

THE OBSERVER

The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

VOLUME 44 : ISSUE 9

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2009

NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

University contributes \$5.5 million to area

Funding Levels	10-Year Total
City of South Bend	\$3,025,000
St. Joseph County	1,870,000
City of Mishawaka	550,000
Town of Roseland	50,000
	\$5,500,000

JACLYN ESPINOZA | Observer Graphic

Local leaders say money is needed

By JENN METZ
News Writer

The University's \$5.5 million in contributions to local communities demonstrate Notre Dame's "commitment to leadership," University President Fr. John Jenkins said in a June 29 press conference.

The voluntary contributions will be distributed over the next 10 years to the cities of South Bend and Mishawaka, the town of Roseland and to St. Joseph County.

The unrestricted funds will be provided in increments of \$500,000 in each of the first five years, increasing to \$600,000 annually in the second five years and may be used as needed by the municipalities, according to a University press release.

see MONEY/page 6

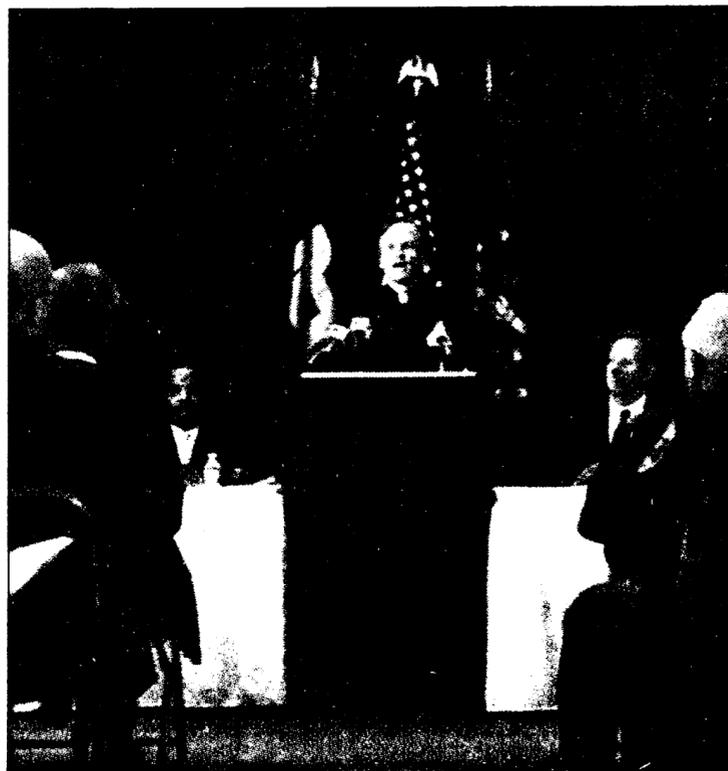


Photo courtesy of News and Information
University President Fr. John Jenkins announces the University will make \$5.5 million in contributions to the area at a June 29 press conference.

ND achieves 'Spirit' campaign goal early

By LIZ O'DONNELL
News Writer

Two years ahead of schedule, Notre Dame surpassed its \$1.5 billion goal of the "Spirit of Notre Dame" campaign this summer.

According to a University press release, the campaign seeks to provide financial support to four main areas of Notre Dame, including the undergraduate educational experience, research and

graduate studies, diversity and international studies and Catholic intellectual life.

"We are richly blessed that within less than five years we reached and exceeded the goal of \$1.5 billion," Vice President of University Relations Lou Nanni said. "People have stretched out heroically to give back."

Currently, the University has raised \$1.56 billion and will continue to look to increase this total.

Despite the decline in the

economy since the campaign began in July 2004, over 70 percent of the commitments given to the University are already in hand.

"Our Lady was looking over us," Nanni said. "We had the providence of timing with the campaign where it began just as the last recession was coming to an end, and we got so much of the giving in before the recent devastating recession."

While the University is pleased at the progress of the

campaign, they will continue to raise money for more specific individual targets.

"We have an enormous sense of gratitude, as well as a profound sense there is still work to be done," Nanni said.

Nanni said there are a number of priorities that are not yet fulfilled, the most important of which is raising more resources for financial aid. He said the recent decline in the economy is a signal of the importance of this.

"Forty-four percent of Notre

Dame undergraduate students received aid from the University last year, while this year over 50 percent will receive aid," he said. "The need of current and incoming students has increased dramatically and we need to raise more money to keep a Notre Dame education accessible to current students and those coming tomorrow."

Citing the need for the University to remain competi-

see SPIRIT/page 4

Students excited for 2009 season

By IRENA ZAJICKOVA
News Writer

Despite last year's even record, students say they are optimistic about the Irish's chances against the Nevada Wolf Pack Saturday to begin Notre Dame's 2009 football season.

After last year's 6-6 record followed by a victory in the Sheraton Hawaii Bowl, students say they have high hopes for the football team, especially in light of the No. 23 preseason ranking in the Associated

see 2009/page 4



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Cheerleaders rally the crowd during the loss to Pittsburgh Nov. 1, 2008.

SMC to launch store for free item exchange

By ASHLEY CHARNLEY
Saint Mary's Editor

As the economy worsens, students are feeling the sting of limited funds just as badly as the rest of the country.

Saint Mary's Environmental Action Coalition (SMEAC) is giving students the opportunity to not only watch their wallets, but also help the environment at the same time, through the Saint Mary's Free Store, which will have its grand opening Sept.

6 from 2 to 6 p.m.

The store — located in the basement of LeMans Hall — is full of goods donated by students who no longer needed them.

At the end of the year, or the end of the Christmas break, anyone with items they cannot take home, but are still in good condition, can donate them to the free store. Then other students can go through them and take any items they need,

see SMC/page 6

INSIDE COLUMN

Football memories

For my first Inside Column in over a year and a half, I would hate to make mine cliché and just reminisce about my college experience and how awesome football season is. Sorry. I read those and so will you.

Since I was in Spain last year and only had the opportunity to watch one Notre Dame football game total (thanks Lisa), I think I am easily more excited for Saturday than any year I have ever gone to Notre Dame football games. Which have been a lot.

Katie Peralta
Assistant
News
Editor

I used to live in South Bend, and in grade school, my mom and dad would tote my two sisters and me to family tailgates every home game Saturday. From there they would force us to go around with our little box of candy bars to sell to all the over-served and overly enthusiastic ND fans.

This was the annual Candy Sale, the creative fundraising effort of my dear old Saint Joseph Grade School on Hill Street. Who could resist mediocre, overpriced candy from a sweet-faced kid in a school uniform? While I hated selling the candy and probably decided at that point on I would never be a marketing major, I did love the excitement of football Saturday and deep down vowed to never leave it completely.

High school rolled around and those Saturdays did not change, but now I was ditching my parents and rolling into tailgates with my friends after biking from our Wayne Street houses. After sipping Diet Cokes for a few hours with family and friends we would bike back and resume everyday life.

Notre Dame to me then was then still my comfortable background playground, but the prospect of actually belonging there did not really cross my mind. I thought of Notre Dame as a place for overachieving, out-of-state kids. I crossed it off my list.

And then, after a cross-country move and a change of heart, came freshman year. Suddenly I felt just like I did as a third grader, when everything was big, intimidating and exciting. As the games went on the novelty of it all faded only a little, and then suddenly I was gone and only hearing about football game three days after the fact, from people's Facebook status or from my frustrated dad.

To be back here again this year brings me back to those SJGS days. Everything to me now is big and foreign again. The novelty is back, but with the privilege of sitting in the senior section.

Keep the novelty alive. Study abroad and buy candy from a grade school kid. Go Irish.

The views expressed in this Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Contact Katie Peralta at kperalta@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 IS YOUR PREDICTION FOR SATURDAY'S GAME?



Tim Ryan
sophomore
Keenan

"We will score more often than a Nevada lady of pleasure."



Nate Farley
senior
Keenan

"21-6, Notre Dame."



Keith Hetrick
sophomore
Keenan

"45 pushups!"



Paola Garcia
sophomore
Keenan

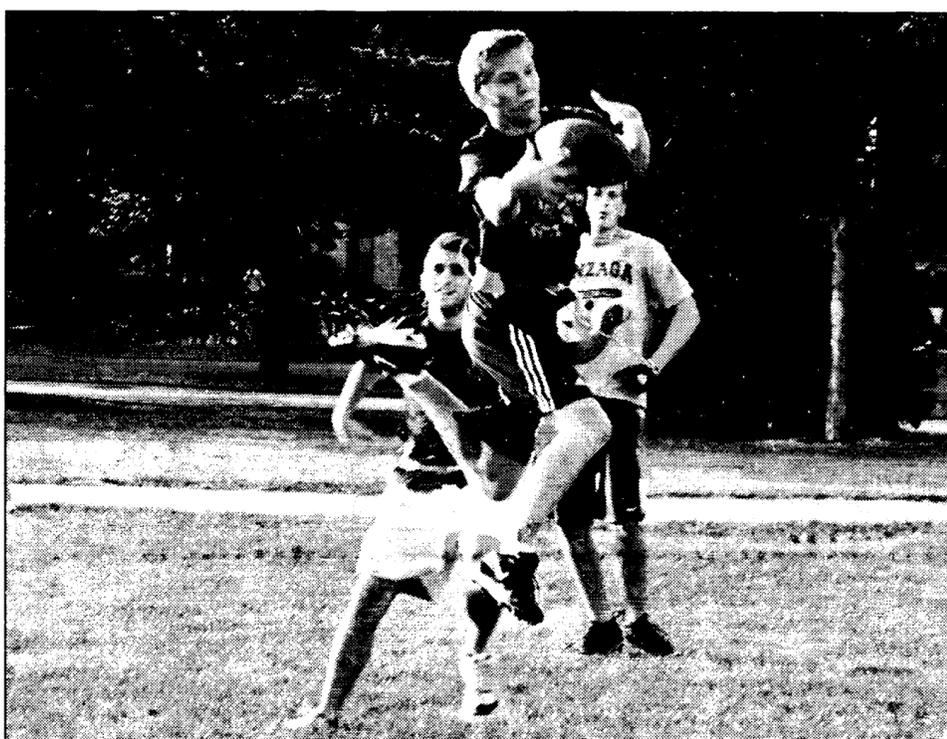
"They will Neva-da score against us!"



Brian Wysocki
junior
Fisher

"Mets 3, Cubs 1. Two more Mets injured."

Have an idea for Question of the Day? E-mail observer.questions@gmail.com



Members of the Notre Dame class of 2012 play flag football on South Quad Thursday. The sophomore class held flag football and a barbecue Thursday evening.

OFFBEAT

Man calls 911 to complain of hunger

DELRAY BEACH, Fla. - Authorities said a man was arrested after calling 911 twice for a ride and saying he was hungry. Police reports said Benjamin Dewer, 26, was charged early Wednesday with making false calls to 911. The report said Dewer was apparently drunk when police found him sitting on a sidewalk. He asked police for a ride to a park and told them he was hungry.

When police refused, Dewer walked away and called 911 a second time

for a ride. Dewer was being held behind bars at the Palm Beach County Jail on a \$1,000 bond.

Woman's life easier with shorter fingernails

SALT LAKE CITY - A Salt Lake City woman who held a Guinness World Record for her long fingernails before they broke off in a car crash says it was the most dramatic event of her life. But Lee Redmond, who lost the fingernails in February, says it's now much easier to do things and her hands seem to fly with the weight of the nails

gone. The 68-year-old won't grow her nails out again, saying it took 30 years the first time and she may not live for another 30.

Redmond hadn't cut her nails since 1979 and entered the Guinness World Records book in 2002 for longest fingernails on a woman.

The Guinness Web site says her nails measured a total of more than 28 feet long in 2008, with the longest nail on her right thumb at 2 feet, 11 inches.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

The Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore will host a book launch celebration today for the book, "Monk's Tale: The Pilgrimage Begins, 1941 - 1975," by Rev. Edward "Monk" Malloy, C.S.C. from 12:00p.m. - 2:00 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

The film "Afghan Star" will play tonight in the Browning Cinema at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The film begins at 6:30 p.m. To purchase tickets call the ticket office at 574-631-2800 or visit the performing arts Web site.

The No. 2 ranked Notre Dame women's soccer team will play No. 1 ranked North Carolina tonight at 7:30 p.m. at Alumni Stadium. For ticket information, call 574-631-7356 or visit the Athletic ticket office Web site.

The movie "Rudy" will play on North Quad tonight at 9:00 p.m. The event is free for students and is sponsored by Flipside.

American Studies professor Erika Doss will deliver a lecture titled, "Memorial Mania: Public Art and Public Feelings in America Today," Saturday at 12:00 p.m. in the Annenberg Auditorium of the Snite Museum of Art. The lecture is sponsored by the College of Arts and Letters and is part of the Saturday Scholars series.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	GAME DAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 77 LOW 54	HIGH 66 LOW 54	HIGH 79 LOW 56	HIGH 78 LOW 58	HIGH 73 LOW 59	HIGH 74 LOW 59

Atlanta 86 / 63 Boston 79 / 60 Chicago 76 / 56 Denver 82 / 57 Houston 93 / 73 Los Angeles 87 / 66 Minneapolis 78 / 57 New York 82 / 64 Philadelphia 82 / 62 Phoenix 103 / 83 Seattle 73 / 59 St. Louis 81 / 60 Tampa 87 / 75 Washington 84 / 64

Students react to pep rally format changes

New venues include Irish Green, Stepan Center; student government says length of program will decrease

By THERESA CIVANTOS
News Writer

South Quad, Stepan Center and Notre Dame Stadium are a few of the planned locations for this year's pep rallies, which will be very different from those of years past — and not just because they're moving around campus.

