalds is going to go under, nobody says, 'I'm not going to eat at Burger King anymore,'" he said.

A systemic collapse in the financial services system can lead to a social housing disaster, and so in the Great Depression, 40 percent of homes were foreclosed on.

In the United States currently, only about three percent of homes are foreclosed on, Waller said.

After the 1930s financial crisis, the government asked banks to give longer maturity loans of 15 to 30 years. To help the banks do this and remain solvent, the government says it will buy mortgages from banks in a credit crunch, and so the government became a "buyer of last resort."

And so Fannie Mae was created.

"They created a very well-functioning secondary mortgage market, meaning you are buying used mortgages," Waller said.

But this created a moral hazard, he said, because when you provide insurance for something, it also provides protection for bad actions. A famous example, he said, is seatbelts. With a seatbelt, someone may feel he is protected from an accident, consequently there is an incentive to drive faster or more recklessly.

"If you really wanted to get the people to drive safely, you put a big metal spike in the middle of the steering wheel," Waller said. "That's how you get people to drive safely."

Banks had the incentive to dump bad loans on Fannie Mae, so Fannie said they would only buy prime mortgages, or those with credit scores over 650, with a low credit risk. Anyone below 650 was thought to be risky.

The secondary mortgage market was running smoothly in the 1960s, but the government worried that Fannie was becoming a monopoly, so they created Freddie Mac. Both were privatized and sold off to investors, but classified as government sponsored enterprises.

"It basically meant that we have a special relationship with these firms and we are very concerned if they get into trouble," Waller said.

Waller then skipped ahead to the 1990s, when hedge funds and investment banks started issuing mortgage-backed securities backed by subprime mortgages. These performed "rea-

sonably well," Waller said, so early success led to high ratings from ratings agencies.

Firms like Goldman Sachs bought insurance against default from the company American International Group (AIG).

Changes in government housing policies in 1992 meant Fannie and Freddie had to use funds to serve poor households, and by 2005, they had to dedicate over half of their lending to low-income families.

"That may be a socially laudable goal, but you might start thinking, 'I'm giving a lot of loans to very low-income people,'" Waller said.

In 2000, there were around 200,000 subprime mortgages issued, and by 2005, there were 2.25 million subprime mortgages issued.

In 2005-2006, the home ownership rate hit about 70 percent, and it was "lauded as a great social achievement," Waller said.

But it would lead to the housing bubble, as house prices doubled in less than seven years. Mortgage payments increased as housing prices increased, and homeowners were left with little equity to weather downturns in the market, he said.

So investment banks took big bets on mortgage-backed securities due to their perceived profitability and low default probability.

But the banks highly leveraged themselves, and so, when the housing bubble burst, they were wiped out.

"There was a time we had an industry called investment banks, and they don't exist anymore," Waller quipped.

Prices fell for homes and interest rates of mortgages rose, and soon low, middle and high-income homeowners were defaulting.

In July 2007, two Bear Stearns hedge funds imploded from subprime losses, and this set off a financial panic. Housing prices plummeted as did the value of mortgage-backed assets.

Fannie and Freddie, which held \$5 trillion in mortgages, suffered huge losses and became insolvent.

They were then taken over by the government in September.

The investment bank industry collapsed, and in mid-September the credit markets began to crumble.

"We call this a massive flight to safety," Waller said. "Creditors only want to hold U.S. government debt. They don't trust anyone else."

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson asked for the largest bailout of the financial markets in American history on Sept. 19.

"The idea was hopefully this would restore confidence and trust in the credit markets and it would reverse the flight to safety," Waller said.

The government then decided to recapitalize the banks. But now banks who were not in a subprime mortgage crisis have the government as a competitor, so it is not a fair fight for those companies, he said.

Waller said he does not know what is coming next for the economy.

"Things change, day by day," he said. But he said things are better off with the government intervention.

The Student Senate University Affairs committee organized the speaking engagement after seeing from their October mock election results that students overwhelmingly voted the economy as the most important issue for them, committee chair Ashlee Wright said.

Contact Kaitlynn Riely at kriely@nd.edu

Reish

continued from page 1

made the decision to work together on the initiative," Weinstein said.

The social networking site had several problems initially, Reish said. They did not have a webmaster to manage the site and it was not being utilized by students, he said.

"We had the site, but no one was using it," he said.

In order to jumpstart usage of the site, Reish and Weinstein moved the discussions from collegegovs.com to Google Groups, an application offered by Google allowing members to create groups for online communication.

Reish said they found contact information for student body presidents, invited them to the group, and now the group members receive e-mails when people post discussion topics.

"In the last few days, we have gotten a crazy amount of hits," he said. "Now we are starting to see the fruits of our labor."

Wellesley College, Wesleyan University, University of Wisconsin, Dartmouth College and Clemson University are just a few of the schools involved, Reish said.

Weinstein said the group is already creating discussion, and student leaders are sharing ideas.

"The listserv has already allowed for great communication and is really picking up steam, now with 118 members," he said.

Reish said he recently used the discussion board in the group to see if other schools have implemented Good Samaritan clauses, which protect students from punishment for alcohol violations when they seek out help for a friend. This recently became an issue because the recent student sur-



TOM LA/The Observer

Student body vice president Grant Schmidt, left, and president Bob Reish discuss collegegovs.com in LaFortune.

vey indicated 72.8 percent of students consider possible disciplinary consequences before calling Notre Dame Security Police (NDSP) or residence hall staff for help, he said.

"I think [the site] will help us provide a Good Samaritan policy. That's an issue we are facing now," he said.

Reish said several study body presidents have detailed their experiences with a Good Samaritan policy.

"[Student body presidents at] high profile colleges are saying, 'We've done it and it's been successful,'" he said.

Other topics that have been discussed in the online forum are compensation for student government members, sustainability and student activity fees, Reish said.

While the Google Group format is working right now, Reish said he and Weinstein want to eventually move the discourse back to the CollegeGovs Web site.

"It's literally like trying to solve a business problem," he said. "We're using trial and error."

Reish said he is working to make sure the site continues developing in the future. He said

they are trying to expand the scope of the site to include aspects like buddy lists, school profiles and database searches, all of which would only be available to student body presidents.

"Basically we want to be exclusive, but at the same time, not elitist," Reish said.

He said the site will lead into his bigger goal of creating an intercollegiate college council, which was part of his campaign platform.

"We are talking about continuing relationships outside of Notre Dame," he said. "Personal connections make a difference."

Weinstein he said the site can really benefit the schools involved, especially as it progresses in the future.

"We hope to encourage the participating schools in the listserv to encourage their student government officers to use CollegeGovs and begin populating it with the critical information about their Universities/Colleges and respective student government," he said. "That will make it such an invaluable tool."

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

CHORALE &

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

ANNUAL PERFORMANCES OF

HANDEL'S "MESSIAH"

8:00 PM
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 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2008
 LEIGHTON CONCERT HALL
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 GENERAL ADMISSION \$10
 STUDENT TICKETS \$3

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MARKET RECAP

Stocks

Dow Jones	8,376.24	-215.45
Up:	Same:	Down:
1,059	77	2,776
Composite Volume: 2,413,008,456		
AMEX	1,241.28	-75.25
NASDAQ	1,445.56	-46.82
NYSE	5,232.26	-173.29
S&P 500	845.22	-25.52
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	7,957.45	+34.03
FTSE 100 (London)	4,163.61	-6.35

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
SPDR S&P 500 (SPY)	-2.31	-2.02	85.30
CITIGROUP INC (C)	-5.37	-0.42	7.40
POWERSHARES (QQQQ)	-2.83	-0.81	27.81
FIN SELECT SPDR (XLF)	-1.08	-0.13	11.87

Treasuries

10-YEAR NOTE	-3.96	-0.106	2.570
13-WEEK BILL	-66.67	-0.010	0.005
30-YEAR BOND	-3.14	-0.100	3.084
5-YEAR NOTE	-6.00	-0.098	1.534

Commodities

LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	-3.12	43.67
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-5.00	765.50
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-0.90	91.10

Exchange Rates

YEN	92.4900
EURO	0.7838
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.2770
BRITISH POUND	0.6824

IN BRIEF

Banks borrow less, firms borrow more

WASHINGTON — Commercial banks borrowed slightly less from the Federal Reserve's emergency lending program over the past week, while investment firms stepped up their loans.

The Fed's report, released Thursday, showed commercial banks averaged \$90.3 billion in daily borrowing over the week ending Wednesday. That was down from \$93.6 billion in average daily borrowing logged over the week ended Nov. 26.

Investment firms drew \$57.2 billion over the past week. That was up from an average of \$52.4 billion the previous week. This category was recently broadened to include any loans that were made to the U.S. and London-based broker-dealer subsidiaries of Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley and Merrill Lynch.

The Fed report also showed that its net holdings of "commercial paper" averaged \$297.6 billion over the week ending Wednesday, an increase of \$15.4 billion from the previous week. Under the first of its kind program started Oct. 27, the Fed is buying mounds of the crucial short-term debt that companies use to pay everyday expenses. The Fed has said about \$1.3 trillion worth of commercial paper would qualify.

Market wary of employment report

NEW YORK — A period of relative calm on Wall Street ended Thursday as stocks tumbled in the final hour of trading on growing investor anxiety ahead of the government's November employment report.

The major indexes each slid more than 2.5 percent, including the Dow Jones industrial average, which dropped 216 points after rising in seven of the last eight sessions.

Investors are worried that Friday's employment report would show a further deterioration in the job market; employers have already cut 1.2 million jobs in the first 10 months of the year, leaving the unemployment rate at a 14-year high of 6.5 percent. Economists expect the Labor Department will report that the jobless rate rose to 6.8 percent in November and that companies cut another 320,000 jobs.

Amidst recession, AT&T cuts 12,000 jobs

Telecom giant to lose 4 percent of workforce as it loses traditional customers

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Pressured by the economic turmoil and the mounting loss of traditional phone customers, AT&T Inc. is cutting 12,000 jobs, about 4 percent of its work force.

The Dallas-based telecommunications company, the nation's largest, said the job cuts will begin this month and run throughout 2009. The company also plans to lower its capital spending next year, and one analyst estimates that reduction could be as much as \$2 billion.

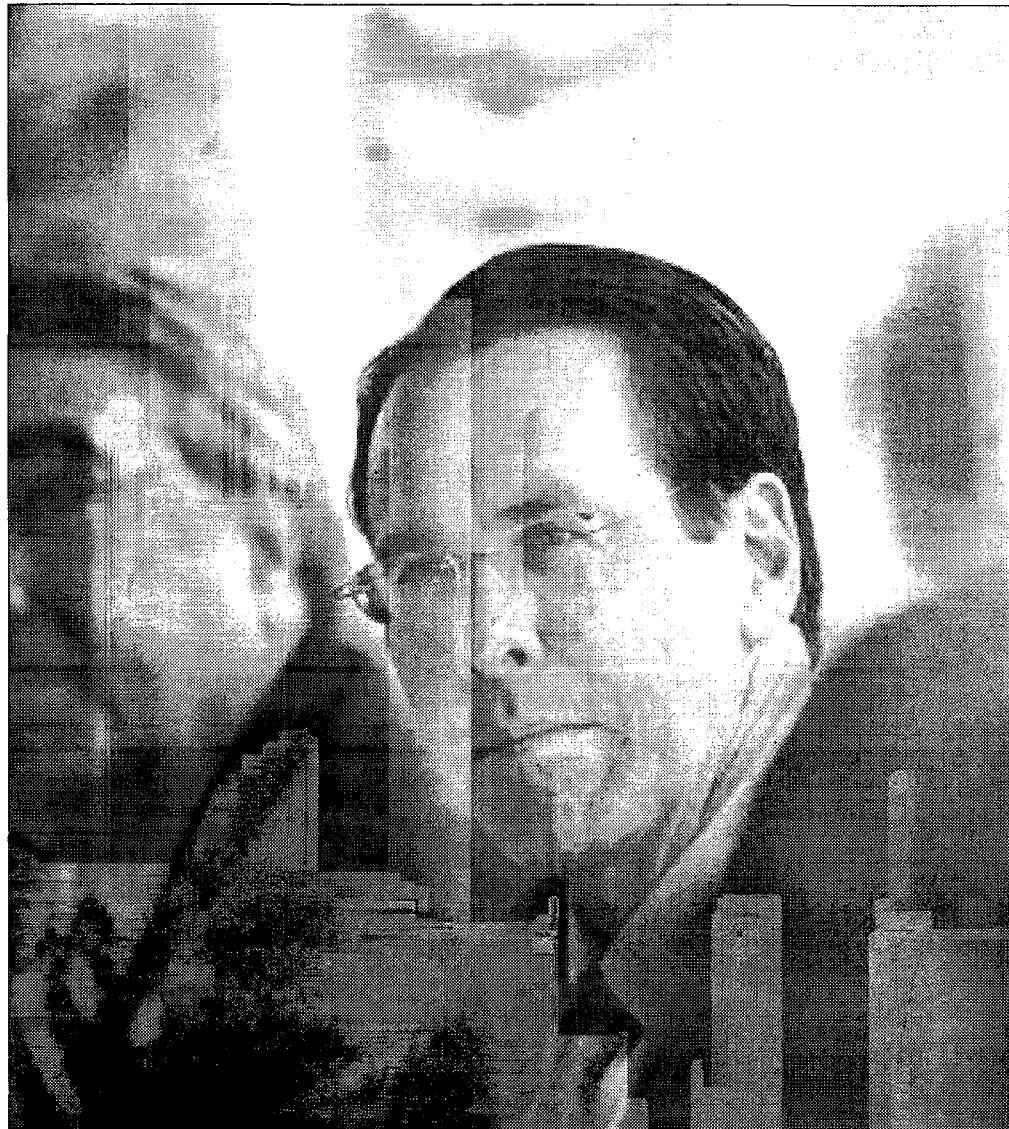
The 300,000-person company has announced layoffs several times over the past few years, including in April, when it said it would eliminate 4,600 jobs, but it has been hiring at the same time. This is the first time since the company bought BellSouth Corp. in 2006 that it said overall staffing would decline.

The new cuts were part of a parade of layoffs tied to the recession. In addition Thursday, chemicals company DuPont announced plans to lose 2,500 jobs, Credit Suisse Group slashed 5,300 and media conglomerate Viacom Inc. jettisoned 850. Yet AT&T, which provides local phone coverage in California, Texas and 20 other states, is also being pulled by another current: the long-term trend of people defecting from landline phones to wireless services or phone service from the cable company.

In the last quarter, AT&T's basic voice lines in service dropped 11 percent. Its wireless customer base, meanwhile, grew 14 percent.

Reflecting that "changing business mix," the company said it still plans some hiring in 2009 in parts of the business that offer cell phone service and broadband Internet access.

The shift away from landlines has accelerated because of the economic turmoil, said Christopher King, an analyst



Randall Stephenson, president, chief executive officer and chairman of AT&T Inc., speaks to employees in Goldsboro, N.C. on Sept. 30.

with Stifel Nicolaus. Fewer homes bought means fewer landlines getting installed or transferred. And more are getting disconnected as people look to save money and rely only on their cell phones.

AT&T spokesman Walt Sharp said the layoffs will be "across the company and across the country," but would not specify what departments and cities would be most affected.

King expects most of the lost jobs to come from the company's landline business. But he said some might also come from the unit of the company that serves large businesses and accounts for

about 30 percent of AT&T's sales. Companies have been cutting back spending because of the recession, and this, King said, will "certainly pinch" AT&T's revenue growth.