"We're going to keep them short," said student body president Grant Schmidt. "The Band will play and pump everyone up, the team will come in, there will be one speaker, a couple cheers, and it's done."

"Thirty minutes of everyone yelling, screaming, high-fiving each other: That's back to the core of a solid pep rally."

Students say a shortened pep rally is a relief after the two-hour rallies of previous years.

"People don't want to sacrifice two hours on a Friday, and people definitely don't want to stand there for two hours," said senior Leslie Vaughn. "It's smart to make it shorter."

Despite the excitement of a shortened pep rally, students

are apprehensive about some of the planned locations.

With eight pep rallies occurring this season, four will be held at Irish Green, south of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tents and activities will be set up from 3 to 7 p.m. on Fridays, concluding with the 6:30 p.m. pep rally, and be open Saturday mornings until game time.

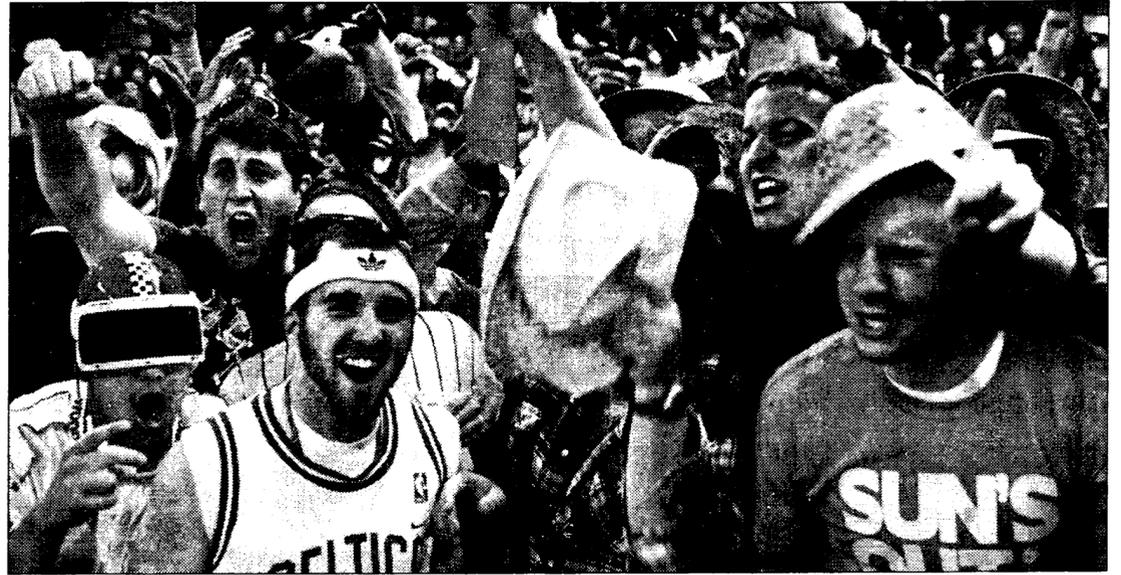
In addition to Irish Green, one pep rally will be held in Stepan Center, one in Notre Dame Stadium, one in Purcell Pavilion at the Joyce Center and tonight's Dillon Hall pep rally will be on South Quad.

But the Irish Green location is unprecedented.

"I'm not sure if outside pep rallies will work," sophomore Sarah Teising said. "And I had never heard of Irish Green before."

Schmidt said student government is uncertain about the success of the Irish Green pep rallies.

"It's not that much farther than the JACC, but walking to the JACC you pass by the stadium, you pass by Touchdown Jesus, you get pumped," he said. "You don't have that



Students cheer in the Joyce Athletic Center at the Oct. 31, 2008 pep rally before the Notre Dame versus Pittsburgh game.

DAN JACOBS/The Observer

walking to Irish Green. Plus people don't really know where it is."

Meanwhile, pep rally planners hope for strong student support throughout the season.

"In order for a pep rally to be a true pep rally, it needs to have students," Schmidt said.

"I remember visiting Notre Dame as a sophomore in high school and I was just in awe of the students — their spirit and excitement."

A key part of the pep rally experience is involving alumni and campus visitors as well as students, Schmidt said.

But it's just not a pep rally

without enthusiastic student involvement.

"The most important aspect of a pep rally is to remind the Notre Dame football team that the student body is behind them," Schmidt said.

Contact Theresa Civantos
at tcivanto@nd.edu

Congratulations Father Edward A. Malloy, C.S.C.
on the publication of the first installment of your memoirs.

Monk's Tale

The
Pilgrimage
Begins,
1941-1975



EDWARD A. MALLOY, C.S.C.



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2009

continued from page 1

Press poll.

Judging from an inspired performance in the bowl game and a promising freshman class, the Irish could be good this year, senior Jason Miller said.

"Based on what we saw in the bowl game, our schedule and the incoming class, I think the pieces are finally falling into place for a breakout season," Miller said. "It's going to be fun to watch."

Since he was abroad last fall, Miller said this season will be even more exciting, as he has not seen a football game in Notre Dame stadium for almost two years.

And the promise of a good season makes that even better, Miller said.

"I'm hugely excited for the first game. After a year away, I can't wait to get back in the stadium," he said. "Like most other people, I have high hopes for this season, and I'm excited to be a part of it."

For freshmen with no prior game day experience, this year signifies the beginning of an era of quality football that will hopefully last for the duration of their time at Notre Dame, according to James Benner, a freshman from Dillon Hall.

"The guys on SportsCenter are saying that this will be a breakout year for the Fighting Irish, so it's a pretty exciting time to be a freshman here," Benner said. "I've got a lot of good football to look forward to."

Benner, along with most other freshmen, is also looking forward to his first football game in the student section.

"My family is big on Notre Dame football, but I've never been to a college football game,



COLEMAN COLLINS/The Observer

The Irish Guard strike a pose at the Sept. 6, 2008 home football game against San Diego State.

so this is pretty cool for me," Benner said.

Another thing to look forward to is the highly-anticipated return of the Dillon Hall pep rally. The pep rally's cancellation last year was met with great disappointment from the student body, and students are happy to have it back, said senior Michelle Hackner, a resident of Walsh Hall.

"The Dillon pep rally was hilarious my first two years here, and I was sad that they cancelled it," Hackner said. "My friends and I are all excited to watch it this year. Hopefully it's funny."

As a senior, Hackner has high hopes for the season.

But she said there are other things to look forward to if the team doesn't meet expectations, such as tailgating.

"I'll still be excited for games and tailgating for the team doesn't live up to the hype, but it will all be so much better if they do," Hackner said. "The starters are all back and they played well in the Hawaii Bowl, so there's no reason for them not to do well this year."

The Irish will kick off their season tomorrow at 2:30 p.m.

The Dillon Hall pep rally will take place tonight at 5:45 p.m. on South Quad.

Contact Irena Zajickova at izajicko@nd.edu

Spirit

continued from page 1

tive in the market place for prospective students, Nanni said the money from the campaign will also fund academic initiatives.

"Prospective students are very educated consumers," Nanni said. "They want to see updated facilities and who has strong programming in different areas where they intend to major."

Nanni also emphasized the importance of Catholicism in Notre Dame's mission.

"For the past 15 years, the same cohort of schools have been ranked as the top 20 in the nation and every one of those schools other than Notre Dame are secular institutions," he said. "We feel we have an important niche in higher education and we are doing everything we can to strengthen and preserve the distinction of a Notre Dame education."

While the money raised in the campaign will go to an array of projects, the most obvious are the additions to campus. Duncan Hall, Ryan Hall,

the Eck Hall of Law, Geddes Hall and the two new arenas for lacrosse and soccer are some of the most visible areas, Nanni said.

He also said there are a number of non-tangible aspects money from the campaign will go to fund, including the Rooney Center for American Democracy and the Eck Center for Global Health and Infectious Diseases.

"We feel we have an important niche in higher education and we are doing everything we can to strengthen and preserve the distinction of a Notre Dame education."

Lou Nanni
vice president
University Relations

"We are enhancing quality of life through knowledge."

Lou Nanni
vice president
University Relations

"Only one percent of the world's population has a college degree, so how are we making ourselves relevant to the other 99 percent of the world?" Nanni said. "We are enhancing quality of life through new knowledge."

While the goal of \$1.5 billion has been reached, Nanni emphasized there is still two years to go on the campaign.

"We will do everything we can in the next two years as many resources as possible to enhance academic standing, improve all of our offerings for our students and ultimately have a greater impact on this world," he said.

Contact Liz O'Donnell at codonne1@nd.edu

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WORLD & NATION

Friday, September 4, 2009

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVERS WIRE SERVICES

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Earthquake kills 57 in Indonesia

CIKANGKARENG — Children were crowded around a video game console, passing the time before they could break the Muslim holy months daily fast, when an earthquake touched off a landslide that smothered their Indonesian village.

Rescuers were searching Thursday for those 13 children and several dozens more people buried alive, as officials warned the death toll of 57 is sure to rise.

Thousands of others were spending the night in tents after Wednesday 7.0-magnitude quake flattened or seriously damaged more than 10,000 homes, offices, schools and mosques on the western side of the densely populated island of Java. Aid workers distributed provision kits, blankets and medicine, but said they were concerned remote areas had not received help following the temblor, which was felt for hundreds of miles.

Chinese protest needle stabbings

URUMQI — Thousands marched through this city in western China on Thursday after a series of stabbings with hypodermic needles further unnerved residents already jittery over deadly rioting between Han Chinese and Muslim Uighurs.

More than 10,000 people, mostly from the Han Chinese majority, took the streets, demanding increased security and punishment for those behind the July riots. Demonstrators said police beat some protesters, but there were no major clashes.

NATIONAL NEWS

R.I. state workers to be laid off

PROVIDENCE — Gov. Don Carcieri warned Thursday he will lay off 1,000 state workers after a judge blocked him from shutting down government to save money, but he signaled a willingness to cut a deal with state employee unions that could save jobs.

The governor threatened layoffs shortly after Supreme Court Justice Maureen McKenna Goldberg stopped him from forcing about 80 percent of the roughly 13,500-member state work force to stay home without pay Friday. It was supposed to be the first of dozens shut-down days before July designed to partially close a \$68 million shortfall in a state budget hammered by surging unemployment and dwindling tax revenue.

Vt. teen sentenced in sexting case

BURLINGTON — An 18-year-old pleaded guilty to reduced charges Thursday in Vermont's first "sexting" case, in which he allegedly directed two teenage girls to videotape or photograph themselves performing sex acts and send him the results.

Isaac Owusu, of Morrisville, was sentenced to up to two years in prison but will serve 90 days after pleading guilty to two counts of committing a prohibited act and one count of lewd and lascivious conduct.

Sexual assault charges originally lodged against him were dropped as part of the plea, as were two counts of promoting a sexual recording.

The deal was offered in part because the state Legislature recently passed a law decriminalizing sexting.

"We respect the process in Montpelier," said Chittenden County States Attorney T.J. Donovan.

LOCAL NEWS

Judge excludes gory photos

INDIANAPOLIS — An Indianapolis judge has excluded several photos of three slain children and four adults from evidence in a murder trial because they might inflame the jury.

Marion Criminal Court Judge Robert Altice said he had trouble viewing some of the gruesome photos even after 20 years on the bench.

Altice made the ruling during a pretrial hearing Thursday for 31-year-old Desmond Turner and 33-year-old James Stewart. Turner's trial is set for Oct. 5. Stewart is scheduled to go to trial Nov. 30.

White House open to compromise

Obama administration signals at possibility of concessions on health care reform

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Even as liberals urge President Barack Obama to demand bold, far-reaching changes to the nation's health care system, the White House signaled openness Thursday to compromises that might attract moderate congressional Democrats as well as some Republicans.

Obama believes in "fundamental principles" about overhauling health care, top presidential adviser David Axelrod told The Associated Press, but "hes not dogmatic about how we get there."

Axelrod's comments did not definitively answer how hard Obama will push for the most ambitious parts of his proposal, including health insurance for virtually all Americans and a government-run plan to compete with private insurers. But his diplomatic tone was in keeping with the administration's approach of refusing to flatly demand several parts that are dear to Democratic activists who helped elect him.

Those are the type of conciliatory hints that frustrate many liberals. They fear Obama will dilute the bold health care proposals he campaigned for, even though Democrats control the House, Senate and White House. One group, the Progressive Change Campaign Committee, sent a mass-distributed e-mail quoting a Texas man saying he is "dropping out of political activism" because of his disillusionment with Obama over health care.

Also, former President Bill Clinton told Esquire Magazine that Obama should forge ahead with his health care proposals. "I wouldn't even worry about the Republicans," Clinton said. Obama is doing the right thing, he said, "even though hes jamming a lot of change down the system."

But many Democrats



President Barack Obama speaks at the White House on Friday, Aug. 21. The White House has said this week that the administration is open to compromising on health care reform.

wonder if Obama really will jam a robust plan past overwhelming GOP opposition and the reservations of many centrist congressional Democrats eyeing their next election. Those Democrats will listen carefully for clues when Obama addresses a joint session of Congress next Wednesday night.

Axelrod's cautious answers Thursday might offer little comfort to those seeking forceful signs from the administration.

Asked if Obama might accept a Republican senator's idea for creating a public health insurance option only if private insurers prove unwilling or unable to meet certain affordability targets,

Axelrod replied: "We need choice and competition within the pool that's created."

The plan has been floated by Republican Sen. Olympia Snowe of Maine. She often is seen as the most likely GOP lawmaker to support a primarily Democratic-crafted health bill. She would have non-profit agencies offer health insurance only if private insurers could not cover 95 percent of the people in their regions with plans costing no more than about 15 percent of the persons or households annual income.

Many Democrats want prompt creation of a government-run program to compete with private insurers,

who stand to gain millions more customers if Congress mandates coverage of the nations uninsured. Obama has often said he favors such a "public option." But he and his aides have repeatedly stopped short of saying he would sign no bill without it.

Obamas pollster Joel Benenson sent new survey findings to Democratic lawmakers Thursday in an apparent bid to reassure them that support for health care changes can be somewhat popular. The somewhat lukewarm support for Obamas initiatives, his memo said, is "based in large part on a lack of awareness of the details of the plan."

EGYPT

U.N.: Darfur crisis at end after drop in violence

Associated Press

CAIRO — The outgoing U.N. peacekeeping chief in Sudan said the world should no longer consider the long-running conflict a war after a sharp decline in violence and deaths over the past year.

Activists and Darfur residents disagree, and the comments by Rodolphe Adada heightened anxiety that there will be less international focus on resolving the root problems in the troubled region.

U.N. peacekeepers have recorded a sharp decline in fatalities from violence. There were 16 deaths in June, compared to an average 130 deaths per

month last year.

"We can no longer talk of a big conflict, of a war in Darfur," Adada told The Associated Press this week before stepping down as head of the joint United Nations-African Union peacekeeping mission in Darfur, or UNAMID.

"I think now everybody understands it. We can no longer speak of this issue. It is over," he said.

The Darfur conflict began in February 2003 when ethnic African rebels took up arms against the Arab-dominated Sudanese government in Khartoum, claiming discrimination and neglect.

U.N. officials say the war has claimed at least 300,000 lives from violence, disease and displacement. They say some

2.7 million people were driven from their homes and at its height, in 2003-2005, it was called the worlds worst humanitarian crisis.

President Barack Obamas new envoy to Sudan, Scott Gration, caused an outcry in June when he said the violence in Darfur no longer amounted to genocide and then suggested easing sanctions against the Sudanese government.

Adding to the complications, violence is on the rise on another front in semi-autonomous southern Sudan, more than four years after a 2005 peace accord ended a separate 21-year civil war that left 2 million people dead. If violence there escalates, it could potentially overshadow Darfur.

Money

continued from page 1

"We have full confidence that local government leaders know how these funds can best be used for the good of their constituents," Jenkins said. "We hope and believe that these funds will make a positive difference in our community."

University Spokesperson Dennis Brown described the variety of ways in which Notre Dame contributes to the local community in an e-mail message to The Observer. With an annual economic impact of \$873 million, the University accounts for more than 12,000 jobs in St. Joseph County and draws more than 685,000 visitors from outside the county who spend roughly \$114 million at off-campus retailers.

Notre Dame also contributes more than 373,000 work hours through student volunteerism and has accounted for more than \$12 million over the past five years in local taxes, Brown said.

University-backed initiatives such as the Robinson Community Learning Center, the Northeast Neighborhood Revitalization Organization and, more recently, MetroNet, Eddy Street Commons and Innovation Park also assist local municipalities, Brown said.

However, the contribution of \$5.5 million over 10 years is "a more direct financial commitment, and it is provided with the sincere intent to be a valuable partner in the community," Brown said.

The current state of the nation's economy was a factor in the decision, Brown said.

"We are also keenly aware of the extraordinary financial hardships our local communi-

ties are facing. And we, too, have felt the brunt of the financial crisis," he said. "So, we hope and think that this contribution comes at a particularly important time as our local government officials continue their work to provide services to the community."

Mayor Stephen Luecke of South Bend said the city is "deeply grateful for the University's contribution" especially because this is a time where the budget is under "severe stress."

Mishawaka Mayor Jeffrey Rea echoed his neighbor's sentiments, thanking the University for "recognizing these are difficult times for local governments."

Brown said University officers were behind the decision, and the contributions are being pooled from the University General Fund.

He said the amount was decided upon because "the University sought to make a contribution that was fair and meaningful."

First checks were mailed to municipalities this summer, Brown said.

"We trust that the funds will be used in a meaningful way, and there is no requirement that the community report to use how that plays out," he said.

Luecke told The Observer the city will first use the funds to cover costs for providing overtime traffic police for home football games — amounting to slightly less than half of this year's allocation.

"I think it's appropriate to use the money for a service that supports our relations with the University," he said.

The remaining funds will reduce budget gaps for police, fire and parks departments, he said.

"These are important for the quality of life in South Bend," Luecke said.

Luecke said this is the first instance of the University providing direct financial contributions for the city.

"We are certainly grateful for the understanding of Fr. Jenkins," he said.

Rea described the contribution as a "welcome surprise" and told The Observer the municipality is not yet sure how it will spend the money, but indicated funds will likely be directed to city promotions.

"What the University does is bring people to our area, so we would like to have information available on different things they can do while they're in our area," he said.

Though the amount is "significant," it will not fund any long-term expenses, he said.

The clerk treasurer of Roseland, Susan Hammons, told The Observer the funds were used for payroll for staff in the police department because revenue from annual state income taxes has not yet been distributed.

Therefore, the money from the University was a "good surprise," she said.

President of the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners Bob Kovach said St. Joseph County has not yet determined how it will use the money.

"The County Council is the county's fiscal body, so the board of commissioners [...] could make a recommendation and then it would be up to the county council fiscal body to make actual appropriation," he said.

Brown said the University has received comments regarding the contribution, and most have been in support.

Madeline Buckley contributed to this report.

Contact Jenn Metz at jmetz@nd.edu

SMC

continued from page 1

said Ashley Cook, president of SMEAC.

"We opened the free store so that students have an opportunity to use items that would otherwise be thrown away," Cook said. "This saves students money and saves the environment by reducing the amount of trash."

The group does accept donations year round, and students who have something to give can leave it outside the free store in a container labeled 'donation.'

The idea for the free store came two years ago when Dr. Louise Weber, a professor at Warren Wilson College, suggested it during a lecture here on campus, Cook said.

"The main purpose of the free store is to get students to reuse items instead of throwing them away," she said. "This keeps items out of the trash and gives students an opportunity to pick up something they might need instead of buying it new."

During the semester, the store will be open for regular hours on Sundays from 12 to 3 p.m. and Wednesdays from 5 to 8 p.m.

According to Cook, other events for the year include cleaning up the beach, raising money for the World Wildlife Fund, going on a nature walk, watching environmental related films and going on a trip to the zoo.

The mission of the club is to make the College and the surrounding South Bend community more environmentally aware, Cook said.

They have teamed up with faculty to make recycling more available to students, and last year was the first year that students had bins available to them in their residences.

"We hope that our presence on campus will influence students in a positive way by making them think about the impact they have on the environment," Cook said.

Contact Ashley Charnley at acharn01@saintmarys.edu

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IN BRIEF

More Americans using food stamps

WASHINGTON — More Americans than ever before received food stamps in June, the Department of Agriculture said on Thursday, with more than 35 million Americans receiving assistance.

The numbers are 22 percent higher than in June 2008. The number of Americans receiving food stamps rose by more than 700,000 people compared to May.

The USDA administers the food stamp program, which was renamed in October as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, through its Food and Nutrition Service. The program helps to cover grocery costs for poor Americans.

The food stamp program was established by Congress in 1964, which was then revised by the Food Stamp Act of 1977.

The average recipient of food stamps in June received more than \$133 in assistance. The average household received more than \$293. Overall, the USDA distributed more than \$4.6 billion in food stamps in June. They went to 35,122,123 recipients.

The numbers, while only one indicator, are a sign that Americans continue to struggle with the country's economic downturn. June was the eighth straight month that the number of people on food stamps rose.

Money fund assets fall to \$3.559T

NEW YORK — Total money market mutual fund assets fell by \$21.35 billion to \$3.559 trillion for the week, the Investment Company Institute said Thursday.

Assets of the nation's retail money market mutual funds fell \$4.97 billion in the latest week to \$1.163 trillion.

Assets of taxable money market funds in the retail category fell by \$4.12 billion to \$908.46 billion for the week ended Wednesday, the Washington-based mutual fund trade group said. Retail tax-exempt fund assets fell \$850 million to \$254.18 billion.

Assets of institutional money market funds fell by \$16.38 billion to \$2.396 trillion for the same period. Among institutional funds, taxable money market fund assets fell by \$16.21 billion to \$2.211 trillion; assets of institutional tax-exempt funds fell by \$170 million to \$185.53 billion.

Biden defends stimulus plan

Affirms recovery act 'changing the trajectory' of the economy despite GOP criticism

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Defending a costly plan to revitalize the economy, Vice President Joe Biden on Thursday said the government's sweeping stimulus effort "is in fact working" despite steady Republican criticism and public skepticism.

"The recovery act has played a significant role in changing the trajectory of our economy, and changing the conversation in this country," Biden said. "Instead of talking about the beginning of a depression, we are talking about the end of a recession."

Nearly 200 days into the effort, Biden delivered an upbeat report card about the \$787 billion rescue effort that President Barack Obama pushed through Congress. He quoted estimates by private analysts that the plan has created or saved 500,000 to 750,000 jobs so far. But many millions remain out of work.

The effectiveness of the two-year program is a matter of sharp political debate, and Biden sought to counter critics with a listing of tangible results.

"One of the criticisms is that it is simply a grab bag of different programs," Biden said in a speech at The Brookings Institution. "But the fact that the recovery act is multifaceted doesn't reflect a lack of design, it is the design."

The stimulus package is a mix of tax cuts, increased spending on Medicaid and huge investments in infrastructure, education, energy projects and more.

The White House is eager to promote signs of progress as the economy lumbers out of recession. Many economists warn that the unemployment rate will keep rising until at least next summer, and it is that measure — the loss or creation of jobs — by which many Americans decide whether economic life is getting bet-



Vice President Joe Biden speaks about the economy and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Thursday, at the Brookings Institution in Washington.

ter.

The Republican Party criticized Biden's speech. "The Democrats rhetoric on their economic experiment doesn't match with the reality of millions of Americans remaining unemployed," said Republican Party chief Michael Steele. "The stimulus was an economic experiment that failed Americans."

Obamas Council of Economic Advisers on Sept. 10 will report an updated projection of the number of jobs created or saved because of the stimulus plan. Biden said he expected it will back up his predictions of 150,000 jobs in the first 100 days and another 600,000 formed or saved over the second 100 days of the act.

Biden warned that the recovery will be uneven. But he said so far, the law is "doing more, faster, more efficiently, and more effectively than most expected."

The White House, though, has also admitted that its initial economic forecasts to sell the stimulus were too rosy. Many Republican leaders say the stimulus is not working nearly as well as the White House promotes, and at huge cost of debt to the nation.

With Obama on vacation at the Camp David presidential retreat in Maryland, the White House hopes Bidens message will break through.

A Gallup poll last month found 51 percent of Americans wished the government would have spent

less to stimulate the economy. The same poll found 41 percent thought the stimulus package was helping the economy in the short term; 33 percent saw no effect, and 24 said it was making the economy worse.

The vice presidents appearance is part of a concerted White House push in advance of the 200th day of the stimulus act on Saturday. Five top administration officials plan to speak about the laws benefits on Thursday in appearances in Arkansas, Virginia, Illinois, California and Minnesota.

Public approval of Obamas performance and of his handling of the economy have slipped. Polls now put both figures slightly above 50 percent.

\$500 mil. to dealers for 'clunkers'

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The government has approved \$500 million in reimbursements to car dealers for sales under the Cash for Clunkers program and dealers should be paid by late September, officials said Thursday.

Auto dealers have complained that the Obama administration has been slow to pay them for the car purchase incentives of up to \$4,500. The rebates led to 690,114 new sales at a taxpayer cost of \$2.88 billion.

A Transportation official said 120,000 submissions from dealers, or about 17 percent, have been approved under the program, which ended on Aug. 24. The official, who

spoke on condition of anonymity, was not authorized to speak publicly about the data before a congressional briefing.

All eligible and completed dealer submissions should be fully paid by Sept. 30, the official said. The official said the government is ramping up staff and 5,000 workers will be reviewing paperwork by the end of next week. About 3,000 government and private sector workers are currently working on the project.