AT&T, whose shares are down about 30 percent this year — while the Dow Jones industrial average is off 35 percent — remains profitable, and benefits from being the sole U.S. wireless carrier for Apple Inc.'s popular iPhone. This is in sharp contrast to rival Sprint Nextel Corp., which has been hemorrhaging wireless subscribers and has seen its shares lose 80 percent of

their value this year. Last month, Sprint said it is offering voluntary buyout packages to an unspecified number of its 57,000 workers.

Verizon Communications Inc., the nation's second-largest phone company, has fared better than AT&T so far. Its landline business is concentrated in the Northeast, which hasn't been as battered by the housing crisis as some of the markets AT&T serves, like Florida and California. However, Verizon figures to be more affected by a slowdown in business spending and the fallout from the financial sector's crisis.

Treasury considering lowering rates

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The head of the government's financial system rescue effort said Thursday the Treasury Department is considering a program to encourage banks to make mortgage loans at low rates to help revive the battered housing market.

Under the proposal being pushed by the financial industry, Treasury would seek to lower the rate on a 30-year mortgage to 4.5 percent by purchasing mortgage-backed securities from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. It's unclear exactly how much the plan would cost.

Asked about the proposal during his testimony before a Senate Appropriations subcommittee, Neel Kashkari said that it was one of the options the administration had under review.

Treasury is striving to use the "right tools for the right job" in an effort to help as many homeowners as possible, said Kashkari, the department official in charge of the \$700 billion rescue effort.

The goal of the industry's proposal would be to take advantage of the unusually large difference, or spread, between mortgage rates and yields on government debt. On Thursday, the yield on the 10-year Treasury note yield sank to a record low of 2.56 percent, while the national average rate on a 30-year fixed rate mortgages was 5.54 percent, according to financial publisher HSH Associates.

In recent years, there has been about a 1.8 percentage point difference between the yield on a 10-year Treasury note and a 30-year mortgage rate, but that spread currently

hovers around 3 percentage points.

Analysts said that the government could use its ability to borrow money at low rates to in essence flood the market for mortgage-backed securities. This increased demand would tend to push down the yield on mortgage securities sold by Fannie and Freddie, which now average about 5.5 percent because of investor concerns about default risks. Once those yields fall, the theory goes, lower mortgage rates should follow.

That would have two benefits for the economy: Immediately adding money to the pocketbooks of homeowners who can refinance their mortgages and reduce their monthly payments, and eventually help arrest the slide in home prices since much lower mortgage rates would allow more potential buyers to qualify for loans.

THE OBSERVER

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Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief Chris Hine.

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Keeping Weis
the right move

After back-to-back disappointing seasons, Notre Dame athletic director Jack Swarbrick and University President Fr. John Jenkins decided to retain Charlie Weis as the head football coach. And they made the right call doing so.

The University has had its name dragged through the mud over the last five years regarding its treatment of Weis, especially after the early firing of Tyrone Willingham (the first coach not to finish five years as coach since Hunk Anderson from 1931-1933). The athletic department is returning to the stability it had before Willingham's dismissal, thereby avoiding major problems with rebuilding the program from scratch for the second time in five years.

One of the biggest criticisms from the media has been a racial one, that Willingham was fired because he is black and Weis was kept because he is white. The different treatment of the two men has nothing to do with their skin color, but with their abilities. Willingham was a mediocre coach and inept recruiter with Notre Dame's prestige, money and facilities behind him. He has shown his inability to produce on the field at Washington, resigning midway through a winless season.

Weis has shown some competence as a college football coach, though certainly not as much as what had been expected. While this past season has been subpar according to Notre Dame's high standards for the football program, the team did show signs of improvement. The offense did not rank dead last in total offense and the defense continued to grow under the tutelage of defensive coordinator Corwin Brown.

There are still some holes left to be fixed (such as the offensive line and establishing a solid running game), but

these are things that take time. Whoever was the coach of the Irish the last two seasons would have dealt with these issues; it just happened that Weis was the one who did.

Also, college coaching is only half what you are doing this season on the field; the other half is how you are preparing for the future with recruiting. And, according to national recruiting Web sites like Scout.com and Rivals.com, Weis and his staff have been among the elite recruiters since his arrival at South Bend.

Some have argued that with these great recruiting classes, there should have been a better product on the field. However, most of Weis' top recruits are still only freshmen and sophomores (his first class is not indicative of his recruiting since he did not become coach until late in the process that year). With some already beginning to shine — such as Michael Floyd and Ethan Johnson — and many others waiting in the wings, Weis should be able to produce a much better team next year — comprised mostly of his recruits.

But the most important reason, and one that many are drastically overlooking, is the monetary issue. Weis' buyout, whether it is \$5 million or \$20 million (the two extremes reported), is money that should not be spent with the economy in the state it is today. With Jenkins pushing every department in the University to be more frugal to save money and jobs, spending \$20 million to fire one coach and spending the additional money it would take to hire another would be exorbitant and hypocritical.

By keeping Weis, the University recommitted itself to stability in the football program and its own stated economic policies, while still setting up the football program for a bright future.

THE
OBSERVER
Editorial

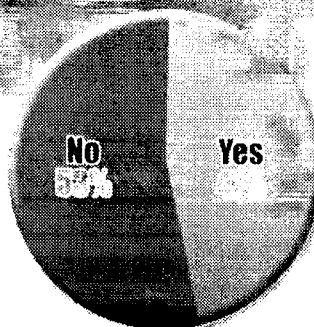
EDITORIAL CARTOON



Observer Poll

Should Weis be fired?

	Votes	Percentage
No	1019	53%
Yes	893	47%



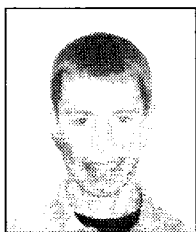
QUOTE OF THE DAY

"One kind word can warm three winter months."

Japanese proverb

Do you feel lucky?

We seniors have seen a lot of things happen in the four seasons we have cheered for Notre Dame Football as students. It seems that few classes have sat through a more tumultuous and disappointing span of our team's history than ours. We have experienced the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly of Notre Dame Football in four years, and now that it is all over I'd like to use this space to therapeutically reminisce on all that has happened, and what could still happen.



Bob Kessler

House of Stix

The Good: Not knowing much of anything about what would happen, and then winning the first game against Pitt by a huge margin. — Upsetting a top five Michigan team on the road the following week. — Pass Right. — The Stadium Pep Rally before the USC game. — College GameDay on Library Quad. — Green Jerseys (in 2005 against USC). — Brady Quinn running for the go-ahead points with under 2:00 to play against USC. — The instant before 4th and 9. — When the clock said 0:00. — A Fiesta Bowl Berth. — Starting 2006 ranked #2. — Annihilating Penn State — The Rain Soaked 4th Quarter Comeback at Michigan State. — Samardjia's catch

against UCLA. — Crushing Michigan in the rain earlier this year. — Ty Willingham being fired by UW after our team crushed his.

The Bad:

Our Decided Schematic Advantage. — Michigan State winning in OT — The flag being planted on our field. — Leinart to Jarrett on 4th and 9. — The fact that we needed Samardjia's catch to beat UCLA — Whatever happened in the Coliseum that November. — Green Jerseys (in 2006 against ARMY) — The Running Game post D-Walk. — Javon Ringer running rampant this season. — Losing 4th quarter leads against UNC, Pitt, and Syracuse.

The Ugly:

The Bush Push. — The 2006 Michigan Game. — Sugar Bowl. — The Year 2007. — The Year 2007. — The Year 2007. — The Option Offense. — Celebrations when the team beat UCLA in 2007. — Green Jerseys (in 2007 against USC) — Navy in overtime. — A Shutout at BC. — UNC Fans chanting Let's Play Football towards the end of the Maui Invitational last week.

I think that last one was when the Notre Dame Football program hit rock-bottom. It wasn't when we lost to Navy last year. It wasn't when our team lost to Syracuse on Senior Day. It wasn't earlier this week when my roommates and I discussed whether or not the Fighting Irish would be playing in the Sun Bowl or the Texas Bowl. Rock-bottom was when the North Carolina fans, some of the most die-hard basketball fans in the country

were more concerned with our football team than with the game that was happening at that moment.

One week, and one more loss in the Ugly column later, and coach Weis was in a meeting with Athletic Director Swarbrick. The meeting, apparently, was not to stop the bleeding but to give Coach Weis more bandages to fix this conundrum. The two have now devised a plan for how to bring Notre Dame football back to the place that the alums expect it to be, competing for National Championships. With his decision to retain Coach Weis, the blame for what happens next sits on Athletic Director Swarbrick's shoulders just as much as it sits on Weis'. Because of this, I have to ask Mr. Swarbrick one question: Do you feel lucky? Well, do ya?

While the student body might be mixed over whether or not Coach Weis should have been retained, it seems that most of the Alums and ALL of the media believed Weis was a dead man walking in the Coliseum last Saturday. In rolling the dice Mr. Swarbrick has figuratively got into bed with the Coach that promised to bring us hard-working, intelligent, nasty football team. He has inextricably tied his perception amongst the alums and possibly his future at this University to how successful a group of 19 and 20-year-old boys perform on the field next year.

As for Coach Weis, he has to find a way to take the Ugly out of this school's football program. One place he can start is by holding back the arrogance and being a

little more humble. If his contract truly is as large as we have been meant to believe in recent weeks, he would certainly have the funds to give us seniors a refund for all of the emotional trouble we have been put through. Sixty thousand dollars can refund us all for what we saw as our last game in the student section, and I think it would be a small price to pay for some good will with the soon-to-be young alums. I think most of the seniors would join with me in sending the money right back to Hannah and Friends, and we would all be better off for it.

At the very least, I think the senior class deserves an apology from the coach. On Oct. 15, 2005 we as fans were taken to the highest of heights, only to be let down again, and again, and again in the ensuing three years. We've witnessed the worst two years of Notre Dame football, after unreasonable expectations were set for us early on. I don't know if the Notre Dame family needs to lower its expectations of our football team. I don't know if the world has passed our program by, but what I do know is that it has been one hell of a four years, and I'll always remember the good times more than the bad and ugly ones.

Bob Kessler is a senior majoring in political science and economics. You can contact him at rkessler@nd.edu

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An invitation

'Twas the eve of exams, when all through the quad, Every Domer was studying whilst their snow mittens thawed. Their textbooks were open, scattered notes everywhere, desperate for cheer, they sent out a prayer. Through blustery winds and o'er lake deep and wide, The Vermin of Carroll lay nestled inside. Known for their love, and holiday spirit, they're famous on campus, though not even near it! All of a sudden, a voice came from above Commanding the Vermin to share such warm love. "The spirit of Christmas can't be kept to yourselves, You must share it, through Santi-Claus! Cocoa! And Elves!" Not a moment to waste, the Vermin sprang from their beds With versions of Chestnuts-Roasting-

on-an-Open-Fire, ringing through their young heads. There are snowflakes to hang, luminaries to light Can it all be done before Friday night?! At the hour of seven, around our Yule pine, The Domers will gather to see our tree shine. Back inside, decorated from ceiling to floor, Are rooms full of cider and cookies galore! "Now Howard! Now Badin! Now Pangborn, and PE! On Lewis! On P Dub! On Lyons, and Farley! Down Carroll drive! Down towards the hall! Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!

Rich Schroeder, Patrick Berry
sophomores
Carroll Hall
Dec. 3

Celebrate human rights

We discuss Charlie's worth. We defend our right to throw snowballs. We define the meaning of hooking up. But when a Viewpoint suggests that there's a world outside of the Bubble, does anyone read it? Let's see.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, for those who are not aware, is this cool little document that promotes "dignity and justice for all of us." It was passed by the United Nations after WWII, while the horrific memories of the Holocaust were strong.

The 30 articles express rights, which unfortunately for a great portion of the world, are not yet a reality. It calls for freedoms, regardless of skin color, sex, religion or language. Freedom from torture. Freedom to move and travel. The right to marry and have a family. The right to be educated. And 25 other basic human rights we too often take for granted because we are just too "busy."

Dec. 10th happens to mark the 60th anniversary of the declaration's adop-

tion, and we all have a chance to celebrate these rights, proving we do still value them. Organizations and individuals in the South Bend area have planned a party this Saturday to recognize the historic anniversary of the Declaration.

On Saturday, from 2 to 5 p.m., we will be at UAW Local No. 5 Hall, located at 1426 S. Main St. in South Bend, with music, speakers, birthday cake, and more. In the spirit of the Christmas season, and in support of Article 25, we ask that you bring a donation for the Food Bank.

If you made it to the end of this letter, thank you. Come join us. The LSAT will be over, it's not finals week yet, and there's no football game. So really, you have no excuse not to.

Katie Michel
senior
off-campus
Dec. 4

What about our other teams?

So everyone seems to think our athletic program and department has gone down the drain; the pundits, the "professionals" many students and professors, the analysts, and the writers all think Notre Dame's athletic success has dropped significantly. And why? Because our football team has slipped into a subpar status over the last two years.

Don't get me wrong. Football is my favorite sport to watch, analyze, and talk about (playing, well that's a different story), but what happened to every other sport at Notre Dame? We have the No. 1 Women's Soccer team in the nation, undefeated and in the Final Four, but you wouldn't really know it. How many headlines do these ladies get? Or how about our cross country and track/field teams, who consistently post great scores and good finishes? How could we forget about our hockey team, currently No. 1 in the country and playing well also? When have we heard about our fencing teams constantly winning duals and being just shy of a national championship for the past few years after winning one in 2003? Stretching even further, what news have you seen about our tennis players doing well in competition and knocking off some tough players?

The list goes on further and further: baseball, golf, lacrosse, rowing, softball, swimming and diving, volleyball. Until recently, even basketball was a "background" sport here too. Where are the "student sections" at these sporting events?

It's easy to read the results in The Observer the next day, but it's just as easy to go and support the teams. Most other events on campus are free and are a good time. It was nice to see a student section at the women's soccer games during the Big East Championship but it was still small. We all know the impor-

tance of home field advantage in football; that remains the same for other sports as well.

I know being in college, especially at Notre Dame, doesn't allow you to do everything you want and certainly doesn't allow you to attend every sporting event on campus. Still, what's wrong with taking a break from partying every now and then to go watch the soccer teams play or the baseball team play on a Friday? I'm sure you could still even make that amazing dorm party you've been looking forward to all week after the game.

Is football important? Of course it is. There is no denying that it is the sport that, nine times out of 10, makes a school the most money and gives the school's name the most attention. It is definitely important to focus on football. But it doesn't make or break our athletic program. I myself have many thoughts and concerns about Notre Dame football, most of which I have decided to refrain from speaking of until the very end of the season (as I think Notre Dame should have done); maybe this will come in another letter to the editor.

Regardless, every one of the sports I mentioned earlier has lots to do with the success of an athletic program. Just because our football team is not in the Top 25 doesn't mean our athletic program overall is not. Furthermore, the non-football athletes work just as hard to bring success to the results as the football players. They practice, they work out, they keep in shape, and yes, they are college students too.

Though not a student athlete myself, I'm sure they wouldn't mind some support and even more, a little attention.

Kevin Kimberley
sophomore
O'Neill Hall
Dec. 4

The Killers

pick the wrong



Day & Age

ANGELA ACHER | Observer Graphic

By ALEXANDRA KILPATRICK
Scene Writer

The Killers' first two albums, "Hot Fuss" and "Sam's Town," were so well-settled that the band surely got nowhere but down. This is certainly the case with The Killers' third studio album, "Day & Age." The newest album has the vibrant vocal style of "Sam's Town" and the pop sound of "Hot Fuss" without the genius or creativity of either album.

The first single, "Human," released in late September, seemed promising, as it had the upbeat and innovative sound

of The Killers' previous efforts. The album as a whole, however, is quite a disappointment. The pop punk band attempts to be experimental by mixing contrasting genres and instead ends up sounding not like The Killers that we

all know and love, but rather like a rip-off of other bands.

The opening track, "Losing Touch," would be an excellent and innovative new pop song if it didn't sound like it belonged on a 1970s Eric Clapton album. Rather than simply drawing influences from classic and glam rock, the band relies on its

influences without adding new material this time around. In "Joy Ride," the Las Vegas group abandons its usual sound and opts to mimic the likes of the Strokes and Modest Mouse, with an unexpected saxophone riff that doesn't fit into the context of the song at all.

"This is Your Life" is boring, due to a combination between Flowers'

monotonous vocals, a lack of emotion, an almost unsurprising likeness to U2 and an absence of the edge found in "Sam's Town." "I Can't Stay" flops thanks to its annoying use of a Caribbean beat, harp, and saxophone in the background and inane lyrics. One would not exaggerate to say that this song truly belongs at a Hawaiian luau-themed party in a bingo parlor.

"Neon Tiger" sounds mysteriously similar to MGMT, the indie rock band that broke out earlier this year with

their single "Time to Pretend" and a dance-punk sound comparable to that of The Killers. In a recent interview with The Quietus, a rock music and pop culture website, even Brandon Flowers admitted that in writing "Neon Tiger," "I was trying to write like MGMT," a group that probably drew influences from The Killers to begin with.

Flowers also mentioned in the Quietus interview that with the album's second single "Spaceman," "I was looking for a mixture between [David Bowie's] 'Space Oddity' and [Elton John's] 'Rocket Man.'"

As with most of the other tracks on the album, the quality of "Spaceman" hardly makes up for its lack of original-

ity, although it does lack the confusing instrumentation and baffling combinations of musical genres that mark other songs.

"A Dustland Fairytale," on the other hand, is a pleasant surprise. Certainly, the track starts out slow and follows the same format as many classic rock songs. But the music quickly gains momentum and you can feel the emotion in Flowers' vocals, reminding one of "Read My Mind" from "Sam's Town."

The impassioned ballad also has amazing lyrics. "Out here the good girls die. Now Cinderella, don't you go to sleep, it's such a bitter form of refuge. Why don't you know the kingdom's under siege and everybody needs you?"

Sure, the Nevada-based band was clearly trying to avoid catering to the American population's musical interests on "Day & Age." And it's excellent that The Killers are exploring different sounds rather than relying on the same sound for every album. However, the band simply went in the wrong direction this time. Let's hope for a better one the next time around.

Contact Alexandra Kilpatrick at
ackilpat@hotmail.com

Day & Age

The Killers

Produced by: Island Records
Recommended Tracks: "Human," "A Dustland Fairytale"



ANGELA ARCHER | Observer Graphic

By JESS SHAFFER
Assistant Scene Editor

Many may remember Grammy nominee Sara Bareilles' appearance at Legend's Nightclub in Fall 2007 before her successful emergence on the popular music scene. Others may have seen her in her 2008 Summer Tour with Counting Crows and Maroon 5. Either way, seeing Sara Bareilles live is not an experience easily forgotten. Perhaps unfortunately

pigeonholed by her hit "Love Song," nominated for Song of the Year at this year's Grammy's, Bareilles' real staying power will come from her appealing live performances.

Clearly, not everyone can make it to a Sara Bareilles concert. But luckily, her most recent release, "Between the Lines: Sara Bareilles Live at the Fillmore" brings her live talent to personal music libraries everywhere for people who don't have the fortunate opportunity to catch a performance. A nice substitute for a live viewing, Bareilles' new album is definitely worth a listen. Ultimately, her recorded performance is a relaxing, stimulating, and enjoyable experience that, just like her concert, will stay with listeners.

Most people probably recognize Bareilles from her radio-smash, "Love Song." Though her success with "Love Song" is undeniable, its potential to stick

Bareilles with a one-hit-wonder status is unfortunate. "Love Song" is not the only track equipped with potential radio success, and overall, all of Bareilles' music is lovable. While "Love Song" is undoubtedly a current feel good mainstay, it is just a small glimpse into Bareilles' true talent.

With the soulfulness of Norah Jones, the edgy angst of Feist, the pop catchiness of Gavin DeGraw, and a lyrical talent akin to Jason Mraz, Sara Bareilles is the perfect storm of soul, jazz, and pop-rock. Her voice has a distinct jazzy tone that is tempered with its pop appeal. With a good mix of jazzy, up-beat tracks and a mellow, relaxed musings, she offers a wide range of emotions in a variety of sounds. The lyrics are intelligent and still relatable, dealing with romance, fame, and the changing life brings. Bareilles meets the daunting task of having a mature musical approach that maintains the novel touch of youth.

Bareilles' quips and comments throughout her performance are minimal. The few lengthier comments are excused with self-effacing humor. Still,

the commentary is a nice peak into the artist's personality, which comes across as casual, sweet, and unpretentious. Otherwise, the commentary doesn't provide deep information about her work on the whole; rather it serves to do little besides humanize the artist.

Her ability to write endearing lyrics and couple them with simple, fun accompaniment is a huge strength. But, overall, it is her charming live quality that separates her from other contemporary artists. Though she's often put under the umbrella genre of pop music, she has an atypical talent for delivering a compelling live performance. Enhanced with pitch-perfect vocals, a consistent jazzy twang, this is music that is hard not to like. "Between the Lines: Sara Bareilles Live at the Fillmore" is an easy listen and also stimulating. With the holidays fast approaching, it would be a great stocking stuffer but is good enough that it could also pass as an out-and-out Christmas gift as well.

Contact Jess Shaffer at jshaffe1@nd.edu.

Between The Lines:

Sara Bareilles Live at the Fillmore

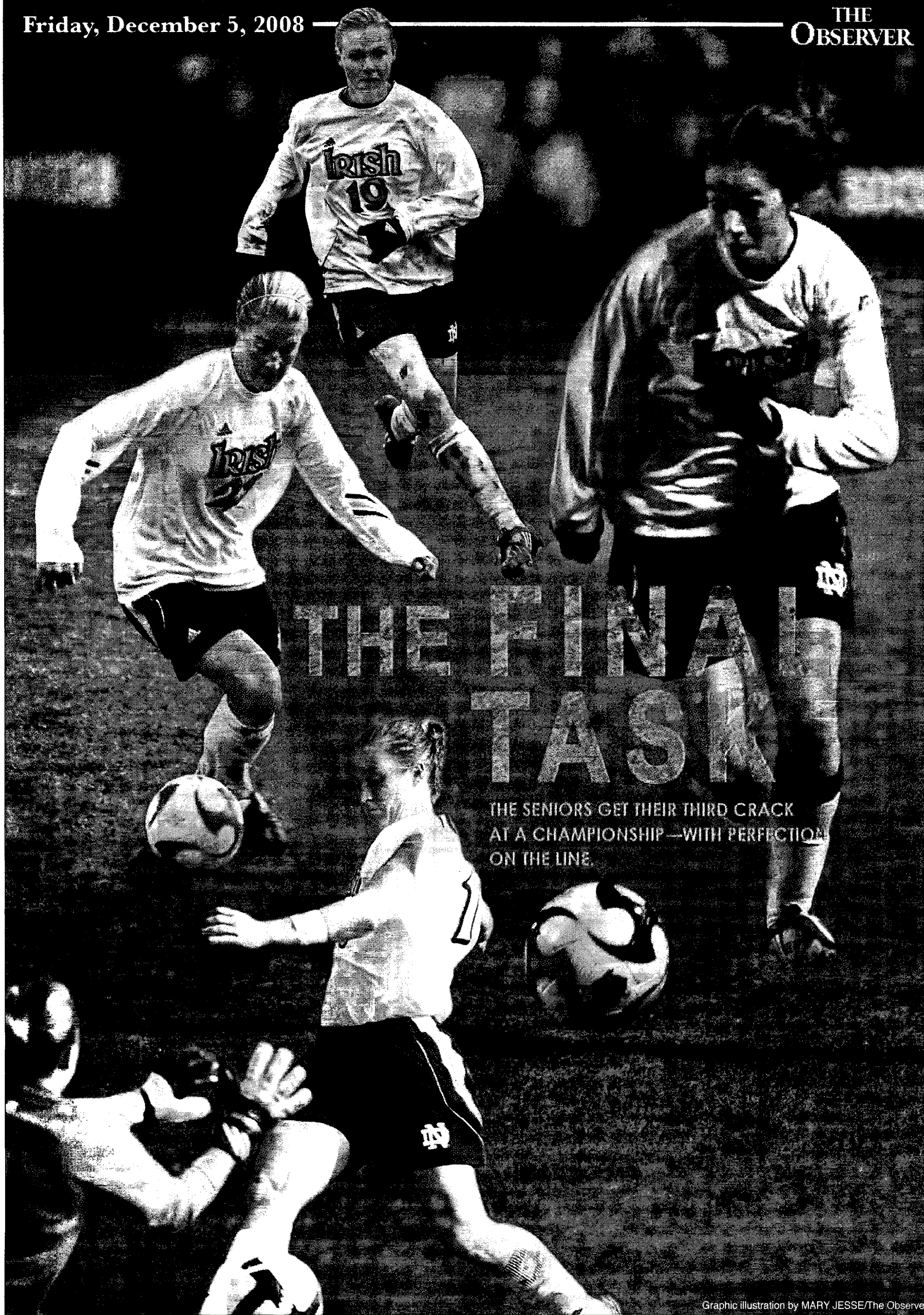
Produced by: Sony
Recommended Tracks: "Bottle It Up," "Fairytale,"



IRISH INSIDER

Friday, December 5, 2008

THE
OBSERVER



THE SENIORS GET THEIR THIRD CRACK
AT A CHAMPIONSHIP — WITH PERFECTION
ON THE LINE.

Weekend should give fans glimpse of the future

The last time I remember being this excited was the 1999 World Cup — that was my Super Bowl, my Olympics. I'm pretty sure the College Cup will feel the same for any 12-year old girl there this weekend.



Deirdre Krasula

Assistant
Managing
Editor

Mia Hamm, Michelle Akers, Julie Foudy, and my personal favorite, Kristine Lilly, were my idols — when I got "No. 13" (Kristine Lilly) to sign my jersey at a WUSA game, I'm pretty sure my dad had to drag me off the field, frozen from shock and unable to talk. I remember going to dinner and overhearing an older couple at the next table discussing America's win over China; they were mainly horrified that Brandi Chastain had even thought to tear off her shirt in victory. I couldn't have been prouder.

But from those years following the rise of women's soccer to glory in America, something has happened — it's fallen off the radar. Copies of Sports Illustrated with Chastain celebrating in her sports bra on the

cover are probably buried in the corner of some 20-something girl's room now, forgotten and unimportant. And with good reason. That was the last time the United States won a World Cup, showed hope for a nation dominated by male sports of football and baseball.

And even though the U.S. took gold at the Olympics this summer, it just didn't feel the same, maybe because I wasn't 12 or wearing a Lilly jersey at the time, but I don't think that was it. It just wasn't as exciting. These weren't faces I had come to know and cheer for. They were just another team.

But the 2008 College Cup gives me hope that that's about to change. Call it a hunch, but I feel history in the making here. Notre Dame, UCLA, North Carolina, and Stanford all have something to do with it.

Take a look at the Irish roster. Kerri Hanks passed Mia Hamm on the career assist list, she's not too far behind in goals either. Hanks, along with Carrie Dew, Brittany Bock, Michele Weissenhofer and Elise Weber are all members of the U-23 National team. Notre Dame is a microcosm of the future of women's soccer.

But take a look at the Final Four and the list of individuals that likely become household names. UCLA boasts Lauren Cheney and Tina DiMartino, both of whom have suited up for



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Senior co-captain Carrie Dew, 19, celebrates with her Notre Dame teammates after sophomore Rose Augustin's goal in a 1-0 win over Michigan State in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

the National Team, alongside stars like Shannon Box. North Carolina's Tobin Heath has also donned the red, white and blue. And Irish members of the U-23 team have played alongside Stanford's Marisa Abegg.

They're not all leading scorers or offensive stars either, they're a group of young women who will compose a team that features both goal-scorers and players who will prevent goals. These players are what American soccer will look like in years to come.

Names like Hamm and Chastain aren't likely to be for-

gotten and Lilly is still playing, as a matter of fact. But there's a new generation waiting to take the turf — but first they have to take the field this weekend in Cary, N.C.

Regardless of who takes the title this weekend, fans are in for a good show. They'll be able to say "I saw Kerri Hanks when she was still at Notre Dame." And when the players leave the field — many of them for their final college game — it won't be the last game they play. They'll go on to train with the national team and take up a role in the newly-formed Women's

Professional Soccer league.

Hopefully this league will survive longer than three years, and I have hope that these players will help that happen.

So don't be surprised if you see some of those faces scrolling across your TV screen during the 2011 World Cup, and that you actually know who they are.

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

Contact Deirdre Krasula at dkrasula@nd.edu

Bock returns to field, will try to help team to championship

Irish senior forward has battled injuries since preseason play

By DEIRDRE KRASULA
Assistant Managing Editor

There's nothing more frustrating than getting hurt right before tournament time, just as Brittany Bock did.

Bock injured her knee in Notre Dame's 2-0 win over Marquette in the Big East semifinals, and there was a chance that it could have been the last game of her Irish career. But the Irish co-captain is no stranger to injury and overcoming it both mentally and physically.

"It's definitely frustrating," Bock said. "I was injured last spring and then I hurt my ankle in the preseason [this year] and now I have this. This one was devastating, in a way, because I didn't know how long I'd be out. But I've worked hard to get back. And this team is a super close group and my teammates have been telling me, 'We're not going to let you sit on the bench for your last game.'"

As it turned out, the Marquette game wasn't the last time Bock

would wear her No. 10 Irish jersey. Bock took the field again last Friday to help Notre Dame defeat Florida State 2-0 and secure a spot in the College Cup.

Bock didn't score either of the goals against Florida State, but her value is measured in more than just statistics. Playing as both a forward and a midfielder, Bock is a leader on both ends of the field. Her physical style of play and ability to turn a game in Notre Dame's favor are what make her the glue of the top-ranked Irish.

"We're a country of stats, we love stats," Irish coach Randy Waldrum said. "But there are a few players that always just make a team click. Britt has epitomized that. She's just so physical for us."

Despite returning from injury, that physical style of play has never left Bock — that was evident as soon as she stepped on the field against Florida State.

"I was a little nervous coming back after the four games that I'd missed," Bock said. "Coach asked me during practice if I was confident I could play and I told him yes. I was still iffy during practice but I think in the first 10 seconds of the game, I tackled a girl. Then I think I tackled someone 10 times after that."

A spot in the Final Four only helped fuel the fire for Bock. The forward, along with classmates like Carrie Dew, was a senior in high school when Notre Dame

"There are a few players that always just make a team click. Britt has epitomized that."

Randy Waldrum
Irish coach

"My teammates have been telling me, 'We're not going to let you sit on the bench for your last game.'"

Brittany Bock
Irish senior forward



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Irish senior co-captain Brittany Bock fights for possession during Notre Dame's 5-0 win over Cincinnati in the Big East quarterfinals on Nov. 2. Bock has six goals and nine assists.

last won the national title. Now, the seniors want one to call their own.