The official said the department expects to be approving \$100 million per day by the end of next week. Department officials told congressional aides that dealers should be reimbursed within 3 days of their deals being approved.

The program, which provided

incentives of \$3,500 or \$4,500 for consumers to trade in a gas-guzzler for a new, more fuel-efficient car or truck, boosted car sales during the summer. U.S. auto sales rose to 1.3 million vehicles in August, a 30 percent increase from July and the first monthly year-over-year gain since October 2007.

Ford Motor Co., Toyota Motor Corp., Hyundai Motor Co. and Honda Motor Co. posted strong sales.

Auto dealers have said the delays have squeezed their businesses, leaving them on a short-term hook for dozens of deals. AutoNation Inc., the nation's largest dealership chain, said Wednesday it was owed more than \$54 million from clunker sales and expected to get paid in 30 to 60 days.

Arson said to be cause of wildfire

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Investigators launched a homicide investigation Thursday into the wildfire north of Los Angeles after determining that the gigantic blaze — which has killed two firefighters, scorched 226 square miles and destroyed dozens of homes — was set intentionally.

"We believe that this was caused by someone intending to set a fire," sheriff's spokesman Steve Whitmore said at an afternoon briefing.

Officials said forensic evidence at the fire's point of origin revealed that the wildfire — among the largest in Southern California's history — was an act of arson. Whitmore declined to elaborate on the evidence due to the ongoing investigation.

The two firefighters died Sunday when their truck careened off a steep mountain road.

Earlier Thursday, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger toured a fire-ravaged community where the fire left dozens of homes in ruins, encountering piles of twisted metal and rubble as firefighters began to bring the blaze under greater control.

The blaze was 38 percent contained Thursday, up from 28 percent the previous day.

Schwarzenegger talked to residents about their losses and later thanked firefighters for all of their work in putting out the flames. At

one point during the tour, the former bodybuilder picked up a 30-pound barbell located amid the wreckage.

"Even though we are still battling those fires, we are now trying to help get people's lives rebuilt," Schwarzenegger said. "When you see this kind of devastation, it's horrible to lose your home, your personal belongings."

Despite the overall progress against the fire, firefighters dealt with a flare-up overnight in a remote canyon as strong down-slope winds "just kind of blew the fire up," said U.S. Forest Service official John Huschke. Twenty-five people in 11 homes were evacuated in the canyon area.

The wildfire, now in its eighth day, has destroyed 64 homes, burned three people and left two firefighters dead. During the night, a firefighter injured his leg when he fell 20 foot from a cliff and was taken to a hospital by a medical helicopter, officials said. He was in stable condition.

Full containment was expected Sept. 15, meaning fire officials expect that they will have the blaze completely surrounded by then.

Firefighters have been conducting an aerial assault on the fire to complement efforts on the ground. Helicopters have doused the fire with 1.7 million gallons of water — enough to fill about three Olympic-sized swimming pools — while airplanes have dropped 670,000 gallons of retardant on the fire.

Calif. water crisis under review

Associated Press

FRESNO — Top Obama administration officials took California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to task Thursday for blaming the state's water crisis on federal environmental restrictions.

The governor sent a letter to Washington on Wednesday demanding a response to "catastrophic impacts" he said were caused by federal environmental rules that have slashed water deliveries.

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and Commerce Secretary Gary Locke countered that a three-year drought is responsible for most of the state's water shortages, not agency scientists.

A Schwarzenegger spokesman said the governor's office was reviewing the secretaries' written response.

Tight water supplies have caused cities throughout the state to ration supplies and farmers to abandon a quarter-million acres of croplands.

The state's failure to restore

the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the freshwater estuary that forms the heart of the state's outdated water delivery system, has only compounded the problem, the secretaries said.

"We are disappointed that your letter would attempt to lay the California water crisis at the feet of agency scientists," the letter read. "You can be assured that the federal government will be a full partner to help implement any comprehensive plan that the state enacts into law."

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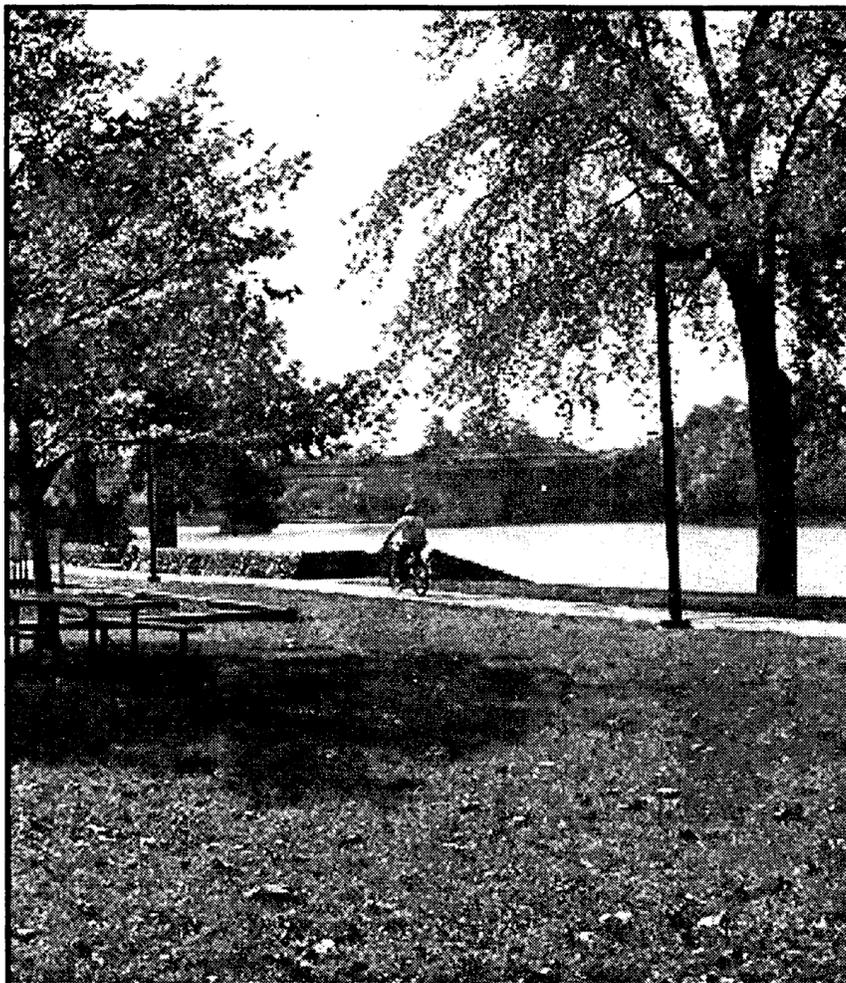
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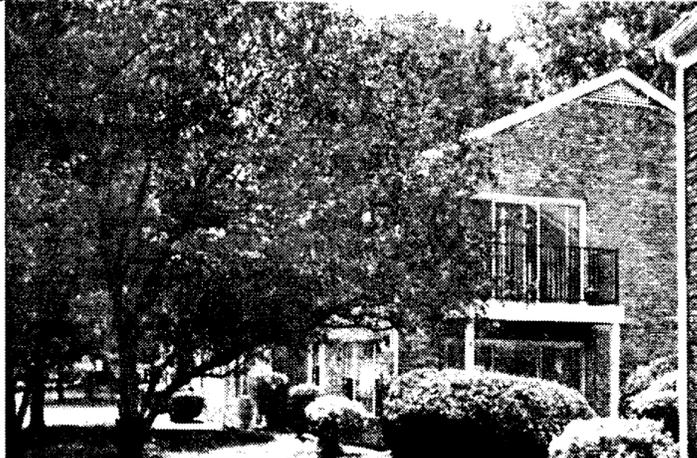
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Amerijet pilots on strike demand pay raises, bathrooms

Associated Press

MIAMI — Flying a Boeing 727 around the world might sound like a dream. But pilots for a Florida air cargo company claim their job is a nightmare that includes no sick pay, shrinking wages and no place to use the bathroom on flights but a plastic bag.

Sixty-two pilots and flight engineers for Fort Lauderdale-based Amerijet International Inc. went on

strike on Aug. 27. Among their demands is flushable toilets on boards. Their union has been trying to negotiate a new contract the past five years.

Its Florida workers say they're suffering. On the picket line in heavy rain Thursday, pilot Dawn Leschinski held up an 18-inch green plastic bag.

"This is actually the bathroom that we're expected to use on Amerijet airplanes," she said.

Because full bags can't be

easily discarded, they accumulate on longer flights, leaving a heavy stench.

About 20 braved the downpour outside Miami International Airport on Thursday, wearing their black uniform ties and golden wing pendants while carrying protest signs.

"It doesn't make you feel like you're a professional at all," said Kamal Patel, a 37-year-old pilot who has been with AmeriJet 5 years. "You're treated like we're

working in a third-world country."

Amerijet spokeswoman Christine Richard declined to comment on the claims, but said the company's cargo service to cities around the world hasn't been affected by the strike.

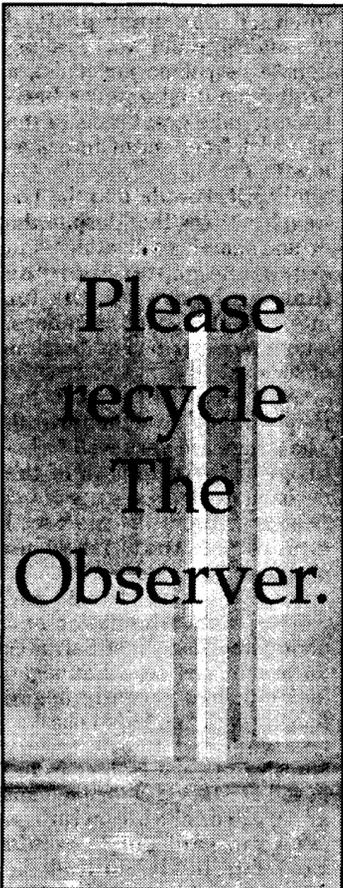
The privately owned company has 550 U.S.-based employees, but it's not clear how many pilots that includes.

Workers say they're working under dangerous conditions.

They said their days can last 18 hours, with only small periods between shifts, and that they suffer hefty financial penalties for calling in sick.

Amerijet is controlled by a private equity company called H.I.G. Capital, which bought two-thirds of the cargo company in 2002 from founder David Bassett. The Miami-based H.I.G. has \$7.5 billion in assets under management.

Amerijet's pilots and support staff recently had their payroll cut by 10 percent.



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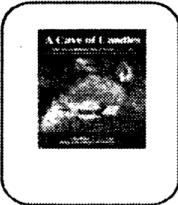
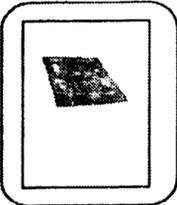
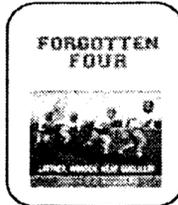
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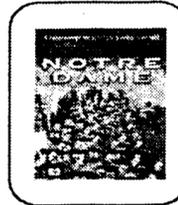
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Book Launch <i>Monk's Tale</i>	Cave of Candles	My First Words: Go Irish!	American Commando
			
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM <i>Anji Jurkovic</i> Notre Dame Coloring Book	3:00 PM - 5:00 PM <i>Jim Dent & Bill Flesher</i> Resurrection & Echoes Awakened	3:00 PM - 5:00 PM <i>Dick Vitale</i> Fabulous 50 Players & Moments	3:00 PM - 5:00 PM <i>Mark Hubbard</i> Forgotten Four

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2009

			
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM <i>Mike Collins & Tim McCarthy</i> May I Have Your Attention Please?	9:30 AM - 11:30 AM <i>John Heisler</i> 100 Things...	9:30 AM - 11:30 AM <i>Mark Hubbard</i> Forgotten Four	9:30 AM - 11:30 AM <i>Paul Kostolansky</i> Chicken Soup Game
			
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM <i>Sharon Bui</i> Future Domers	11:30 AM - 1:30 PM <i>Jim Dent</i> Resurrection	11:30 AM - 1:30 PM <i>Bill Flesher</i> Echoes Awakened	12:30 AM - 1:30 PM <i>Gerry Faust</i> Tales from the Notre Dame Sidelines

NORTH KOREA

Uranium development adds to growing nuclear program

Associated Press

SEOUL — North Korea said Friday that it is in the final stages of enriching uranium, a process that could give the nation a second way to make nuclear bombs in addition to its known plutonium-based program.

North Korea informed the U.N. Security Council it is forging ahead with its nuclear programs in defiance of international calls to abandon its atomic ambitions, the official Korean Central News Agency said in a report early Friday.

The dispatch said plutonium "is being weaponized," and that uranium enrichment — a program North Korea revealed in recent months — was entering the "completion phase." Experts had long suspected that the North had a hidden uranium enrichment program, which would give the regime a second source of nuclear material.

Uranium enrichment is a simpler method of building nuclear weapons than reprocessing plutonium, and it can be enriched in relatively inconspicuous factories that can better evade spy-satellite detection.

A U.S. State Department spokesman said Thursday night that he had no immediate reaction to the North Korean announcement.