And with that chance, the Irish aren't taking any risks. Tournament play means a slower game and lower scores, games when deadball situations can

send anyone packing. The Irish are grateful Bock is back.

"Britt's such a key for us," Waldrum said. "We're a different kind of team without her ... Britt adds another dimension to us, especially in the air on deadball situations and corner kicks."

It just might be one of those situations that Bock will take to the bank, and all the way to her class's first National Championship.

Contact Deirdre Krasula at dkrasula@nd.edu

Just one thing left to do

After compiling countless individual honors, senior Kerri Hanks looks to add a national title



Irish senior forward Kerri Hanks carries the ball during Notre Dame's 5-0 win over Cincinnati in the Big East quarterfinals on Nov. 2. The Irish went on to win the Big East championship and will head to Cary, N.C., this weekend for the College Cup.

IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

By FRAN TOLAN
Associate Sports Editor

Irish coach Randy Waldrum first saw senior forward Kerri Hanks play when she was just 10 years old. Apparently, Hanks — who has 83 goals and 73 assists in her Notre Dame career — was a natural. “She was just a shorter version of what you see now,” Waldrum said. “She was always very competitive and from a very young age, you could see she had some special ability.”

Waldrum, who like Hanks hails from Texas, said the state's soccer community is very tight-knit and he met Hanks through her family.

“Our friends were friends with her parents and I coached in camps with her brother,” Waldrum said. “It's just a small world out there but that's how we got our eyes on her.”

Hanks said she was not even completely sure how she came to know her future coach.

“It was just a family connection, one family to another to another,” she said. “It's kind of hard to explain.”

Regardless of how the two met, though, they head to the College Cup in Cary, N.C., this weekend with a chance to finish off one of the best seasons in Notre Dame history.

Just Missed

Hanks played just two years of soccer at Allen High School before deciding to compete exclusively on United States national teams. She was recruited to come to Notre Dame as a freshman in 2004, the year the Irish last won their most recent national championship. But Hanks said she elected not to join the team that fall because she was busy “travelling.”

“Kerri's actually very modest,” Waldrum said. “What she

was actually doing after high school was playing with the U.S. [Under-19] national team when they won it all.”

Hanks arrived at Notre Dame in the spring of 2005 but only after the Irish put the finishing touches on a 24-1-1 championship season. Hanks has not yet won a national title since arriving on campus.

“I was glad for the [2004] team but I just wished I was with that team,” Hanks said. “Hopefully, this year I can come out with a win.”

Individual Accolades

Since joining the Irish, Hanks has had an almost unparalleled career.

She was a second-team All-America selection as a freshman before becoming the youngest-ever Hermann Trophy winner as the top player in the country as a sophomore. That season, she joined former North Carolina great Mia Hamm as the only players to lead the nation in both goals and assists.

This season, Hanks has reached a new milestone virtually every week. When she recorded two assists in an NCAA quarterfinal win over Florida State last Friday, Hanks moved past Hamm into a tie for second place on the all-time assist list.

“I actually haven't thought about all of [the honors] yet,” Hanks said. “The records have obviously been great and I'm speechless about it still ... It hasn't really set in yet.”

Hanks is only the third player

ever to notch 70 career goals and 70 assists. And after being nominated Sunday as one of 15 Hermann Trophy semifinalists, Hanks could become just the fourth player ever to win the award twice.

Still, Hanks said she would rather have a national championship trophy than any individual honor. And she said she wants to leave a legacy as a good teammate rather than a top statistical performer.

“I would rather win than have the records,” she said. “I just want the younger players to look up to me.”

Besides, Hanks said, it would have been much more difficult to put up such gaudy statistics if she did not play for a premier team like Notre Dame.

“It would be impossible

without my teammates to finish off those assists and set up those free kicks for me to take,” she said. “Without my teammates and [Waldrum] I wouldn't be able to get those records.”

The Missing Piece to the Puzzle

Hanks and her classmates have garnered virtually every team and individual honor except the national championship. The team has made it to the College Cup the past three seasons but has lost once in the semifinals and once in the championship.

“It would be unbelievable if we win,” Hanks said. “It would sum up my career here.”

Waldrum said Hanks is the right person to lead the team this weekend.

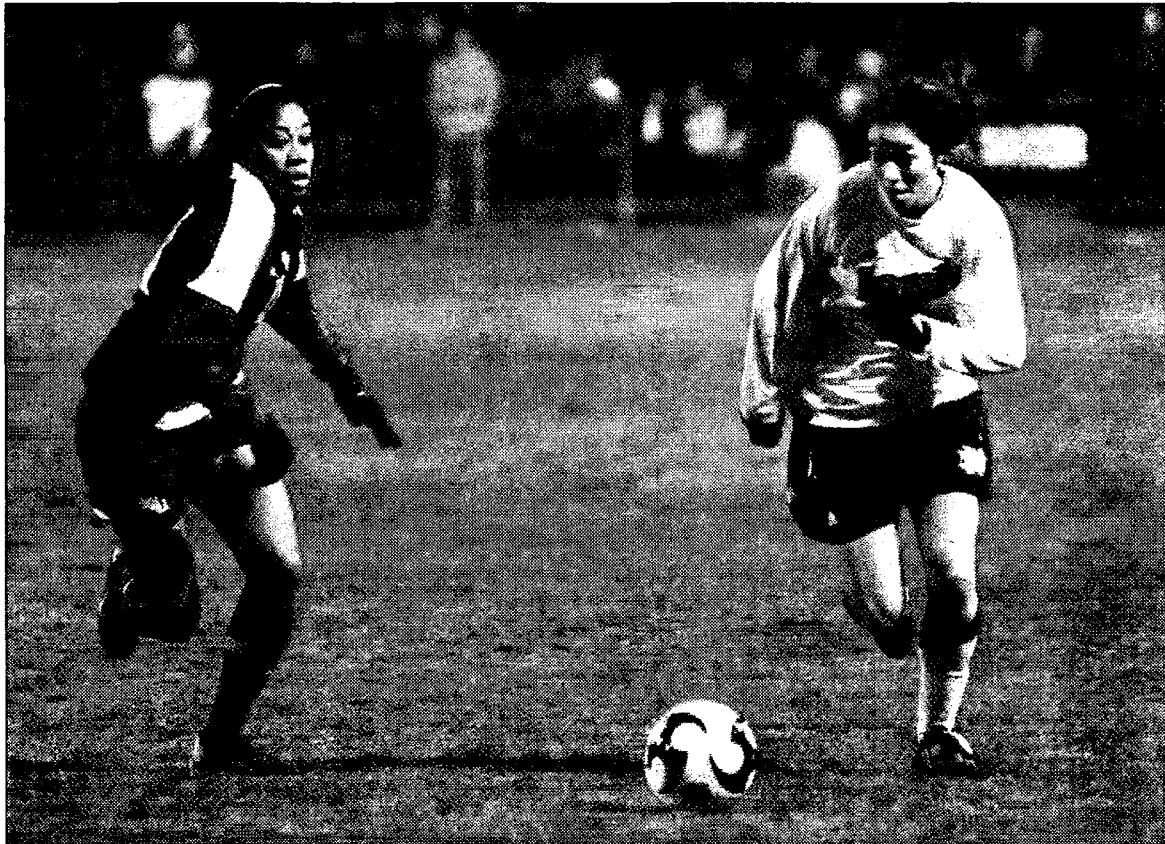
“She [has] what separates the good players from the great ones,” Waldrum said. “Great players have that constant mentality to win at all costs.”

“She was always very competitive and from a very young age, you could see she had some special ability.”

Randy Waldrum
Irish coach

“The records have obviously been great and I'm speechless about it still.”

Kerri Hanks
Irish forward



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Hanks dribbles downfield during Notre Dame's 2-0 win over Florida State last Friday. The senior notched two assists in the victory, passing Mia Hamm on the all-time assist list.

Irish head to Cary, N.C., in pursuit of perfection

Team looks to put finishing touches on undefeated campaign

By FRAN TOLAN
Associate Sports Editor

Notre Dame travels to the College Cup in Cary, N.C. this weekend with a lofty goal — to finish off the best season in program history. The top-ranked Irish are 25-0-0 and will have to defeat two other No. 1 seeds to bring home the National Championship trophy.

"We have 25 wins going into the Final Four and that is just so hard to do in this day and age," Irish coach Randy Waldrum said. "...If this team goes on and finishes out undefeated, this team is clearly the best in program history

because the record shows it. If they win it all, then there's not much of an argument."

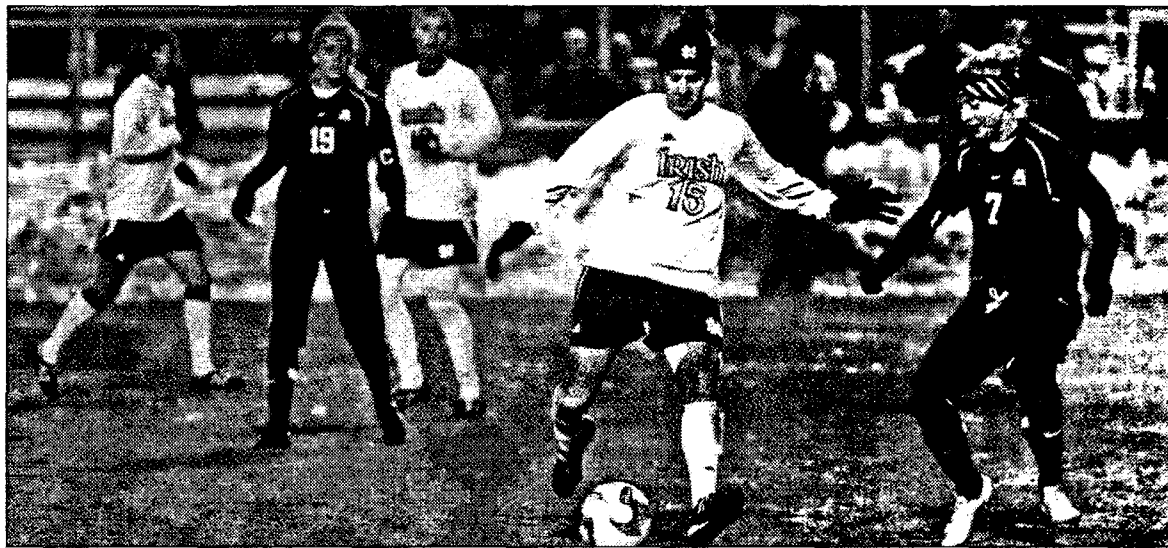
Waldrum said that the 2004 Irish are the current Notre Dame gold standard — for now.

"We have to continue to keep these players motivated because until we win it all, the '04 [team] is one of — if not the best — team here," he said.

Waldrum said he is especially excited for this weekend because the Notre Dame seniors will have one more chance at winning a title. The class has travelled to the College Cup the past two seasons before going home empty-handed.

"I am really, really happy," Waldrum said. "I'm most happy for our senior class to get one more shot at it."

Senior co-captain Brittany Bock, who missed four games



Irish sophomore midfielder Rose Augustin leans over the ball during Notre Dame's 1-0 overtime win over Minnesota in the NCAA Tournament third round on Nov. 21.

due to a leg injury, returned to the field last Friday in a 2-0 win over Florida State. The forward said this year's squad

is better than the two that came up short in recent years.

"This year, we're going in with an amazing record and I

think this is the best team I've been on," she said.

The Irish will open play at 4:30 this afternoon against Stanford at WakeMed Soccer Park. The Cardinal, who boast a 21-1-1 record, are one of the four No. 1 seeds in the College Cup. The other semifinal will pit North Carolina against undefeated UCLA.

"All four No. 1 seeds made it and I can't remember the last time that happened," Waldrum said. "Between the four teams, there are only two losses [in their combined records]. Any of the four is capable of winning it all."

Notre Dame dealt North Carolina its only loss of the season and Stanford's only setback came against UCLA.

Waldrum said he is not concerned with a possible matchup with the Tar Heels in their home state. The Irish defeated North Carolina 1-0 on Sept. 5 in Chapel Hill.

"Carolina has been a good place for us to play over the years," the coach said. "Plus, our kids kind of get motivated to play in North Carolina's backyard."

Notre Dame has gotten a goal from 19 different players this season, but Waldrum said he is most happy with the recent play of the Irish back line.

"We've always had a team that can score goals and create offensive opportunities but the thing I'm most proud of has been the really good defense."

Senior co-captain Carrie Dew leads the unit, which has given up an average of .40 goals per game. Dew is the reigning Top Drawer Soccer national player of the week. The center back played last season with a knee brace but Waldrum said she has fully recovered from the injury.

"Carrie Dew is finally healthy, but because people love stats she's just not talked about as much [as the Irish forwards]," Waldrum said. "Defense is where we made the biggest upgrade this year."

The Irish back line will have to be stout today because goals should be hard to come by against Stanford goalie Kira Maker and the Cardinal defense. The unit has posted shutouts in 14 of its 21 wins.

Notre Dame and Stanford will take the field today at 4:30 p.m. The game will be broadcast live on ESPN2 and ESPNU.

Contact Fran Tolan at
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Bright Ideas

By ANALISE LIPARI
Scene Editor

Starting tonight in the Washington Hall Lab Theater, Sorin's Theater for Charity will present its production of Eric Coble's "Bright Ideas," a dark comedy version of Shakespeare's classic tragedy, "Macbeth." The founder of Sorin's Theater for Charity, John Maltese, recently spoke to the Observer via e-mail to discuss the production, as well as the beneficiary of the show's ticket sales, St. Jude's Primary School in Uganda.

Scene: Can you give us a synopsis of "Bright Ideas?"

Maltese: "Bright Ideas" is a dark comedy spoof of Shakespeare's "Macbeth." I view it as a critique of our current education system. Nowadays, every Notre Dame student could relate to how stressful it is to try and gain acceptance to a selective university. Eric Coble, the playwright, turns that idea on its head, by allowing to new parents, Joshua and Genevra Bradley, to get caught up in the same high-anxiety application process, but on behalf of their three-year old son, Mac.

"Bright Ideas" is actually a highly selective preschool, and after reading a few too many parenting guidebooks, Josh and Gen get it in their heads that if Mac doesn't go to the right preschool, he will be ruined for life. In a desperate attempt to get him in off the waiting list, the parents decide that the only way to give Mac "a shot in life" is murdering the mother of the boy who got in ahead of him.

After plotting the perfect crime, Josh and Gen decide that the only way they can kill the [mother] and make it look like an accident is to invite her over for dinner and poison the pesto.

"Bright Ideas" is a hilarious tale about how most times, the grass is not greener on the other side. As Josh and Gen deal with new-found power, conflicting desires, and their own insecurities, chaos ensues.

Scene: Why did you choose this play?

Maltese: I chose the play because I thought that the high-pressure attitudes about getting the "best opportunities" and ensuring success through education were reflective of issues most students at Notre Dame can relate to today. The play also has all sorts of comedic elements that I thought would make for an entertaining hour and 45 minutes for student audiences. The minimalist staging was also convenient, since we try to keep a low budget to allow for the maximum amount of proceeds to go towards our charity.

Scene: What are some highlights from the performance?

Maltese: Sorin's rector, Father Jim King, C.S.C., plays two parts — a nerdy, "Office Space"-esque boss) and a crusty old athletic director, Coach Angus. He does amazingly well in both parts in his theatrical debut. He steals the show. Also, Shay Thornton and Matt Goodrich, seasoned FTT students, drive the show as Josh and Gen, appearing in almost every scene. In the short two-week rehearsal period they each memorized a full length play and have created characters that you can see develop onstage as they [grow] from concerned parents to psychotic killers.