A South Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman was not immediately available for comment.

The North's announcement came a day after a U.S. special envoy arrived in Beijing for talks with Chinese officials on how to get North Korea back on track with its commitments to nuclear disarmament.

Stephen Bosworth, the special envoy to North Korea, was to arrive in Seoul later Friday for similar consultations with South Korean officials before traveling to Tokyo on Sunday as part of an Asia tour amid recent conciliatory moves by Pyongyang.

His visit to the region aims to "continue consultations with our partners and allies on how to best convince North Korea that it must live up to its obligations ... and take irreversible steps toward complete denuclearization," the U.S. Embassy in Beijing said in a statement.

North Korea called the decision to push ahead with its nuclear programs a reaction to the Security Council's moves to tighten sanctions against the regime for testing a nuclear bomb in May. The report called the resolution a "wanton violation of the DPRK's sovereignty and dignity." DPRK stands for the country's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The North views its nuclear program as a security guarantee

against what it claims is U.S. hostility and its alleged plans to attack Pyongyang.

The U.S., China, Japan, Russia and South Korea have been negotiating with North Korea for years on dismantling its nuclear program in exchange for aid and other concessions.

North Korea warned on Friday that it would be "left with no choice but to take yet stronger self-defensive countermeasures" if the Security Council continues the standoff, KCNA said without elaborating on what it meant by the countermeasures.

Meanwhile, the North also said it has never objected to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and left open possibility for dialogue with some permanent members of the Security Council, an apparent reference to the U.S.

"We are prepared for both dialogue and sanctions," KCNA said.

The North has long sought one-on-one negotiations with Washington on the nuclear program, hoping to raise its international profile. The U.S. has said it is willing to hold direct talks with Pyongyang but only on the sidelines of the six-nation disarmament talks.

North Korea walked away from the talks earlier this year. North Korea also conducted its second nuclear test in May, drawing international condemnation and new U.N. sanctions.

The North's move also came amid its conciliatory overtures to Seoul and Washington. The North freed two U.S. journalists and five South Koreans, including four fishermen, in recent weeks.

"We are prepared for both dialogue and sanctions."

Korean Central News Agency

EL SALVADOR

French filmmaker found shot to death

Associated Press

SAN SALVADOR — A French filmmaker who spent years documenting the brutality and desperation of a Salvadoran street gang has been found shot to death after heading out to a dangerous gang-dominated neighborhood.

Police said a suspected member of the Mara 18 gang was arrested Thursday on suspicion of involvement in the killing of Christian Poveda, a former war photographer whose latest film takes an intimate look at the violent lives of gang members deported back to the Central American country after serving time in U.S. prisons.

Police inspector Oscar Nuila Ramos said the suspect was detained north of the capital of San Salvador, but he refused to provide any details on what led to the arrest, saying he did not want to undermine the investigation.

Poveda, 53, was found Wednesday inside a car in the rural Tonacatepeque region north of San Salvador. He was shot in the head.

The day of his death, the filmmaker had set out to visit the gang-dominated area of Soyapango, just outside the capital, to arrange an interview with female gang members for journalists from a French fashion magazine. He told an Associated Press photographer about the outing before leaving.

Gang violence in impoverished El Salvador fuels one of the highest homicide rates in

Latin America.

Poveda practically lived among members of the Mara 18 to create "La Vida Loca," filming gang initiations, drug use, tattoo session and funerals. Pirated copies of the film are sold on the streets of the capital, and even Salvadorans consider the documentary to be a shocking glimpse into gang life.

French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner praised Poveda's intrepid work, calling him "a respected journalist, a professional who never hesitated to take great risks in the name of freedom of information."

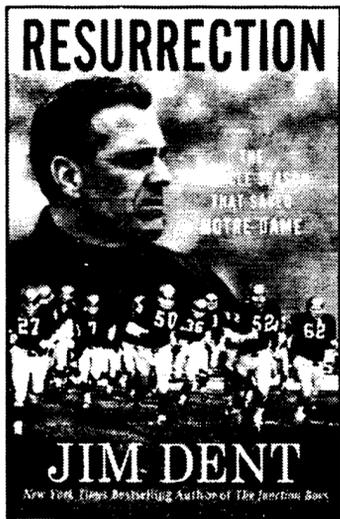
In April, Poveda told the Los Angeles Times that despite the drugs, shootings, beatings and cruelty he captured on the film, he had sympathy for many of the gang members, whom he described as "victims of society."

"As savage as they can be, they're people of their word. The gangs are very well-structured organizations and the decision made by a gang is the final one. From the moment I understood that, I had no problems," he said.

Poveda, who lived and worked as a filmmaker and photojournalist in El Salvador during the civil war that began in 1980, had recently begun touring with "La Vida Loca."

Salvadoran Public Safety Minister Manuel Melgar called Poveda's slaying a "repugnant and reproachable criminal act" and said police would work "tirelessly" to find the killers.

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ADVERTISING

(574) 631-6900 observad@nd.edu

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

(574) 631-4542 jmetz@nd.edu

MANAGING EDITOR

(574) 631-4541 wbrink@nd.edu

ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITORS

(574) 631-4324 kking5@nd.edu, asteiner@nd.edu

BUSINESS OFFICE

(574) 631-5313

NEWS DESK

(574) 631-5323 obsnews@nd.edu

VIEWPOINT DESK

(574) 631-5303 viewpoint.1@nd.edu

SPORTS DESK

(574) 631-4543 sports@nd.edu

SCENE DESK

(574) 631-4540 jshaffe1@nd.edu

SAINT MARY'S DESK

acharn01@saintmarys.edu

PHOTO DESK

(574) 631-8767 igavlick@nd.edu

SYSTEMS & WEB ADMINISTRATORS

(574) 631-8839

WEB ADMINISTRATOR: Iim Coulter

OBSERVER ONLINE
www.ndsmcobserver.com

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

Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor-in-Chief Jenn Metz.

POST OFFICE INFORMATION

The Observer (USPS 599 2-4000) is published Monday through Friday except during exam and vacation periods. A subscription to The Observer is \$120 for one academic year; \$65 for one semester.

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

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

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News	Sports
Madeline Buckley	Laura Myers
Laura McCrystal	Jared Jedick
Molly Madden	Chris Masoud
Graphics	Viewpoint
Jaelyn Espinoza	Michelle Maitz
Scene	
Adriana Pratt	

A library with no books

Some people may have heard about a little petition circling the faculty and student body. Around a 1,100 students thus far, but who's counting? This pernicious petition requests that the Hesburgh Library augment its collection with more materials, making it more competitive with other (more pretentious) leading universities, who are vastly outstripping Notre Dame in research materials. We have a stake in published materials and would like to make a stand for the little man we like to call journalism. We'd like to oppose the insidious expansion of the monopoly on published materials held by the Hesburgh Library collection.

We are resuscitating the courageous essence of the too long-overlooked Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890. In the same sentiment of Sherman, we would like to give other homes of publication, like The Observer, a fair chance against monopolies seeking domination through conquest of yet more written materials. But what the University and misguided petitioners must realize is that there is no need for new literary materials when The Observer publishes five new issues every week.

Sure Hesburgh Library probably represents the epicenter of Notre Dame's academic community, aided an over-size Jesus, the name of University President Emeritus Fr. Theodore Hesburgh, its numerous floors of great intellectual works and its remarkably nice and remodeled bathrooms. But not everyone can have Jesus and Hesburgh so visibly on their side. Really, the unlevel playing field here at Notre Dame becomes apparent when comparing the written works found in the Library and other campus collections of written works, hypothetically like the publications of The Observer collection. In this comparison the discrepancies are easily apparent, and it's safe to say that the publishing playfield here on campus is downright un-American.

The lack of patriotism latent in this petition aside, there are also several practical issues that come to mind. Like do students actually use books? More specifically the books of the Library? In a recent small sample of 10 typical Notre Dame upperclassmen, only a collective total of six books had been checked out of the Library during their academic careers. Making up this sample were four business majors, one Program of Liberal Studies

major, an English major and an American Studies major. Not great odds. What does this casual, non-confirmable (this sample may or may not have been The Observer Editorial Board), anonymous sample say about the average Notre Dame student's relationship with the Library? Not much. Honestly perhaps there is simply little to say. That's why so many unnecessary words (note: honestly, maybe, little) were added to the previous sentence.

To undergrads, the Library is the home of our favorite mascot, Touchdown Jesus. It's the inspiration for Shrek's castle. It's the "warm cut" that we take when picking up taxis at Library Circle to bar and parties in those brutal winter months. None of the above functions demand the presence of books.

Of course, to be a library, the building must have a collection of books. But that seems like a which-came-first-the-chicken-or-the-egg type of question. And everyone who's been forced to take a philosophy or logic requirement course has learned to discount that kind of nonsense. The only situations in which it is truly necessary for the Library to possess books are scenarios involving research papers and exams. Most undergrads find these two

aspects of collegiate life abhorrent. In fact, we spend half of the academic year, trying to suppress memories of finals week. The other half is generally spent procrastinating with the ultimate goal of avoiding research projects necessary for our final grades.

It seems that if the administration was being pragmatic, Notre Dame would simply eliminate those less desirable aspects of the college experience. There are two possible ways to achieve a "happier" collegiate existence. Option One: Eliminate exams and research entirely, also eliminating necessity of a library collection. Option Two: Get rid of all possible research materials (i.e. books), making it impossible to adequately study and prepare for the banes of academic life. Is not the overall happiness of the Notre Dame community not what is at stake in the struggle of our college years?

So do it for the fair competition of America's free market. Do it for Sherman and his Antitrust Act. Do it as a stand against exams and research. Do it for the overall happiness of the Notre Dame family. Do it for The Observer. Whatever your motivation, just do it. Just say no to new books at the Hesburgh Library.

THE OBSERVER Editorial

EDITORIAL CARTOON



Observer Poll

Did you like the Block Party last weekend?

	Votes	Percentage
Didn't Go	178	33%
Yes	172	31%
Mmm ... beer	157	29%
No	40	7%



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"To avoid situations in which you might make mistakes may be the biggest mistake of all."

Peter McWilliams
U.S. author

Fr. Jim King on Sorin, Notre Dame family

In this column, "The Notre Dame They Know," I will interview individuals who have been influenced by the University of Notre Dame.

I will seek to discover the unique role that Notre Dame has played in their life and vocational journey.

It is hoped that this column will inculcate a deeper, more honest and more profound love for Our Lady and Her University.

Evening lays gently on the turreted edifice as students, enjoying the summer breeze, rock lazily on porch swings beside the front door.

Passing through the sweeping archway and turning right, past the toe-worn statue of Fr. Sorin, a plaque marked 'Rector' is found hanging beside a door.

Thomas Bounds

The Notre Dame they know

Inside, wearing a sweater over an open-collared cleric, sits the rector of Sorin College, Fr. Jim King, a middle-aged priest with a close cropped haircut and a no-nonsense expression that gives way to a smile at the first sight of a friendly passerby.

Resting in a chair with his right fist planted firmly under his chin, Fr. Jim begins his story.

"I was born in Chicago, an only kid from the South Side. My father, a subway alum, went to work right out of high school. Notre Dame was kind of a religion.

"I went to Catholic grade school and high school, and enrolled here in 1977. There wasn't any other place that I really considered."

While studying as an undergraduate, "the residential life and proximity of priests ... reinvigorated a vocation that I had thought about off and on for years."

After several years of formation, Fr. Jim was ordained in 1988. He returned to the University for a final time in 1997, and has called Notre Dame home ever since.

Fr. Jim's love for the University and its Catholic Holy Cross mission is readily apparent.

"The essential characteristic of a Holy Cross education," he comments, "is the recognition that we are here to develop people's minds ... and that we are also here to develop their hearts, because it's ultimately fulfilling one's heart's desire that should be the goal of any person's life."

"Ultimately, a Catholic university is an extension of the Catholic mission of preaching, educating and evangelizing people in the faith, and the Catholic view really doesn't make much sense divorced from that perspective."

On the changes at the University over the years, Fr. Jim observes, "The culture of intellectual life for its own sake and for a person's own intellectual development is much more pronounced now ... we're able to offer a richer variety of opportunities both in the academic environment and outside of it."

On the downside, Fr. Jim comments,

"we simply don't correspond and communicate with one another personally as would have been the case a generation ago."

"The biggest danger for people that work here," he admits, "is that their loyalty and their knowledge about the University are limited to their own particular area rather than embracing the University and its mission at large."

With the glimmer of a tear in his eye, Fr. Jim considers the affection he has for Notre Dame.

"Number one ... I love Notre Dame because of the feeling that I share with thousands of people that have walked here. It's home."

"I think that this University is, in many respects, the fulfillment of Fr. Moreau and Fr. Sorin's educational philosophy of educating people in both heart and mind."

"In recognizing that what we do here is a ministry to people."

"In cultivating the sense that, whatever job or career they may go into when they leave here, graduates will carry some sense of responsibility to spend their lives discovering that, at root, we all share that vocation to minister to and serve one another."

"As long as that's the case, then this mission is worth investing in, participating in, and being a part of in whatever way that I can be."

Fr. Jim's particular ministry at Notre Dame bears its own unique rewards.