"Bright Ideas" is cast of 10 performers conveying nearly 20 different characters. Each character is

quirky and unique, from Miss Caithness, the over-the-top drama teacher, to Mrs. Lennox, who can only speak to other parents using hand puppets, to the flamboyant airline steward who engages in an in flight confrontation with Genevra over her cell phone use.

"Bright Ideas" represents every current class at Notre Dame, and also includes students from Saint Mary's.

The biggest highlight is the good cause that this play is all about. My number one goal is selling out every night and raising over \$6,000 for St. Jude's Primary School.

Scene: Can you tell us more about Sorin Theater for Charity and St. Jude's? Have you put on any previous plays for the same cause?

Maltese: I started Sorin Theatre for Charity last year in our inaugural showing of "Rumors" by Neil Simon. The play involved constructing the largest set that has ever been used in the Lab Theatre, a two-story set with five doors. The play ran two nights in the Lab theatre and sold out each night ... We were turning people away at the door because of fire codes. This year we are back with seven nights of performances to avoid that problem.

I took an interest in Sorin's sponsorship of St. Jude's when I was selected to teach their last summer through the International Summer Service Learning Program through the Center for Social Concerns.

I wanted to show I was serious about my decision to teach at St. Jude's — Sorin sends one Otter there every summer — and I wanted to use my knowledge and love of theatre, as a Theatre/Philosophy major, to do some good in a personal way. I assistant directed — alongside Chelsea Moore, who is acting in "Bright Ideas" and acted in "Rumors" — and this year I am directing "Bright Ideas."

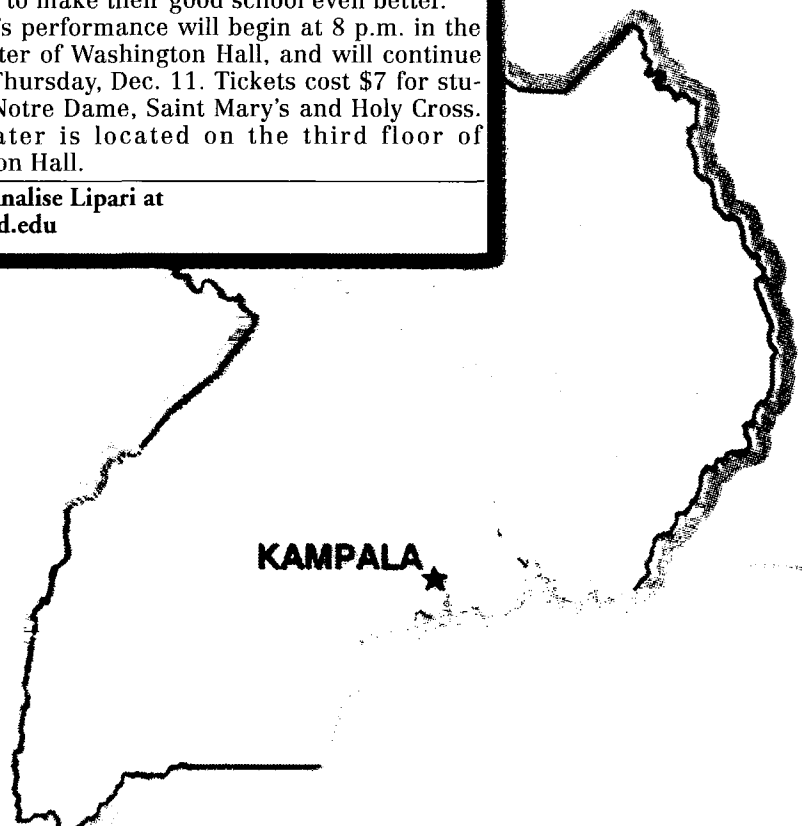
St. Jude's is a primary school that needs a lot of help. It is located in Bugembe, which is a rural, poor community in eastern Uganda. Walking around to various schools, one of the hardest things to hear when talking to principals of schools was their answer to my question: "What is your greatest need? What could help your school out the most?" One administrator responded: "Money, so we can feed our students." He didn't ask for Powerpoint projectors, white boards, or a higher salary. He didn't even ask for pens and textbooks, which students there don't have either. But he asked for food.

That blew me away, and proved that we need to keep working for the people there. A number of the students are also HIV-positive, and the school can't afford to give them proper nutrition, let alone pay for counseling or other appropriate actions. Many students are simply sent home because their parents cannot afford to pay their school fees.

Our number one priority is to fill those seats in the audience so we can give St. Jude's the tools they need to make their good school even better.

Tonight's performance will begin at 8 p.m. in the Lab Theater of Washington Hall, and will continue through Thursday, Dec. 11. Tickets cost \$7 for students at Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and Holy Cross. The theater is located on the third floor of Washington Hall.

Contact Analise Lipari at
alipari@nd.edu



GOLF

Wie ties for lead after second round

Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Weaving her way through a narrow hallway next to the grill room Thursday, Michelle Wie was stopped by a woman who asked if she would pose for a picture with her young daughter.

Focusing her camera, the woman asked how she played.

"OK," Wie said with a smile and shrug.

If that were an honest assessment, Wie should be in good shape at the LPGA Tour qualifying tournament.

Changing her tactics off the tee on the more forgiving Champions course at LPGA International, the 19-year-old from Hawaii hit driver on all but two holes and ran off four straight birdies late in her round for a 7-under 65 that put her in a tie for the lead with Shiho Oyama of Japan after the second of five rounds at Q-school.

Oyama shot 70 on the Legends course and joined Wie at 10-under 134. The top 20 players after the 90-hole tournament Sunday earn their LPGA Tour cards for next season. Through two rounds, Wie was eight shots clear of the cutoff.

Stacy Lewis, a former NCAA champion at Arkansas who tied for third at the U.S. Women's Open in her pro debut this summer, shot a 66 for the best score this week on the Legends course and one

shot behind at 9-under 135.

It was the first time since the second round of the 2006 Evian Masters that Wie had a share of the lead after any round, and the first time since the Ladies German Open in late May that she put together consecutive rounds in the 60s — at least officially.

Wie had three straight scores in the 60s at the LPGA State Farm Classic in July when she was disqualified for leaving the scoring area without signing her card after the second round, so only the first round is in the books.

Without that disqualification, Wie might have earned enough money to avoid Q-school. She also could have skipped the worst school in golf if she had showed this form earlier in the season.

But she is here with no other choice but to get a card, and she's making the most of it.

The first two rounds were strong indicators that a teenager who once had unlimited potential is closer than ever to recovering from injured wrists, shattered confidence and humbling performances.

After hitting only four drivers on the Legends course Wednesday — a tighter, more punishing track — Wie was far more aggressive in the second round and holed enough putts for her lowest round on the LPGA Tour since a 65 at the Samsung World

International in 2005, the week of her pro debut (which also ended in disqualification).

Swing coach David Leadbetter wasn't around, but Wie carried out his hopes — avoid mistakes and big numbers. There was nothing close to the quintuple-bogey 9 that knocked her out of the U.S. Women's Open this year, and even the three fairways she missed in the second round were not far from her target.

The longest putt she had for par came on No. 11, her second hole, when she ran a 25-foot birdie attempt 4 feet past the hole. Wie took only 24 putts, helped by three simple up-and-downs and a 40-foot chip she holed for birdie on No. 17.

She missed birdie putts of 8 feet and 6 feet on consecutive holes early on her back nine, and while she continued to hit driver, Wie also stayed conservative on the par 5s by laying up three times when she could have reached the green. On the fifth, she had only 210 yards off a slight hill, but played a short iron and then stuffed a wedge to 3 feet.

That began the late run of birdies. She hit the tee shot to 7 feet on the 145-yard sixth, holed another 7-foot birdie putt on the seventh hole and closed out her birdie string with an 8-foot putt.

Through two days on each course, Wie's only mistake has been a three-putt bogey from 25 feet Wednesday.

MLB

Renteria rejoins National League



Former Detroit shortstop Edgar Renteria swings in a July 29, 2008 game. Renteria signed a two-year contract with the Giants Thursday.

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Edgar Renteria is back in the National League, where he thinks he belongs.

Renteria became the second free agent to join the San Francisco Giants in two days, receiving an \$18.5 million, two-year contract Thursday to replace 11-time Gold Glove shortstop Omar Vizquel.

A five-time NL All-Star, Renteria has spent 11 of his 13 major league seasons in the National League. He won a World Series ring with the 1997 Florida Marlins and a pennant in 2004 with St. Louis, but struggled during a pair of one-season stints in the AL, with Boston in 2005 and Detroit this year.

"I played good in the National League. I feel real comfortable," Renteria said on a conference call. "Maybe I know more of the game in the National League. It's my type of league. I like to play the game. The American League is different—you have to go for the home run and wait for hitting. That's no excuse for what happened in the American League, but it might be why I'm so excited to get back to the National League."

Renteria gets a \$2 million signing bonus, \$7 million next year and \$9 million in 2010. The Giants have a \$10.5 million option for 2011 with a \$500,000 buyout.

Giants general manager Brian Sabean has had a busy week, signing right-handed reliever Bobby Howry to a

one-year contract Wednesday and following that up by securing Renteria. The sides had all but finalized a deal during a meeting Wednesday. Renteria, a career .290 hitter, was back in Miami on Thursday after a quick visit to San Francisco.

"We really appreciate his interest and look forward to a relationship that's going to be fruitful on both sides. I don't think Edgar needs any introduction," Sabean said. "We're just thrilled to put him in our No. 2 spot in the lineup and at shortstop and move on to other business."

The Tigers declined to offer Renteria salary arbitration Monday. While he was being pursued by three or four teams, Renteria said the Giants' strong interest meant a lot to him in making the decision.

"I want to go where the people want me to go. I don't go where they don't want me," he said. "The Giants were interested in signing me. That's a great city to play baseball."

Renteria will be looking to have a better year in 2009. He batted .270 with 10 homers and 55 RBIs this season for the Tigers, who afterward declined their \$11 million option and gave him a \$3 million buyout.

Sabean isn't concerned about Renteria, especially considering he had a better second half.

"We have no reservations of him being a shortstop and what he's going to do for our offense," the GM said. "It's an upgrade."

NCAA FOOTBALL

Washington still looking for coach

Associated Press

Mike Leach has removed himself from consideration for the University of Washington's coaching position, a person close to the Texas Tech coach said Thursday night.

"He's out," said the person who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak about the move.

The news came on the same day Fresno State coach Pat Hill also took his name out of the mix to replace Washington's Tyrone Willingham, who was fired and will coach his last game Saturday.

Tommy Tuberville's resignation at Auburn began another round of college football's season-ending coaching

carousel.

A day after Tuberville surprised the school by resigning, two schools came up with new coaches Thursday: Utah State hired Utah defensive coordinator Gary Andersen and Toledo hired Oklahoma State defensive coordinator Tim Beckman.

Texas Tech was working on a contract extension for Leach, who reportedly had met with Washington officials about the Huskies' opening earlier this week.

Meanwhile, Auburn's wish-list to replace Tuberville includes Leach, Louisiana Tech's Derek Dooley, Arkansas' Bobby Petrino and Jimbo Fisher at Florida State and Will Muschamp at Texas.

Hill, completing his 12th season at Fresno State, interviewed for the Washington

job Saturday and said he had asked the school for an answer Wednesday.

On Thursday, he said: "I had a great visit with the leadership at the University of Washington and I have a great deal of respect for them and their vision. Because of the time frame we discussed ... it's apparent that I'm not their top candidate. I appreciate their consideration."

Tuberville became the third Southeastern Conference coach to depart this season. The others are Sylvester Croom at Mississippi State and Phillip Fulmer at Tennessee. Lane Kiffin replaced Fulmer on Sunday.

Earlier this week, Missouri offensive coordinator Dave Christensen was hired at Wyoming, replacing Joe Glenn, who was fired Nov. 23.

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PERSONAL

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In an old city bar
That is never too far
From the places that gather
The dreams that have been

In the safety of night
With its old neon light
It beckons to strangers
And they always come in

And the snow it was falling
The neon was calling
The music was low
And the night
Christmas Eve

Then the door opened wide
And a child came inside
That no one in the bar
Had seen there before

And he asked did you know
That outside in the snow
That someone was lost
Standing outside our door

And the snow it was falling
The neon was calling
The bartender turned
And said, not that I care
But how would you know this

The child said I've noticed
If one could be home
They'd be already there

If you want to arrange it
This world you can change it
If we could somehow make this
Christmas thing last

By helping a neighbor
Or even a stranger
and to know who needs help
You need only just ask

- Trans Siberian Orchestra

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

Friday, December 5, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

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NCAA Basketball AP Top 25

team	points	previous
1 North Carolina (72)	1,800	1
2 Connecticut	1,723	2
3 Pittsburgh	1,592	4
4 Duke	1,526	7
5 Gonzaga	1,489	9
6 Oklahoma	1,437	11
7 NOTRE DAME	1,359	8
8 Texas	1,231	6
9 Purdue	1,086	10
10 Tennessee	1,016	12
11 Louisville	1,003	3
12 UCLA	966	13
13 Michigan State	946	5
14 Xavier	902	16
15 Wake Forest	736	19
16 Syracuse	668	NR
17 Villanova	570	20
18 Memphis	526	18
19 Arizona State	401	14
20 Georgetown	388	21
21 Miami (FL)	309	22
22 Davidson	286	24
23 Florida	281	17
24 Baylor	272	NR
25 Marquette	221	15

NCAA Basketball USA Today Top 25

team	record	points
1 North Carolina (31)	7-0	775
2 Connecticut	6-0	738
3 Pittsburgh	7-0	694
4 Duke	7-0	680
5 Gonzaga	5-0	640
6 Oklahoma	6-0	601
7 NOTRE DAME	5-1	550
8 Texas	5-1	535
9 UCLA	4-1	471
10 Purdue	5-1	463
11 Louisville	2-1	435
12 Michigan State	4-1	420
13 Tennessee	5-1	391
14 Xavier	6-0	322
15 Memphis	4-1	269
16 Villanova	6-0	248
17 Wake Forest	6-0	247
18 Georgetown	4-1	234
19 Arizona State	5-1	218
20 Syracuse	6-0	206
21 Florida	5-1	196
22 Miami (FL)	4-1	158
22 Wisconsin	5-1	158
24 Davidson	5-1	96
25 Kansas	4-1	91