"Sorin," he comments, "is close to the ideal of a home: A large, rambling, old, drafty home. I sometimes sit here and think that this is just like one big

summer beach house with all the cousins of a like age."

This familial character displayed itself dramatically last spring when resident Kevin Healey, Class of 2011, succumbed to a battle with cancer.

"One of the proudest moments of my life," Fr. Jim, eyes glistening, recalls, "was standing outside of the Basilica last May ... and seeing the dorm step out from the courtyard behind Sorin and walk to the Basilica in a double file line that would have been the envy of a general viewing a regiment."

"And it said to me that they got it. They got what Notre Dame is about. They understood the meaning of commitment and friendship: That here was somebody who worked harder at it than anyone ... just because he so much wanted to be at Notre Dame, and so much wanted to be in this hall."

Commenting on their fallen brother, Fr. Jim concludes, "I think to myself that if anyone knows what it's like to be an Otter in heaven, it's going to be Kevin Healey."

"If anyone is going to look over them, it's going to be him."

Thomas Bounds is a senior double majoring in math and philosophy. He can be contacted at tbounds@nd.edu

Fr. King's book "Notre Dame: Inside the Halls of Notre by Name," chronicling dorm life on campus, is available for purchase at the University bookstore on campus.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Mistaken identity

Spring semester last year, a group of Notre Dame students started a campaign against the "R word" to get us students thinking about whether what we say is what we really mean. Given this conscientious effort, I am surprised at the widespread and flippant use of the term "swine flu" to describe the H1N1 virus.

This name for the new strain of flu was coined by the mainstream media last spring in a flurry of irresponsible reporting. While there is such a thing as swine flu, humans rarely contract it — if you're worried about swine flu, you must be planning on coming into extremely close contact with some sick pigs this fall.

The new H1N1 strain is a mutation of that virus — the novelty of the virus is precisely what is scary about it. It seems trivial to quibble over the name of the virus. It is, however, not at all trivial.

The loss of consumer confidence in pork following the hype over "swine flu" caused U.S. pork producers (a significant portion of our already tanking economy) to lose an average of \$7.2 million per day. The irony: Even if the pig that your bacon came from had the new H1N1 (hint: unless it's from Alberta, Canada, it didn't), you can't contract it by eating pork.

The point is that thousands of vital workers in the U.S. economy lost and will continue to lose millions of dollars this year for no reason other than ignorance — ignorance that spreads each time you use the term "swine flu."

Paige Becker
sophomore
Ryan Hall
Sept. 2

What have you done for me lately?

"Do it for Greg Robinson," my friend yelled at a couple Syracuse players as we leisurely strolled down the tunnel onto the field at Notre Dame Stadium last November. It was our last football game in the student section and we had obtained pre-game field passes from a well-connected friend. Greg Robinson, the Syracuse coach, had recently been fired as their team was mired in a horrific season that saw them fall to the dregs of college football. The players turned around and looked at us, but we continued on our way to the frozen tundra that was Notre Dame Stadium.

Like when Rudy first makes his way out the tunnel before the final game of his collegiate career, we stood on the field that day in awe of the beauty that is Notre Dame Stadium. It was the poetic conclusion to four years of living and dying with this team and we soaked in every moment of it no matter how cold it was. With marshmallows down our pants and field passes around our necks we walked onto the field that day prepared to enjoy it one final time, for all time.

And then it happened, the Orange somehow managed to actually do it for Greg Robinson.

The last image I have of Notre Dame Football is the Syracuse team joyously rushing the field and me putting my crazy disappointment face on with a weird hope that I would snag some air time on NBC when they needed shots of disparaged students. The next week I stayed home from a party at a family friend's house [actually it was a party at my friend's family's house] in order to despondently stare at the television alone in my basement as USC allowed Jimmy Clausen to throw for a whopping 41 yards (about the distance that JaMarcus Russell can throw the ball while sitting down).

Needless to say having devoted four years to following this team, literally following them around the country to cities such as Tempe, Los Angeles, Seattle, Chapel Hill, Boston and Baltimore; I was distraught. Where had this gotten me? What had they done for me lately?

As you read this I am flying over the Pacific Ocean for a year of service in China, or I am on a layover in Seoul, or I am already in China, or (with any luck) my plane strayed thousands of miles off course and crash landed on a desert

island with people as attractive as Evangeline Lily, Emilie de Ravin, Maggie Grace, Matthew Fox and Josh Holloway [wait, scratch that, Fox, Holloway, and the Hobbit are there I'll have no chance at tenting it up with the ladies]. Despite the fact that I can't say for certain when I will be where because I haven't precisely figured out the time change issues just yet, I have figured out that in the predawn hours of Sunday morning I will be sitting in front of my eight inch netbook monitor watching Jimmy Clausen and Co. take the field against Nevada.

After all the pain and suffering, all the beer bottles thrown, all the silent car rides home and all the disappointment, why in the world would I do that? Why would I go through all the trouble again when I will be disappointed? What has this team done for me lately?

I will do it because tomorrow, the season starts anew. It doesn't matter if I was at 21 games during the worst consecutive seasons in the history of this school. It doesn't matter if I have been disappointed by this team more times than by I have been disappointed by Michael Bay films. It doesn't matter if I will be on the other side of the world by the time the band marches out.

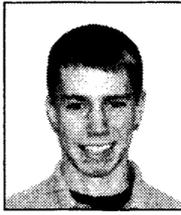
The traditions of these games forged my love for this campus when I first started attending games 13 years ago. These traditions took the choice out of my college decision and brought me to Notre Dame four years ago when I knew nearly nothing about all of the things that I would grow to love about it and its students. These traditions of Notre Dame Football connected my past to my present and future, and while they purportedly never graduate, I did, and will need them to connect me back to the place I know and love while I venture through the unknown darkness of my post-graduate existence.

So while this team hasn't done much for me lately; they have in the past and they will in the future, and I will always be watching.

Go Irish, Beat Wolf Pack!

Bob Kessler is a 2009 graduate that arrogantly considers himself to be the foremost expert on Notre Dame culture. He currently writes Things Notre Dame Students Like, and you can read more of his work at the17thgrade.com. He can be reached at bob020787@gmail.com

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



Bob Kessler

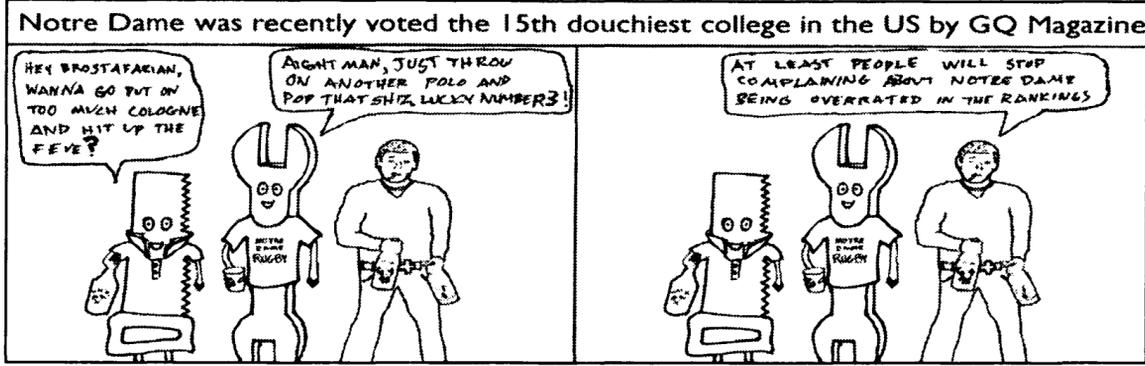
The 17th Grade

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

The Observer wants funny comics

THE MOBILE PARTY

Option No. 1



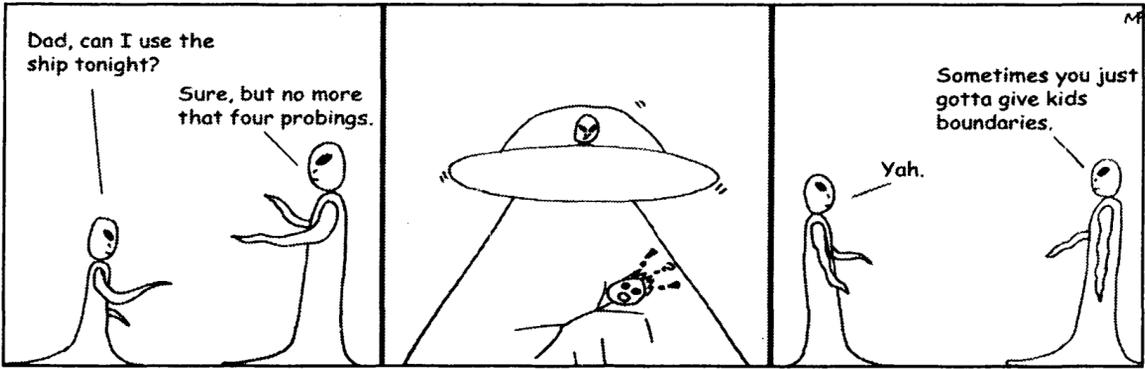
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Option No. 2



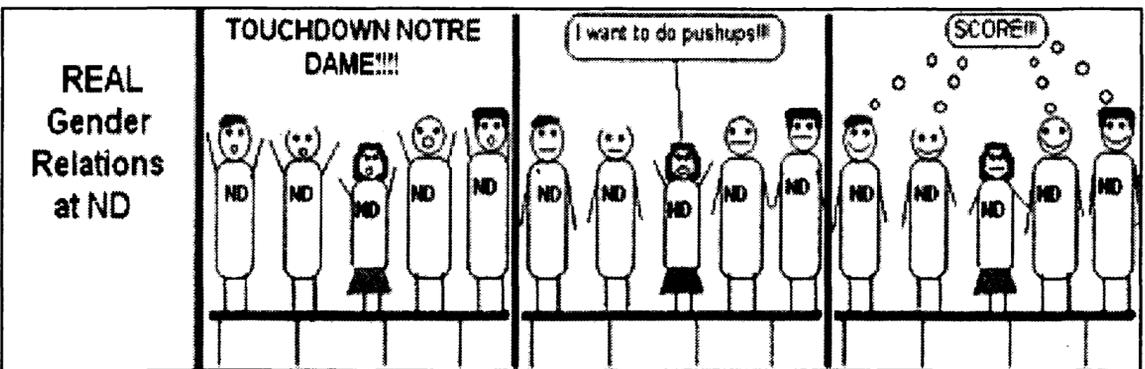
THE INVADERS

Option No. 3



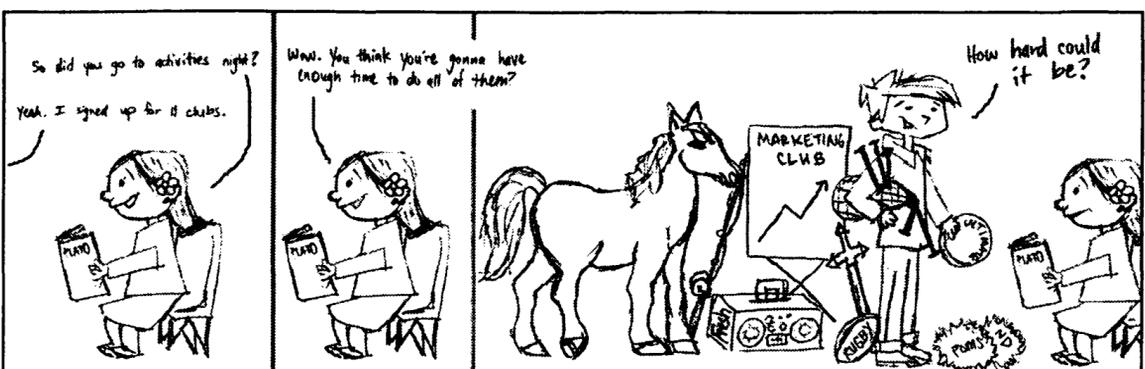
UNTITLED

Option No. 4



LOCAL

Option No. 5



SU DOKU

Option No. 6

In an attempt to alleviate the never-ending comic complaints received by the Viewpoint Department, we, The Observer Editorial Board, hereby grant you, the reading public, the right to choose which comic you'd like to see featured on the Today page for the academic year.

We realize that this is a heavy decision, and should not be taken lightly. Consider the anonymous samples to the left with care.

Please vote at ndsmcobserver.com by Sunday evening and check back on Monday's paper to see if your favorite* wins.

*If none of these attempts at humor is deemed to be funny, we can always run a Su Doku instead.

Dillon Pep Rally Brings Back Tradition

JACLYN ESPINOZA | Observer Graphic

By JORDAN GAMBLE
Scene Writer

After 40 hours of script writing, 10 hours of rehearsals and two years of waiting, the Dillon Hall pep rally is back.

Dillon Hall senior Keith Ruehlmann is the head writer for this year's edition of the campus tradition, which was cancelled last year. Along with other writers and the hall president, junior Kevin Doyle, Ruehlmann has been working on the show since last spring.

"It's a lot of work, but it's definitely worthwhile," Ruehlmann said.

The show's absence last year was jarring because it has been a campus staple on the Thursday before the first home football game for so long. The official tally is a nice, round 40 years, but Ruehlmann and Doyle admit that it is difficult to track down the date. This year, though, the pep rally is on Friday.

For one thing, the pep rally hasn't always been held on the expanses of South Quad. In the early years, Ruehlmann and Doyle said, the show was tucked into Dillon's courtyard that faces South Dining Hall. As it grew more popular each year, the stage was moved to accommodate a bigger audience.

Senior Brendan McQueeney

was Dillon's hall president last year and a writer for the 2008 event that was ultimately cancelled. He explained that the show is a mix of intense preparation and spontaneous energy.

"It's much like the Keenan Revue, in essence, where we comment on student life. There's no solid storyline: little skits about Notre Dame, little skits about the world in general that we act out to entertain the entire campus," McQueeney explained.

Integrated into that format are special guest speakers — usually the football coach, maybe a safety-enthusiast

Officer Tim McCarthy. Football players from Dillon Hall — such as Brady Quinn in 2005 and 2006 — also make appearances and the drum line, cheerleaders, pom squad and leprechaun lead the crowd in cheers. This year, with a bigger audience and a bigger band, the marching band and football team will participate.

"The team only has 30 minutes to allocate to any pep rally, so we're trying to tie them into skits as best as we can," Ruehlmann said. "We want to keep it the Dillon pep rally — not just our guys, [and then] a regular pep rally."

The uniquely-Dillon elements include the customary

stage-dive and crowd surfing by rector Fr. Paul Doyle and a choreographed dance by the hall's resident assistants that closes the show.

Another of the pep rally staples is "Crackhead," whose entire act consists of smashing plates on his forehead, usually in time to techno music. This mythic figure is actually Joe Parker, a 2001 Notre Dame graduate who first started obliterating china in the name of school spirit in 1999. When the pep rally was cancelled last year, McQueeney said Parker was still prepared for the show to go on.

"He wanted to rent a hotel and have the pep rally there," McQueeney said. "He wanted to start his own school where he would be dean" to keep the event going.

That kind of devotion to the pep rally begins freshman year.

"We really use it [the pep rally] as a bonding tool for the freshmen, because we have it the first football weekend. It's a really good tool to continue

Frosh-O and that ideal of dorm unity and bonding," McQueeney said.

The freshmen involvement starts with auditions for the "Teen Wolf," the pep rally's stunt advertising mascot. Upperclassmen select two freshmen to take turns dressing up in a werewolf or gorilla costume and handing out flyers at campus hotspots. Then, immediately before the pep rally starts, the freshmen will group in the Dillon chapel before Teen Wolf leads them in a run around the audience gathered on South Quad.

It might sound silly, and it definitely looks that way, but the Pep Rally veterans insist that the rituals form the dorm's identity.

"The main point of the rally for us is to introduce the freshmen to what our vision of Dillon Hall is," Doyle said.

"It's like the passing of the torch," said McQueeney. "All the upperclassmen are in it, all the freshmen are watching. You pick up the fever in it, you get pumped. The Dillon Hall Pep Rally really kicks off the season."

McQueeney is excited and happy for the pep rally's revival this year, but also nervous. Last year's cancellation and the move to Friday night have ratcheted up expectations within the dorm and across campus. With no "official" pep rally in the

Joyce Center this year, Dillon Hall has to take responsibility for pumping up students, alumni and football fans alike.

Although the audience may be bigger and more diverse this year, Ruehlmann said it didn't figure much into the writing process.

"I don't think it's going to feel any different to the students," Ruehlmann said. "Our freshmen are still going to be in the front, the rest of the students are going to be sectioned off to be right behind them. The alumni will be out back there."

Onstage, the majority of it will be the same skit show we've always done. It's still catered to the students."

"The enthusiasm, even amongst the sophomores who didn't experience it last year, is overwhelming," Doyle added.

"There's a buzz around it, there's excitement in Dillon," McQueeney said. "It's so integral for dorm community and what Notre Dame is all about. In my opinion, our academics are great, but the shining thing about Notre Dame is the dorm community and how well integrated everyone gets into the dorm."

Contact Jordan Gamble at jgamble@nd.edu



Observer File Photo

Fr. Doyle crowd surfs at the 2004 Dillon pep rally.



JORDAN GAMBLE / The Observer

Two students get close during a 2007 Dillon pep rally skit.



Observer File Photo

"Crackhead" smashes plates on his head at the 2005 Dillon pep rally.



Dillon boys dance on stage during a raucous performance at their pep rally. Look for more excitement as they hit the stage Friday for the first time in two years.

JORDAN GAMBLE / The Observer

Thunder & Lightning

Demonstrably Darker, Arctic Monkeys Storm Into the Windy City

JACLYN ESPINOZA | Observer Graphic

By COLIN RICH
Scene Writer

The view from the Metro's balcony Aug. 7 afforded teeming youth, tight security and total pandemonium as one of the U.K.'s most prolific and respectable rock acts, Arctic Monkeys, garnered an impressive turnout from many faithful, if not insomniac, Chicagoans.

Fresh off the release of their third album "Humbug," the new look, new sound Monkeys descended upon the Midwest for a two-day stint at the north side's Metro and, more notably, Lollapalooza in downtown Chicago. I managed to catch both shows, time enough to realize that like the title of their latest record insinuates, the band has opted to shun its pop influences and explore the far more intricate and mysterious shadows of rock in 2009.

The Monkeys first captivated Britpop fiends with 2006's "Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not," the fastest-selling debut album in UK chart history, and 2007's "Favorite Worst Nightmare," a similarly sensational sopho-

more release. Racking up awards on both sides of the Atlantic, two gallant strides towards stardom garnered the lads from Northern England not only critical acclaim but also an international fan base drawn in by the band's punk take on guitar-rich pop anthems. Between 2007 and 2009, Monkeys' lead singer Alex Turner took a divergent musical path, collaborating with The Rascals' Miles Kane to form The Last Shadow Puppets, a lighter, more symphonic ensemble. Turner returned to the studio in mid-2008 for the Monkeys' latest endeavor, "Humbug," whose riffs prove just as nuanced and lyrics just as caustic as the band's first two releases.

Sporting new shags and a smoldering new sound, the Monkeys have added greater depth to an already broad rock catalogue. While their first two albums balanced an even mixture of rock balladry and vigorous singles, "Humbug" revels in a dense, Sabbath-soaked psychedelia. The album creates clear separation from the band's younger ventures as it sprouts

a sensual and satisfying rock thicket for fans to hack away with repeated listens. The effects of the Monkeys' collaboration with Queens of the Stone Age front man Josh Homme, who lent his electric touch as the album's co-producer, surfaced in both live appearances.

Both shows arrested audiences with the rhythmically entrancing opener "Pretty Visitors," setting the tone not just for the performances but for the arrival of the revamped Monkeys in America. The band took greater musical license and provided the most crowd-pleasing jams with their older material and wandering latest single "Crying Lightning." Due to the recentness of the album's release and its drastic departure from the band's seminal artistry, other cuts from "Humbug" proved a more challenging listen for many Monkeys loyalists. Nevertheless, the Sheffield gang delivered with an engaging energy and enthusiasm, and demonstrated a formidable confidence in their departure from past glory.

Whether the band remains

permanent rock sophisticates or proves temporary pop misers remains to be seen, but even the biggest early-Monkeys Scrooge would be hard pressed to find the highlights from "Humbug" at least a little compelling. Historically speaking, while rattling your fan base with a new sound always proves risky, many of rock's greatest remain memorable for a freshening deviation from what fostered their initial popularity.

As the Monkeys climb to new heights musically and emotionally, a more consistent and contemplative sound proves better suited for a band looking to mature. This maturation translated well into a sprightly live delivery of a deeper, more complex new expression. Before launching into their second-album single "Fluorescent Adolescent" at the Metro, Alex murmured, "It's good to see you all again, Chicago. You've grown up!" It would appear so have you, Mr. Turner, and age continues to treat you well.

Contact Colin Rich at crich@nd.edu

The CRANK ME UP Playlist



- 1 Party in the USA - Miley Cyrus
- 2 Fire Burning - Sean Kingston
- 3 Notre Dame Our Mother - University of Notre Dame Band of the Fighting Irish
- 4 I Gotta Feeling - Black Eyed Peas
- 5 Down (feat. Lil Wayne) - Jay Sean
- 6 Calle Ocho - Pitbull
- 7 Beautiful - Akon
- 8 One Time - Justin Bieber
- 9 Patron Tequila - Paradise Girls, Eve
- 10 Notre Dame Victory March - University of Notre Dame Band of the Fighting Irish

As we all know, football season is upon us. What better way to celebrate and get excited than a CRANK ME UP playlist?! This list includes songs popular at ND parties this year (those Steds boys like their Miley Cyrus ...), summer jams and some classic Notre Dame-y tunes. Let's go Irish!



Image Courtesy of <http://farm1.static.flickr.com>

BA Humbug

"an unsatisfying Arctic Monkeys Release"



JACLYN ESPINOZA | Observer Graphic

By ANDREW SEROFF
Scene Writer

The Arctic Monkeys have always radiated a casual vibe, through the butter-smooth slurs of Alex Turner, the under-produced album covers and the sparse concert stages. These elements allow the band to succeed at such a wide range of intensity - from the groovy mellow "Riot Van" and "505," to the explosive dance rock of "I Bet You Look Good on the Dance Floor." Their third studio album, "Humbug," is no exception.

The Arctic Monkeys, who enjoyed sell-out crowds in their native England in the early 2000s, soared onto the global indie music scene in 2005 when they signed to Domino Records, an independent British record label best known in the states for signing Franz Ferdinand a few years before. Their debut and sophomore albums broke UK record sales, going quadru-

ple and double platinum, respectively.

While "Humbug" is still the Arctic Monkeys we've come to know and love, differences from its predecessors are apparent. For one, it is the first full album recorded without their original bassist, Andy Nicholson. Also, it was completely recorded in the United States with work done in Los Angeles, New York and the Rancho de la Luna Studio deep in the Mojave Desert.

For whatever reason, "Humbug" is the misfit third child of the Arctic Monkeys family. It doesn't have the novelty and catchiness of "Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not," nor the intensity and unruliness of "Favorite Worst Nightmare." It is a creature all of its own, composed of less rhythmic and lyrical variety, but more exploration into the timbre and orchestration of their sound.

The first single, "Crying Lightning," is the staple of nor-

malcy in the album. It starts with a quintessential Arctic Monkeys construction: stacking a bass riff and drum beat, then two sparse, intertwining guitar loops. When Turner comes in for the verse, however, we're left with a slow, uninteresting vocal line on top of the repeating rhythm section. Luckily, Turner makes even the most underwhelming lines sound good. The pre-chorus picks it up a little, and escalates well into the chorus. The whole song progresses well, breaking down for a short guitar solo and a brief a cappella verse. It's no "A Certain Romance," but "Crying Lightning" is a well-built song that satisfies the needs of the fan.

Where the album struggles is breaking out of the 80 beats per minute, droning power rock. While the preceding albums had a good spread of rhythmic variety, "Humbug" delivers 10 tracks of continuous thumping. Which isn't to say they're 10

identical, bland tracks - they just contain the obvious similarity of pulse. While I wouldn't call this album the "Sergeant Pepper's" of the Arctic Monkeys, it is successful in its exploration of the harmonic and instrumental depth of a rock quartet such as themselves.

The track that best exhibits this newfound depth is "Secret Door." It begins with a striking riff that sounds like an accordion at a café under the Eiffel Tower. Turner tastefully sings over the lightly strumming guitar - his voice ringing with a gentle, reflective quality. As the beat picks up while maintaining the first motif, Turner's line bounces between reckless slurring and the dainty narration of the beginning. The keys and guitar are along for the same ride, escalating to match the alternating articulate and declaratory themes, eventually building to a significant climax without breaking stride.

Initially, "Humbug," was dis-

appointing. After hoping for an album even better than the last two, it's easy to nitpick. Upon further review, it has a lot to offer the Arctic Monkeys connoisseur. However, if someone who had never heard of the Arctic Monkeys before wanted a track recommendation, it wouldn't be any of these.

Humbug
Arctic Monkeys

Released by: Domino

Best Tracks: "Crying Lightning," "Secret Door," "Pretty Visitors"

Contact Andrew Seroff at aseroff@nd.edu

MLB

Brewers dodge sweep by Cards with home run

White Sox beat Cubs in interleague make-up game; Polanco's sacrifice fly in 10th edges Tigers past Indians

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Rookie Casey McGehee hit a two-run homer off John Smoltz after St. Louis failed to turn a double play, and the Milwaukee Brewers beat the Cardinals 4-3 on Thursday to avoid a three-game sweep.

Manny Parra settled down after a slow start and pitched into the seventh inning for Milwaukee, which has won four of six.

Trevor Hoffman closed for his 30th save, striking out Albert Pujols with a runner on base to end the game.

Smoltz (1-1), making his third start for the Cardinals, allowed four runs and six hits over six innings. He struck out six and walked none.

The Cardinals took a 2-1 lead into the sixth, but Craig Counsell led off with a double and took third on an infield single by Frank Catalanotto.