CCHA Conference Standings

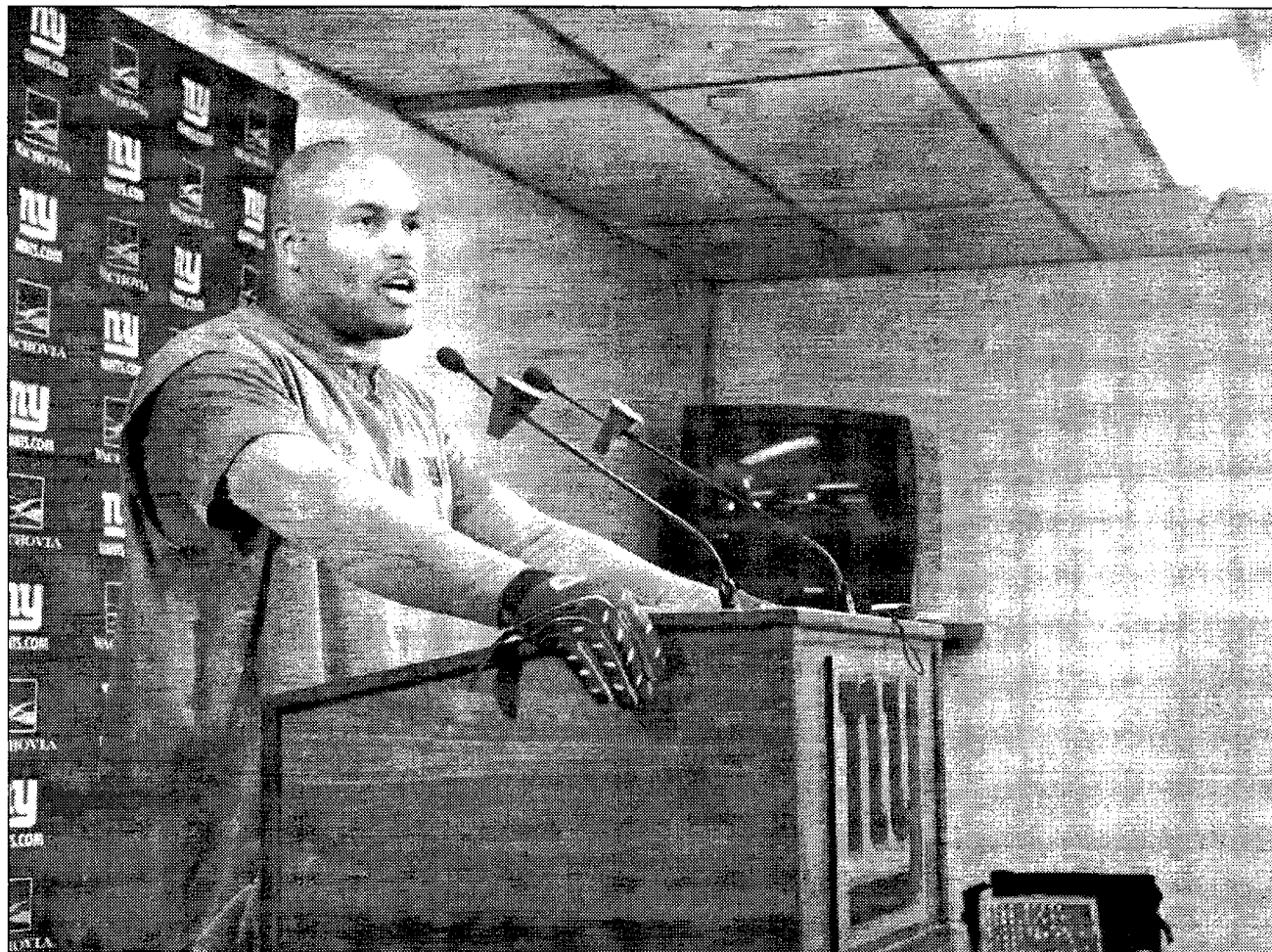
team	record	points
1 Miami	8-2-2	19
2 NOTRE DAME	6-2-2	16
3 Alaska	6-3-1	14
4 Ferris State	6-4-2	14
5 Ohio State	6-5-1	14
6 Nebraska - Omaha	4-5-1	12
7 Lake Superior	3-4-3	10
8 Michigan	5-5	10
9 Bowling Green	4-5-1	9
10 Michigan State	2-6-2	8
11 Western Michigan	1-5-4	7
12 Northern Michigan	2-9-1	5

around the dial

NCAA FOOTBALL

Ball State at Buffalo
8:00 p.m., ESPN 2

NFL



Antonio Pierce addresses the media after the New York Giants' Thursday practice. Pierce is expected to play Sunday against the Eagles, despite his involvement in the Plaxico Burress controversy.

Pierce to meet with investigators

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Antonio Pierce and the doctor who treated his New York Giants teammate Plaxico Burress after he accidentally shot himself at a Manhattan nightclub will talk to investigators Friday.

Pierce and Dr. Josyann Abisaab will be accompanied by their lawyers when they meet with the authorities, NYPD Deputy Commissioner for Public Information Paul Browne said. It is unclear when and where the parties will meet.

The authorities are especially interested in why neither Pierce, who drove Burress to New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill

Cornell Medical Center, nor Abisaab called police to report the shooting early Saturday. Abisaab has since been suspended for not reporting the gunshot injury, as required by law.

Police are trying to determine whether Pierce tried to cover up the shooting. They say Pierce returned to New Jersey with Burress' gun in the glove compartment of his black Cadillac Escalade, and investigators have impounded the SUV to search it for any blood or gun residue.

Pierce's attorney said Pierce was caught off guard early Saturday when Burress somehow fumbled his gun — .40-caliber Glock — in the VIP section of a Manhattan

nightclub and it discharged, hitting his right thigh.

"He had no idea Plaxico had a weapon," attorney Michael Bachner said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

And Bachner stressed the linebacker would cooperate with authorities and testify before a Manhattan grand jury about the incident if asked to testify, which has yet to happen.

"Antonio has always taken a position that he will be cooperative in the investigation with law enforcement," Bachner said. "Should Antonio be subpoenaed to the grand jury, and we have no idea that is going to happen, but if he is, he is going to abide by his obligations as

a citizen."

Bachner did not immediately return a telephone message Thursday evening, seeking comment on Pierce's meeting with investigators.

Pierce was in no mood to discuss the shooting incident after practice at Giants Stadium.

Clad in a sweat-soaked gray pullover, the linebacker walked up to the wooden lectern, clenched the sides with gloved hands and spoke mostly about the Giants' game on Sunday against the Philadelphia Eagles. He insisted he won't be distracted with the Giants (11-1) on the verge of clinching the NFC East title and a first-round bye in the playoffs.

IN BRIEF

Federal judge to decide fate of five suspended players

MINNEAPOLIS — A federal judge will be asked to decide Friday whether five suspended NFL players deserve a chance to play this weekend.

At issue is whether the league had a duty to notify its players and their union that a dietary supplement the five took contained a banned ingredient. The NFL Players Association argues in a lawsuit filed Thursday that the NFL knew about the tainted supplement but failed to share that information with players whose careers were on the line.

The union filed the lawsuit to block the suspensions of five of the six players who were benched this week for violating the league's anti-doping policy. The union wants Kevin Williams and Pat Williams of the Minnesota Vikings, and Charles Grant, Deuce McAllister and Will Smith of the New Orleans Saints, to be eligible to play Sunday.

Union attorneys will go before U.S. District Judge Paul Magnuson at 10:30 a.m. in St. Paul on Friday to ask for a preliminary injunction. They said in filings Thursday that the players are critical to their teams' playoff hopes.

Four counts dropped against Bonds, 10 charges remain

SAN FRANCISCO — Federal prosecutors dropped four counts of lying to a grand jury against Barry Bonds, leaving him to face trial next year on 10 counts of making false statements plus an addition obstruction of justice charge.

Bonds faces the same potential sentence range — probation to roughly two years in prison — if convicted. His trial is scheduled to begin March 2.

Thursday's indictment, the third against the home-run king, came in response to U.S. District Judge Susan Illston's decision last week ordering prosecutors to again rewrite the technically faulty indictment.

Bonds was originally charged in November 2007 with four counts of perjury and one count of obstruction of justice. After a motion by his lawyers to dismiss the case, Illston ordered prosecutors to rewrite the indictment because multiple alleged lies were lumped into single charges.

Avery meets with Bettman about length of suspension

NEW YORK — Sean Avery surged past camera crews and reporters Thursday, choosing to save his comments this time for NHL commissioner Gary Bettman during a three-hour disciplinary hearing.

The Dallas Stars forward was suspended indefinitely on Tuesday just hours after he used a crude expression to describe former girlfriends now dating others while speaking to reporters.

Hockey's most notorious pest came to league headquarters in midtown Manhattan to give his version of the latest events that landed him in big trouble. Now it's up to Bettman to determine just how long Avery will be kept off the ice.

The NHL said that announcement would be made Friday.

"I haven't made a decision yet," Bettman said Thursday during his weekly radio show broadcast on NHL.com. "I want to take the opportunity to spend a little time thinking about what transpired at the hearing and everything that I was told and that needs to be considered."



TODD GLASS

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SWIMMING

Swimmer returns after surgery

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Eric Shanteau looks as healthy as any other swimmer on deck at the Georgia Tech Aquatic Center.

But there are still those nagging fears that all cancer victims must overcome: What if the doctors didn't get it all? What if the dreaded disease is hiding somewhere in his body, waiting to strike again?

Shanteau, one of the most inspiring athletes of the Beijing Olympics, is competing this week for the first time since his surgery for testicular cancer. He hopes he thrill of the race will help him get on with the rest of his life, a minefield of doubts that reveals itself with every little ache and pain.

"You're like, 'Is that cancer? Is it coming back?'" said Shanteau, one of several Olympians taking part in the U.S. Short Course Nationals that began Thursday. "That's kind of what I've had to learn to deal with, and what I'm still just learning to deal with."

He's off to a good start in Atlanta. Shanteau finished second to Olympic gold medalist Ryan Lochte in the 200-yard individual medley, beating his personal best when he touched in 1 minute, 42.59 seconds. Lochte won going away in 1:40.89.

"That came out of nowhere," a beaming Shanteau said.

His plight leading up to the Beijing Olympics made him a rallying figure for millions touched by cancer.

Receiving his shocking diagnosis shortly before the U.S.

trials, Shanteau didn't tell anyone except those closest to him. Then, he surprisingly made the team in the 200-meter breaststroke, beating out overwhelming favorite and former world record-holder Brendan Hansen.

Shanteau was left with an excruciating decision. He chose to pursue his lifelong goal of swimming in the Olympics, even though it meant putting off surgery until after the games and running the risk of the cancer spreading. He went public with his story, hoping it would show others that even the dreaded C-word doesn't have to ruin your dreams.

While there was no Hollywood ending in the pool — Shanteau was eliminated in the semifinals — the cancer remained in check, from all indications. Shanteau underwent surgery on Aug. 26, two days after the closing ceremonies, and tests since then have come back normal. He got the latest bit of good news just before Thanksgiving.

Even so, Shanteau had to be talked out of further treatment. Worried that his cancer might return, he strongly considered undergoing a round of chemotherapy, which likely would have been delayed his comeback while he dealt with miserable side effects such as nausea, weakness and hair loss.

"Everyone prepares you for dealing with the cancer, the surgery, getting rid of it, yada, yada, yada," he said. "But no one prepares you for life after it. It's like, 'OK, you've had it.

Now you have a chance of it coming back. But here, go live your life.' To be honest, I kind of freaked out."

Shanteau turned to many of the same support groups that had called on him to serve as a face for the victims, the one who was supposed to provide hope but found himself overwhelmed by the dread of being stricken again.

"I expected to just be free and clear and done with it after the surgery," he said. "But that's not how my thought process was. I started thinking, 'What if it comes back? Is it going to come back?'"

That's what brought him back to the pool much quicker than Olympic stars such as Michael Phelps and Natalie Coughlin, both still on break since Beijing.

"This was sort of a way for me to take back a little bit of control," Shanteau said.

He returned to training about 5 1/2 weeks after his surgery. His first attempt lasted mere seconds—as soon as he extended his arms above his head, he felt an intense stretching sensation in his groin area, where doctors made a deep incision to remove the cancerous testicle.

He took another week off, felt fine and has been training ever since. The short course meet gave him a chance to return to competition in his hometown—he grew up in suburban Atlanta—and get a feel for where he needs to be to qualify for the world championships in Rome next summer.

NFL

Browns' Dawson hopes for first Pro-Bowl bid

Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio — Phil Dawson has not been to Hawaii since his honeymoon. He would like to take his wife back in February to celebrate their 10th wedding anniversary.

And maybe play in his first Pro Bowl.

"It could be two trips in one," Dawson said with a smile Thursday as he laced up his spikes before practice. "I could even play it off as, 'Honey, I'm taking you back to where it all started, and if you don't mind, I'm going to kick a few balls while we're here.'"

Shannon Dawson would not mind mixing some sun and fun with football.

Overlooked for years, Dawson may deserve a Pro Bowl spot.

Cleveland's rock-steady kicker has been one of the few bright spots this season for the dismal Browns (4-8), who have failed to live up to high expectations. But while his teammates commit penalties, drop passes and miss tackles, Dawson, as always, has been dependable, exact and consistent.

Just like his kicks.

The lone player left from the Browns' 1999 expansion team, Dawson has converted 26 of 30 field-goal attempts and made three of the longest kicks of his 10-year career, including a game-winning 56-yarder to beat Buffalo on

Nov. 17. Dawson recently made 13 straight field goals — three over 50 yards — and his next make will match his career high (27) for a season.

Only Lou Groza and Don Cockroft have scored more career points for Cleveland than Dawson, who also scored the first rushing touchdown for the new Browns on a fake field goal in 1999.

However, one thing has remains out of Dawson's range: a Pro Bowl.

"It's a career goal of mine," Dawson said. "Sometimes you wonder if people notice what you do. Unfortunately, I've been on a losing team eight of the last 10 years. There's been probably about three seasons sprinkled in there where I thought I had a chance. Not to take anything from the guys who were named because the AFC is loaded with great kickers, but I feel pretty good about what I've been able to do in the conditions I find myself in."

Ah, the conditions.

In Cleveland's lakefront stadium, the weather in November and December can be unbearable and unpredictable. With swirling, gusting winds, lake-effect snow, freezing temperatures, rain, ice and sleet, it's no place for a picnic.

No, it is not San Diego and it is not under an inflatable roof, which is why Dawson's precision — he is currently the league's seventh most accurate kicker of all-time at 83.2 percent — is so impressive. Dawson has to kick on a natural, grass surface as temperamental as the weather. Even on dry days, Cleveland's turf can be unforgiving.

"For Phil to have the career he has had here is unbelievable," said long snapper Ryan Pontbriand, a Pro Bowler last season. "I'd rank him above just about everybody because of where he has played and what he has done."

Week after week, visiting kickers and punters express their disbelief to Dawson and Browns punter Dave Zastudil about the challenge of doing their jobs well in Cleveland. In last week's 16-6 loss to Indianapolis, Colts kicker Adam Vinatieri missed a 46-yarder and later told Dawson he cannot imagine kicking here all the time.

"When Adam, who has made game-winning kicks in the Super Bowl, tells me how difficult it is to kick in Cleveland and how glad he is that he doesn't have to kick here, that means a lot," Dawson said.

Never one to make excuses, Dawson was wide right with a 34-yard kick last week that he said looked perfect as it came off his right foot.

"I did everything exactly how I wanted to, and the ball didn't go in the air the way I thought it would," he said. "That's why I say I'm close to going insane because as hard as I work and as prepared as I am, when you kick in Cleveland you are going to have kicks that don't go through that should."

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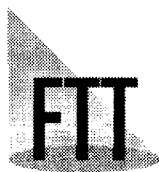
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SMC BASKETBALL

Squad enters MIAA play with confidence

By ALEX BARKER
Sports Writer

Fresh off its first conference victory of the season against Trine, Saint Mary's will try to stay undefeated in the MIAA when it hosts Calvin Saturday at the Angela Athletic Center.

Wednesday, the Belles knocked off Trine 80-72 in the opening game of MIAA conference play. Senior forward Erin Newsom scored a team-high 18 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to pace the Belles. It was her third double-double of the season.

As a team, Saint Mary's could not have played much better. The team shot 32-for-50 from the floor against the Thunder. Their 58 percent shooting percentage was the highest percentage ever for the Belles under coach Jenn Henley.

The win also marked the first time since 2002 the Belles have won their MIAA opener.

Over Thanksgiving break, the team played against tough competition in preparation for conference play.

"The Wheaton game was a great win for us," senior forward Nicole Beier said. "It was frustrating to lose another close game, but I think that the team is moving in the right direction."

The Belles knocked off Wheaton

for the first time in 10 tries before dropping two games in the Saint Mary's Thanksgiving Classic. Saint Mary's fell to eventual tournament champion Otterbein by three points in the first game and dropped another against No. 21 Chicago in the second.

"The games over break have prepared us well for our upcoming conference games," Beier said.

Looking ahead to the MIAA competition that awaits the Belles this season, Beier and the team have two important goals heading forward.

"Our ultimate goal is to win conference this season and reach the finals of the postseason conference tournament," Beier said.

Saint Mary's has performed well in the paint this season, dominating the boards by an average margin of six rebounds per game. Junior forward Anna Kamrath leads the team this season with 10.8 rebounds per game, just in front of Newsom's 9.2 boards per game.

The Belles will have their hands full this weekend with Calvin, who finished third in the conference last season, one spot ahead of Saint Mary's. In two matchups last season, the Knights claimed victory both times.

Contact Alex Barker at
abarker1@nd.edu

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SMC SWIMMING

Belles head to TYR meet in Wisconsin

Observer Staff Report

The 2-2 Belles travel to Kenosha, Wis. to compete in the TYR Invitational. This is the first competition for Saint Mary's since the Patrick Woehniker Invitational in Crawfordsville, Ind., on Nov. 22.

Freshman Eva Cavadini finished second there in the 500 freestyle with a time of 5:27.85.

She also finished seventh in the 200 butterfly in 2:32.32.

Mallory Kimmel finished 14th in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 1:19.84. She also finished 12th in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:23.04.

This is the last meet of the semester for the Belles. After break, they take a winter training trip before resuming competition Jan. 10 against Hope.

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Boilers

continued from page 20

geographic proximity. "We both have a lot of players from the Midwest, so I think that makes it a bigger rivalry, especially for the players from Indiana," she said. This season, both teams come into the game ranked. The Irish are No. 11 in the AP poll and No. 8 in the coaches' poll; Purdue is No. 17 and No. 20, respectively. McGraw said both teams' ranking will not affect the level of play on Saturday, because it is always a hard-fought game.

"It's a great game to play every year. I would say the majority of the years, at least one of us was ranked, if not both of us. So, I think it would be just as intense as if neither team were ranked. It's just that kind of game," she said. The last time out, Notre Dame beat Eastern Michigan 83-63 in Ypsilanti, Mich. Although the Irish pulled out the win, they did not shoot particularly well, going only 38.9 percent from the floor. Sophomore forward Becca Bruszewski had a particularly disappointing night, making only one of her 10 shots in 27 minutes. But McGraw said Bruszewski and the rest of the Irish just had an off night that night.

"I think that was an anomaly. I think that when you look at our shooting percentages overall, individually Becca is shooting 54 percent from the field and Erica Solomon 64 percent from the field," McGraw said. "Everybody's shooting the ball a lot better than they did in that particular game. I'm not worried about that, and we're playing at home, so we are definitely going to shoot the ball a little bit better." Purdue fell to 5-2 Thursday night after losing to No. 8 Maryland 70-59 in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge. The Terrapins held the Boilermakers to only 2-of-17 shooting from 3-point land, an impressive feat considering Purdue's prolific scoring from beyond the arc.

After the loss to Maryland, Purdue is shooting 40 percent of its 3s as a team, with guards Jodi Howell (12-of-25) and Brittany Rayburn (13-of-36) leading the way. Junior FahKara Malone is also shooting 34.5 percent from distance.

"I think that those three are a threat from the perimeter. And they didn't have Rayburn or Jodi Howell last year, so they definitely have improved their shooting threat," McGraw said.

McGraw said the Boilermaker bigs will be a test for her post players, and that forward Lindsay Wisdom-Hylton is the best player her team has seen to date.

"She gives us concern not just with her size but with her mobility. She's going to be a real tough challenge for us," McGraw said.

Tip-off for the game is at 2 p.m. on Sunday.

Notes: ♦The Purdue game is the first sell-out of the season for the Irish, and the third in two years for the Joyce Center.

Although tickets are gone for fans, there are still 300 student tickets available for the game. The first 300 arriving students will also receive a free T-shirt and a McDonald's gift certificate.

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa5@nd.edu

ND SWIMMING

Teams go to Columbus for OSU Invitational

By MIKE GOTIMER
Sports Writer

This weekend, Notre Dame travels to Columbus to participate in the Ohio State Invitational in what will be their final competition of 2008.

The men's team returns to the meet after a fourth-place finish in 2007. It will face off against Ohio State, Cleveland State, Minnesota and Penn State in the swimming events while Iowa, South Carolina and Duke will only participate in the diving events. The meet will be the second time this year that Notre Dame will face off against both Ohio State and Cleveland State. In their previous meetings, the Irish lost to the Buckeyes 172.5-86.5 but defeated the Vikings by a score of 132-109.

"In a lot of ways this is the focal point of the fall semester," Irish coach Tim Welsh said. "It's the first time this season we will have a chance to swim in prelims and finals in the same event on the same

day — a similar format to the Big East Conference and NCAA Championships."

The No. 24 Notre Dame women's team returns to the pool for the first time since its Nov. 8 victory over Purdue.

"We're excited because it has been a few weeks since we have competed," Irish coach Brian Barnes said. "It's a good three-day meet and it gives us a chance to swim one or two times a day with a lot of rest, and that's going to favor some of our best performances of the year."

The Irish women will face off against Ohio State, Bowling Green, Cleveland State, Minnesota, Miami (Fl.), and Penn State in the swimming events while Indiana, North Carolina State, Arizona State, and Florida State will only participate in the diving events.

The action in Columbus is set to begin Friday morning and finish Sunday evening.

Contact Mike Gotimer at mgotimer@nd.edu

Bulldogs

continued from page 20

season, they're going to come back and seek revenge," Notre Dame center Christian Hanson said. "We did it against Boston College this season, and two years ago we did it against Alaska."

Notre Dame coach Jeff Jackson said the key to spoiling Ferris State's bid at revenge would be adjusting to the Bulldog's unique defensive trap style of play.

"Their system is built to create turnovers," Jackson said. "And if you turn the puck over, then they transition pretty well."

Jackson said the team has been working on puck control during the week, specifically making better plays off the boards.

"We just have to be a lot more patient with the puck and pick the chances that we take," Hanson said.

The Bulldogs have received balanced scoring so far this season, with five players notching over 10 points on the year. Ferris State is led on defense by sophomores Zach Redmond and Scott Wietecha.

"They've got three good lines of forwards and one of the best defensive pairs in the conference," Jackson said.

The Irish will try to counter with some scoring of their own, most notably from freshman phenom Billy Maday, who Tuesday was named the CCHA Rookie of the Month for November. Maday is tied with Hanson for the team lead in goals with nine, and has totaled 15 points on the season.

"When you lose a kid like

Mark Van Guilder, you want to replace him with someone who's at least as good," Jackson said. "And thus far Billy's been as productive as Mark, and that bodes really well for us for this year and the future."

Jackson also said, though, that Maday would have to adjust if he wanted his success to continue.

"One of the dangers of playing as well as he had is that teams are going to start focusing on shutting him down," Jackson said. "That's something he hasn't seen yet, and it's coming his way."

Friday night's game will also mark Notre Dame's first game as the No. 1 team in the country since the 2006-2007 season. Hanson said he expected opponents to step their game up in an attempt to take down the Irish.

"We have to realize that team's are going to give us their 'A' game every night," he said.

This weekend's series also comes on the heels of the announcement that Irish sophomore defenseman Ian Cole and Teddy Ruth were selected to the U.S. Junior National Team, and will play in the World Junior Championships in Ottawa Dec. 26-Jan. 5. Cole will be making his second appearance with the team, but it will be Ruth's first time playing for the red, white, and blue.

"I'm just really happy for [Teddy] because he's perfect for playing in the World Juniors in Canada on the NHL sheet," Jackson said. "He's one of those blood-and-guts guys, those warriors, that every team needs to have."

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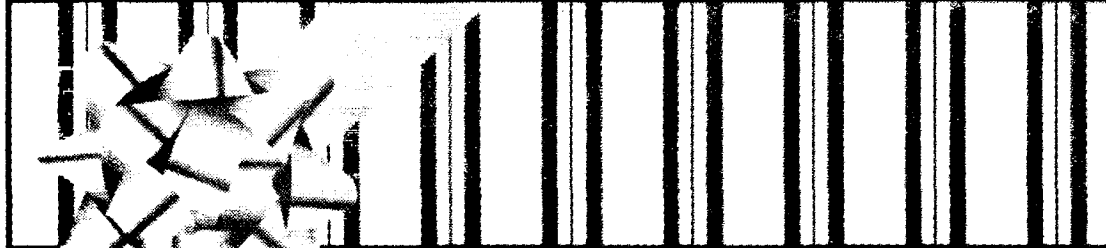
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Schipper

continued from page 20

Junior Matt Schipper looks to continue his improvement from the 2007-2008 indoor season, when he won the Blue and Gold meet with a vault of 4.75 meters and finished with a ninth-place vault of 5.06 meters at the NCAA regionals. He's also earned all-conference twice.

"Matt Schipper is great, he's a 17-foot vaulter for us," Piane said.

Senior Mary Saxer enters the meet as Notre Dame's top woman pole vaulter. She won the 2008 outdoor title, setting a new school record with a 4.06-meter vault.

The track events begin at 6 p.m. with the men's and women's 60-meter hurdles, with distance and sprint events alternating after that.

Junior Joanna Schulz enters as a top sprinter for the Irish. She finished seventh in the 400 meters at the Big East indoor championships in 2008, and earned two all-Big East honors at the outdoor championships, finishing third in the 400 meters and second as a part of the 4 x 400 meter relay.

Senior distance runner Patrick Smyth, who finished his cross-country career with a 10th-place finish at the NCAA Championships, will look for his third track and field All-American honor this season. Smyth finished eighth in the 5000-meter run at the national outdoor track finals last season.

Notre Dame also brings back some notable multi-event athletes.

Senior Alyssa Hasan finished the 2007-2008 indoor season at the NCAA Championships, where she broke the school record in the pentathlon and became Notre Dame's first multi-event All-American with a ninth-place finish. She finished 15th in the heptathlon at the outdoor national championships.

Sophomore Justin Schneider earned all-conference accolades a freshman, finishing second in the heptathlon at the Big East indoor championships and second in the decathlon at the Big East outdoor championships.

"We have a lot of really good kids, there's no doubt," Piane said. "It's impossible to name them all."

Contact Laura Myers at lmeyers2@nd.edu

'Gody

continued from page 20

Brey said he isn't going to try to rush Harangody back into the lineup.

"I'm going to be really cautious with this, because it is a big game, but it isn't a big game either," Brey said. "I told Luke in the Los Angeles airport as he was in misery flying back, 'Worst case, if we have you 100 percent as we're going over to play DePaul on New Year's Eve, that's when I need you.'"

So far, Notre Dame has played just fine in Harangody's absence, though it hasn't played anyone on the same level competitively as Ohio State, who is receiving votes in both polls and defeated No. 21/22 Miami 73-68 Tuesday. The Irish defeated Furman and South Dakota by wide margins without Harangody.

During those games, senior guard Kyle McAlarney continued his hot shooting from the outside. In Notre Dame's last three games, McAlarney has hit 26-of-48 (54 percent) from three-point range — he buried 10 against North Carolina in the finals of the Maui Invitational, nine against Furman and seven against South Dakota.

"If I was coaching against Kyle, I might pull the old Stephen Curry trick with a triangle-and-two on him," senior forward Zach Hillesland said, referring to the Davidson's 78-48 win over Loyola-Maryland, in which Loyola held the Davidson star to zero points by double-teaming him the entire game. "But the way he's been shooting has been amazing."

McAlarney added: "I credit my teammates, but I'm not expecting to be hot like this the whole season. So there's other things that I feel like I'm bringing to the table that I need to be consistent with, like leadership."

McAlarney, however, isn't the only one on a hot streak. Senior forward Ryan Ayers has stepped up while Harangody has been out.

Ayers scored 19 against Furman and had 25 points in the first half against South Dakota on his way to a career-high 35 for the game.

"That's one of the things we talked about when we got back from Maui," Brey said. "I thought he could've been a little more aggressive out there and we need him to be, because they're going to take away Kyle or take away 'Gody and he is going to get those open looks and we don't want him to be bashful or turn anything down."

McAlarney and Ayers see a lot of

open looks when the Irish come down the floor in transition, and against Ohio State, if Notre Dame can break the Buckeyes' full-court press, the Irish could get some open looks for their shooters.

"They have a 2-2-1 press every made basket, every made free throw, and then go back to a zone," Brey said. "That takes a kind of mental toughness and concentration to attack both defenses; when to attack the press to score, and when to attack it and then attack their zone."

The Buckeyes, coached by Thad Matta, average 65.8 points per game to Notre Dame's 87.1, but Ohio State only allows 47.3 points per game to Notre Dame's 68.7. They spread their scoring around their lineup, with guard Evan Turner as Ohio State's leading scorer with 13.8 points per game.

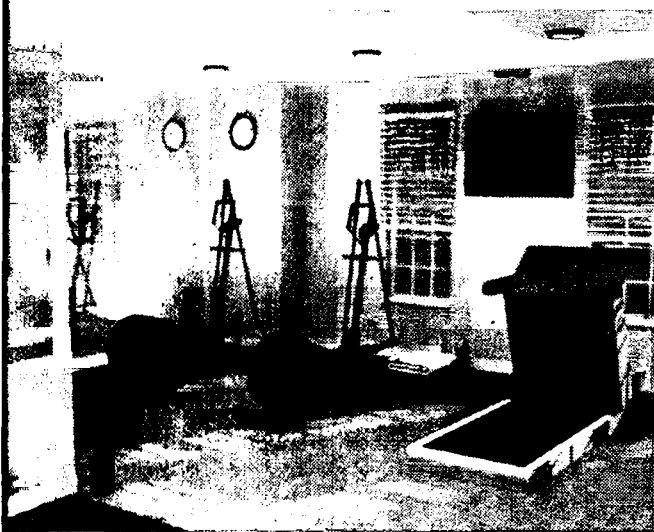
Note:

uMcAlarney, who is no fan of shaving, has been on his hot streak while sporting his on-again, off-again beard.

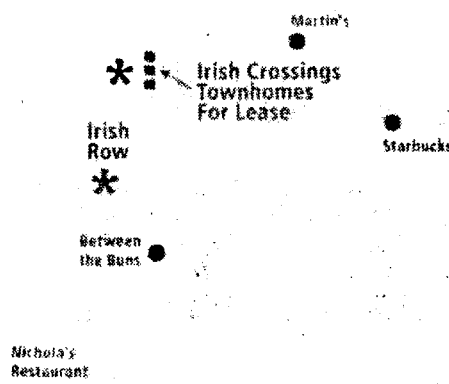
"I know he rotates in and out of the Brett Favre look, but whatever he's doing with his facial hair, don't change right now," Brey said. "I don't want him to change."

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

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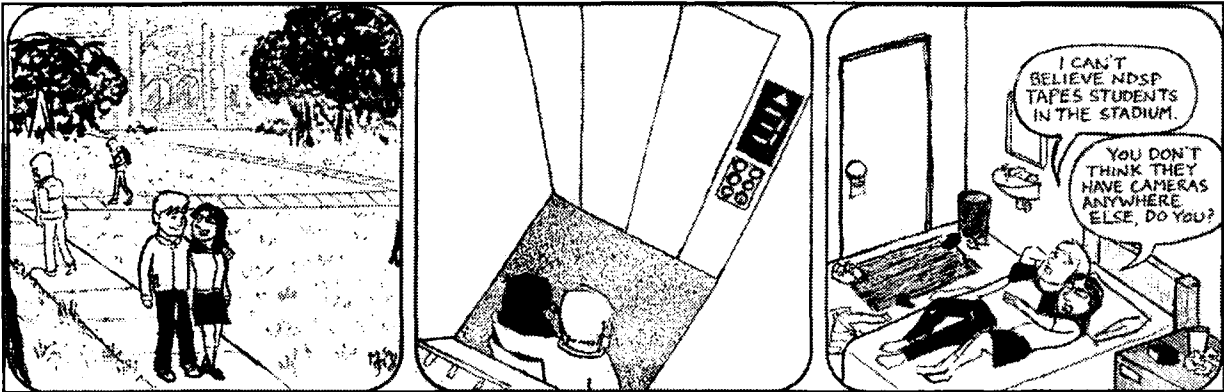
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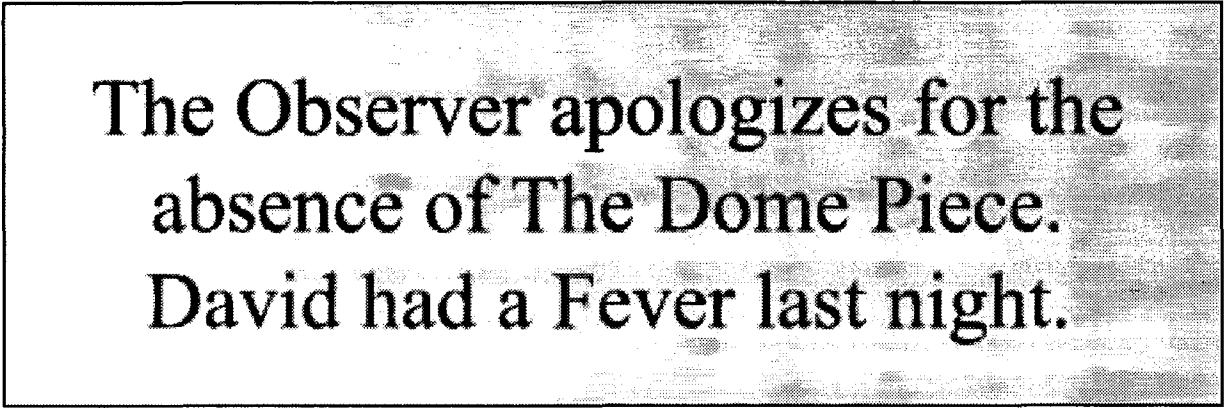
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Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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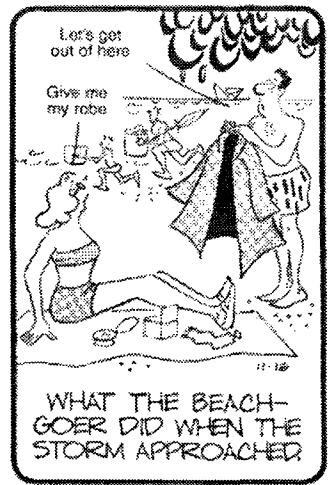
ROODE
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NECKAR
[] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

APITOE
[] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

Answer: [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



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

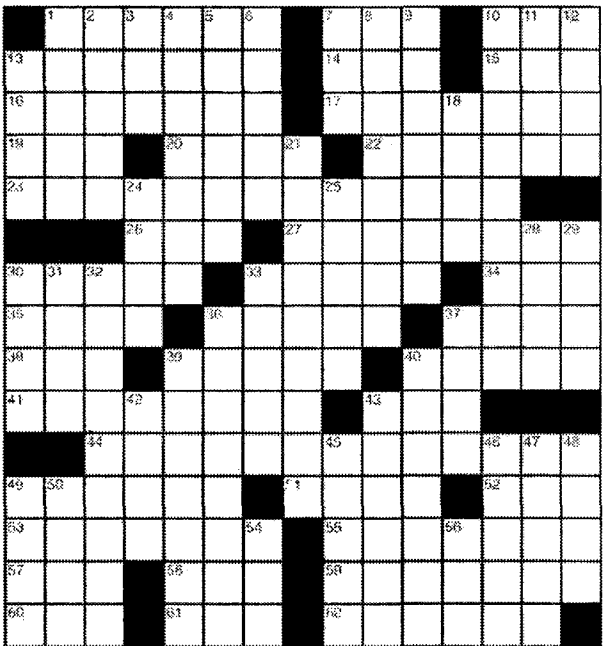
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GAUDY COCOA SQUIRM BOLERO
Answer: Although the mailer was oblong, the content was — "CIRCULAR"

CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across**
- 1 "Thou art not lovelier than — no" (Milly sonnet start)
- 7 Make even
- 10 Neighbor of Afghanistan: Abbr.
- 13 Cadillac model
- 14 jam
- 15 Word with pick or pack
- 16 With 55-Across, description of 23- 36- and 44-Across
- 17 Wither
- 19 Atlanta's Center
- 20 College square
- 22 Playwright Edward and others
- 23 Beginning of some folk wisdom
- 26 Clod buster
- 27 Pacific islands in W.W. II fighting, with "the"
- 30 Hugh successor to Louis V as king of France
- 33 Kind of cup
- 34 Les poissons swim in it
- 35 Charter
- 36 Folk wisdom, part 2
- 37 Doggone
- 38 Nabokov novel
- 39 Biblical prophet thrown overboard by his shipmates
- 40 Formal dress shoes
- 41 Sane
- 43 Norwegian coin
- 44 End of the folk wisdom
- 49 Obliquely
- 51 Bishoprics
- 52 Old Eur. domain
- 53 Cutout to fill in
- Down**
- 1 "... man put asunder" (wedding words)
- 2 "to be alone" (words attributed to Greta Garbo)
- 3 Wee, quickly
- 4 Exact proper divisor, in math
- 5 Part of a contract
- 6 French legislature
- 7 Spanish aunt
- 8 Incised printing method
- 9 Pendant place
- 10 Bit of wishful thinking
- 11 Year
- 12 Phi Beta Kappa mementos
- 13 Webster's, e.g.: Abbr.
- 18 Melancholy woodwind
- 21 Medicinal cardiac stimulant
- 24 Syngman first president of South Korea
- 25 The last Pope Paul, e.g.
- 28 Infield cover
- 29 Heavenly orbs
- 30 Scorch



Puzzle by Susan Harrington Smith

- 31 She dies with Radames
- 32 Talk, talk, talk
- 33 Robert of "The 39 Steps"
- 36 Teflon, e.g.
- 37 Any Sonny and Cher song
- 39 Bumps on a ride
- 40 Do some advance organizing
- 42 Ayatollah's home
- 43 Titania's husband
- 45 Dividing membranes
- 46 When doubled, comforting words
- 47 Cause for an erasure
- 48 Fighters for Jeff Davis
- 49 Regarding
- 50 Pack
- 54 Powell's co-star in "The Thin Man"
- 56 Speed: Abbr.

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H	A	B	E	A	S	C	O	R	P	U	S	
E	C	A	S	H	N	A	B	S	C	P	A	
J	O	N	G	B	U	L	B	L	I	E	N	S
P	A	D	U	A	J	U	D	O	E	R	S	T
A	T	O	M	I	C	S	H	A	Q			
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W	A	R	D	S	T	R	O	N	N	O	S	Y

THE OBSERVER

Published Monday through Friday, The Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's Community.

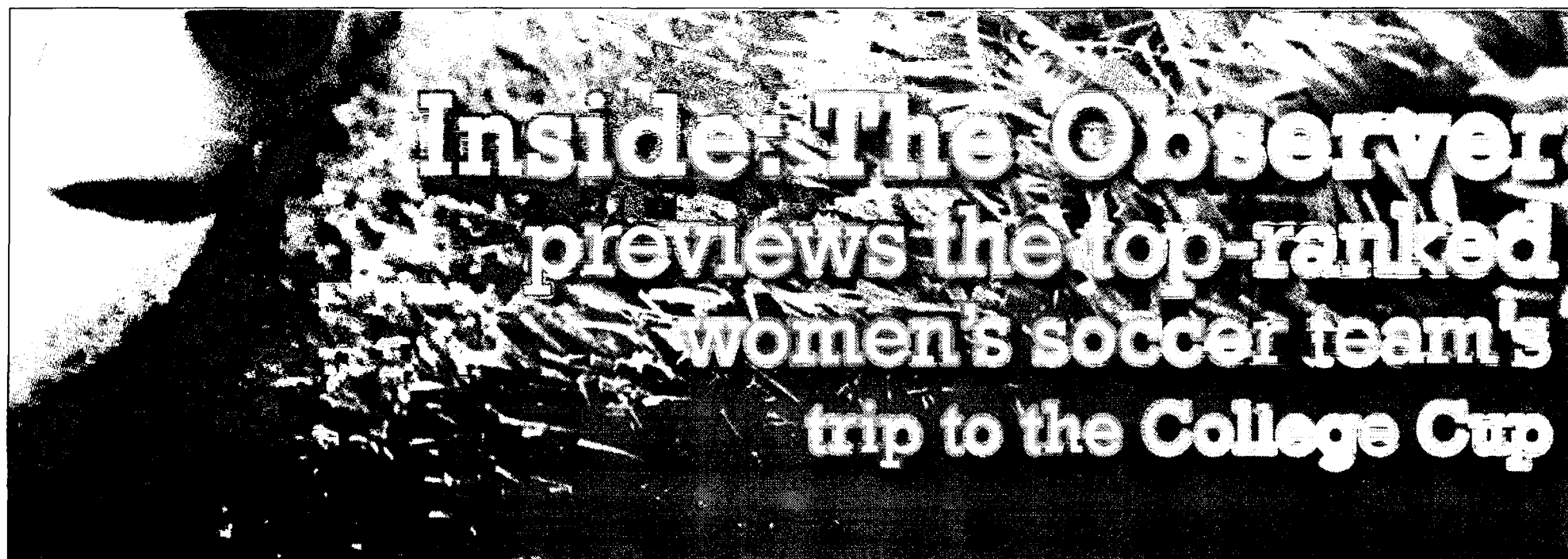
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ND BASKETBALL

Top 10s vs. Big Tens

Harangody may sit out against Ohio St.

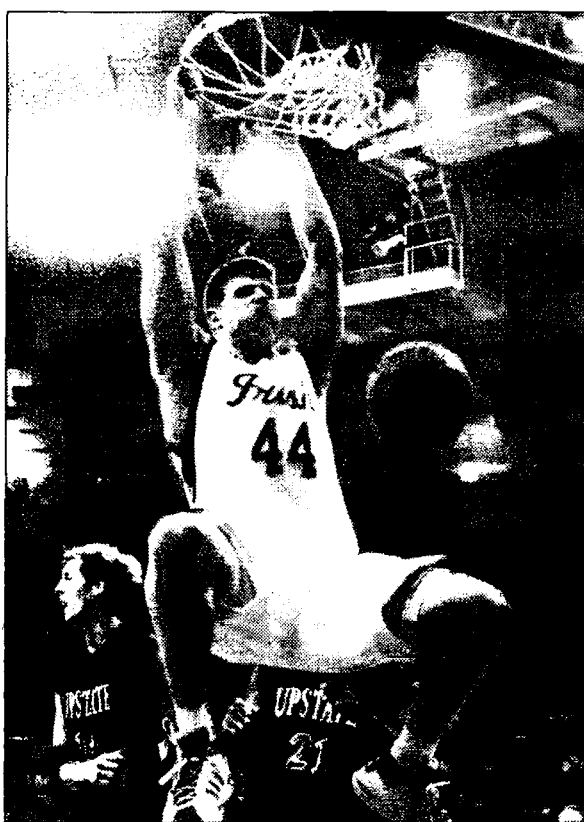
By CHRIS HINE
Editor-in-Chief

On Saturday, the Irish will try to pick up another resume-building win when they take on Ohio State at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, but they may have to do it without junior forward Luke Harangody.

Harangody, who missed No. 77 Notre Dame's (6-1) last two games because of pneumonia he contracted during the Maui Invitational last week, planned on participating in practice Thursday and Friday, but said it will be a game time decision as to whether or not he will play against the Buckeyes (4-0).

"I talked to [coach Mike Brey] about how we need to play this safe, because you don't want a relapse coming back in the Big East season when you've got a big game every other day," Harangody said before practice Thursday.

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Left, Irish forward Luke Harangody dunks during Notre Dame's 94-58 win over USC Upstate on Nov. 16. Right, Irish guard Melissa Lechlitner runs the offense during Notre Dame's 78-72 win over MSU on Nov. 29.



ALLISON AMBROSE and IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Purdue visits, causes a Joyce Center sellout

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

On Sunday, Notre Dame renews its rivalry with Purdue, who Irish coach Muffet McGraw said will be her squad's biggest non-conference test of the season.

The two Indiana schools have met 21 times before, with Purdue holding the edge 14-7. But that trend has been reversed in recent years, with the Irish having won three of the last four games in the series, including McGraw's first ever win in West Lafayette, Ind., last season.

The Irish have by far the biggest win in the series, coming on April 1, 2001.

"The fact that we beat [Purdue] in the [2001 NCAA] Championship game, I think that makes this a pretty good rivalry," McGraw said in a telephone interview with The Observer.

McGraw said the rivalry is also strong because of the two schools

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ND TRACK AND FIELD

Indoor season begins with Blue-Gold Meet

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

The Irish begin their indoor season Friday with a meet that will have big implications.

Notre Dame hosts Big East rivals DePaul and Marquette as well as Detroit-Mercy in the Blue and Gold Meet at the Loftus Center.

It is the only meet in December for the Irish, giving it added meaning heading into winter break.

"The real purpose of this meet is to have something before the semester ends," coach Joe Piane said. "Most of these kids have been working since September, and it's nice to get an early

start."

Along with being the team's first test, times gained today can help individuals qualify for the Big East championship meet in February.

"We use this meet as a motivator," Piane said. "If the athletes do qualify, we can use those times as a starting point. If they don't qualify, we can use it as a motivation to really work hard over break and at the next meets."

At the 2007 Blue and Gold Meet, more than 40 Big East qualifying times were reached.

The field events open with women's high jump and men's pole vault at 5 p.m.

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HOCKEY

Irish travel to face Ferris State

By SAM WERNER
Sports Writer

On March 14, Ferris State skated off the Joyce Center ice with a 1-0 lead in the best-of-three CCHA quarter-final series against the Irish. Notre Dame came back, though, and won the next two do-or-die games to advance to the CCHA semifinals and, eventually, the NCAA championship game.

Tonight, the Irish will head to Big Rapids, Mich. in the first meeting between the two teams since a 6-3 Irish win shut the door on the Bulldogs' 2007-2008 campaign.

"Anytime you end a team's

see BULLDOGS/page 17



WUE YU/The Observer

Irish right wing Billy Maday battles for the puck during Notre Dame's 5-1 win over Bowling Green on Nov. 21.