Smoltz struck out Ryan Braun, then got Prince Fielder to ground into a potential inning-ending double play. But second baseman Julio Lugo juggled the ball momentarily and could only throw out Fielder as the tying run scored.

McGehee followed with a go-ahead drive just inside the left-field foul pole for his 13th homer of the season. He homered for the second time in three games and finished with nine RBIs in the series. He also drove in the Brewers' first run with a sacrifice fly in the fourth.

Parra (10-10) allowed two runs and five hits in 6 1-3 innings. He gave up a leadoff homer to Lugo and Ryan Ludwick's RBI single in the first before settling down, and improved to 3-1 against the NL Central leaders this season.

St. Louis loaded the bases with one out in the seventh. Reliever Mitch Stetter struck out Khalil Greene looking and Claudio Vargas got Pujols to ground out on a 3-2 pitch.

Matt Holliday, who had three hits, brought the Cardinals to 4-3 with a leadoff homer in the eighth. It was his 10th as a Cardinal and 21st overall. He singled earlier in the game for his 1,000th career hit.

Pinch-hitter Colby Rasmus walked later in the eighth, but was picked off by Vargas. Hoffman worked around Lugo's one-out bunt single with one out in the ninth.

Chicago 5, Cubs 0

Rookie Carlos Torres threw seven crisp innings, Dewayne Wise made a great throw to cut down a runner at the plate and the White Sox beat the Cubs Thursday in a make-up game between two city rivals whose seasons have gone awry.

Torres (1-0), recalled from the minors two days ago, earned his first major league win in his third career start. He allowed five hits, walked none and struck out six.

Wise, whose highlight-reel catch preserved Mark Buehrle's perfect game back in July, made a strong throw from right field to preserve a 1-0 White Sox lead in the seventh. Jake Fox tried to score from second on Jeff Baker's single but Wise delivered the ball to A.J. Pierzynski, who was able to tag the sliding Fox for the second out.

Baker took second on the play, but Torres fanned Koyie Hill to end the threat.

The White Sox added two in the eighth, taking advantage of a key Cubs error. Gordon Beckham scored from first when left fielder Alfonso Soriano missed Pierzynski's fly. Paul Konerko followed with an RBI single to make it 3-0 and chase Ryan Dempster (8-8).

Soriano had a cortisone injection in his sore left knee Sunday and had missed three games earlier in the week. After his miscue, what appeared to be a T-shirt came flying out of the left-field bleachers. Soriano also was booed loudly when he struck out to end the game.

The makeup of a June 16 rainout featured two defending division champs whose playoff hopes have faded greatly. It was the latest makeup for an interleague game since Kansas City played Arizona on Sept. 4, 2003.

The Cubs entered six games out of the NL wild card with four teams in front of them. They remained 10 1/2 games



Brewers' pitcher Jeff Suppan congratulates infielder Casey McGehee after their 4-3 victory over the Cardinals on Thursday.

back of the Central-leading Cardinals, who lost 4-3 to the Brewers. After a disastrous road trip, the White Sox returned to town in third, seven games back of the Tigers in the AL Central.

"I never thought we were going to collapse in two weeks the way that we did because if you look at the lineup every day it's a pretty good lineup," White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen said.

Chris Getz singled with two outs in the second and went to second when Fox — subbing at first base for Derrek Lee — dropped a pickoff attempt from Dempster for an error. Alexei Ramirez then delivered an RBI single into left field.

Looking like a team that went 2-8 on a 10-game trip to Boston, New York and Minnesota, the White Sox ran themselves out of a potential big inning in the first. Leadoff hitter Scott Podsednik drove a ball into the gap in right-center that would have been a triple, but the ball got lost in the ivy and became a ground-rule double.

Beckham then hit a come-

backer to Dempster and Podsednik got caught between second and third. Dempster threw to third baseman Aramis Ramirez, who ran Podsednik back to second and tagged him. Beckham, who took off for second, was tagged out by second baseman Baker in a rundown to complete the double play.

Tigers 4, Indians 3

Placido Polanco hit a sacrifice fly in the 10th inning to give the Detroit Tigers a victory over the Cleveland Indians on Thursday.

The Tigers completed a three-game sweep and increased their lead in the AL Central to five games over the idle Twins.

Ryan Raburn led off the Detroit 10th with a double. Rafael Perez (4-3) then intentionally walked Miguel Cabrera and issued an unintentional free pass to Magglio Ordonez. Polanco followed with a fly ball to center and Raburn scored standing up.

Zach Miner (6-4) pitched 2 1-3 hitless innings to get the win.

Detroit led 3-0 before

Cleveland rallied in the eighth. Asdrubal Cabrera had a two-out RBI single off Fu-Te Ni and Shin-Soo Choo followed with a tying two-run double.

Nate Robertson pitched six shutout innings in his second start of the season for Detroit. Robertson, who spent the first part of the year in the bullpen, has a 0.90 ERA since moving into the rotation after his return from elbow problems.

Fausto Carmona allowed three runs and four hits in 6 1/3 innings for Cleveland. He walked five and struck out four.

Curtis Granderson homered on Carmona's third pitch and Cleto Thomas added a two-run triple in the seventh. Carmona walked Adam Everett and Granderson before Thomas' big hit.

Cleveland wasted two nice opportunities against Robertson. With runners on first and second in the third, Carroll bounced into a fielder's choice and Cabrera popped out. Grady Sizemore grounded into an inning-ending double play with runners on the corners in the fifth.

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AROUND THE NATION

Friday, September 4, 2009

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

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NCAA Men's Soccer NSCAA Division 1 Preseason Poll

team	points
1 Maryland	25
2 North Carolina	24
3 Wake Forest	23
4 Akron	22
5 St. John's	21
6 Creighton	20
7 Indiana	19
8 California	18
9 Northwestern	17
10 UIC	16
11 South Florida	15
12 Connecticut	14
13 NOTRE DAME	13
14 Tulsa	12
15 UC Irvine	11
16 UC Santa Barbara	10
17 Dartmouth	9
18 Loyola (Md.)	8
19 UCLA	7
20 Michigan St.	6
21 St. Louis	5
22 Michigan	4
23 Cal Poly	3
24 Boston U.	2
25 Louisville	1

NCAA Women's Soccer NSCAA Division 1 Rankings

team	previous
1 North Carolina	1
2 NOTRE DAME	2
3 Portland	3
4 Stanford	4
5 Florida St.	5
6 Florida	7
7 West Virginia	14
8 Virginia	10
9 UCLA	9
10 Texas A&M	6
11 Illinois	13
12 San Diego	15
13 Penn St.	8
14 Purdue	RV
15 Colorado	18
16 Boston College	20
17 Wake Forest	RV
18 Georgia	16
19 Minnesota	17
20 Oklahoma St.	21

NCAA Women's Volleyball AVCA Division 1 Coaches Poll

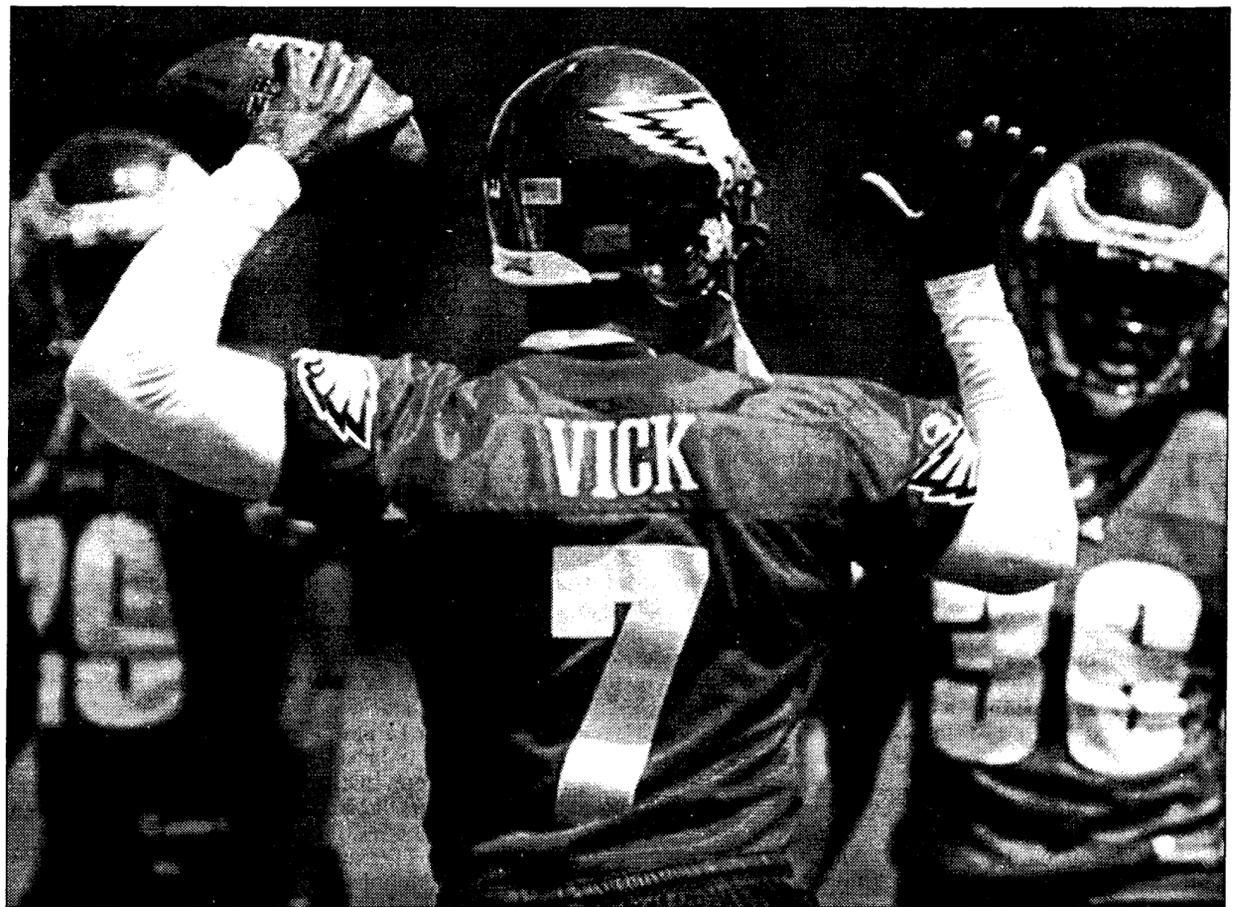
team	points
1 Penn St.	1492
2 Texas	1429
3 Washington	1388
4 Hawaii	1299
5 Florida	1212
6 Nebraska	1142
7 Michigan	1056
8 Illinois	1036
9 UCLA	993
10 California	921
11 Stanford	904
12 Iowa St.	854
13 Minnesota	842
14 Oregon	767
15 San Diego	612

around the dial

NCAA Football
Tulsa at Tulane
8 p.m., ESPN

MLB
Chicago Cubs at New York Mets
7 p.m., CSNCH

NFL



Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Michael Vick throws the ball during afternoon practice at preseason training camp in Philadelphia. NFL commissioner Roger Goodell announced that Vick will be eligible to play in Week 3.

Vick eligible to play in third game

Associated Press

NEW YORK — NFL commissioner Roger Goodell says Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Michael Vick is eligible to play beginning in the third game of the regular season.

Goodell met with Vick for 45 minutes Thursday before announcing his decision. Vick, recently signed by the Eagles, played in last week's exhibition game and was expected to play against the New York Jets on Thursday night.

Previously, Goodell said he would consider Vick for full reinstatement by no later than Week 6.

Vick was released from federal custody July 20 after serving 18 months of a 23-month sentence for his role in running a dog-fighting ring.

"I think he's making real progress," Goodell said. "I think he has a better feel for the challenges ahead of him."

ESPN.com first reported the Goodell-Vick meeting.

The Eagles told The Associated Press that the commissioner met with Vick at the team hotel near the Newark airport.

A three-time Pro Bowl pick during six seasons with the Atlanta Falcons, Vick was a surprise signing by the Eagles on Aug.

13. He received a one-year deal for \$1.6 million with a team option for a second year at \$5.2 million.

Vick started practicing with the Eagles on Aug. 15, but did not travel with the team to its second preseason game a week later in Indianapolis because he could not play.

He played six snaps in Philadelphia's home game against Jacksonville last week, lining up at quarterback and receiver. He completed all four of his pass attempts, but the Eagles offense scored just three points in the possessions he played.

The Eagles plan to use Vick in their version of the

wildcat offense, and coach Andy Reid has stated that Kevin Kolb remains the backup to Donovan McNabb.

Vick's familiarity with the West Coast offense has expedited his learning process with Philadelphia. He's said that he's content doing whatever he can to help the team win and wants to learn from McNabb how to become a better QB.

While McNabb is an excellent scrambler, he prefers being a pocket passer. Vick always has been far more inclined to take off and run than stay in the pocket and find an open receiver.

IN BRIEF

Grieving Jankovic upset at U.S. Open

NEW YORK — Jelena Jankovic felt as though she couldn't even watch the ball.

The night before, her beloved grandmother had died back home in Serbia. That's where her heart and mind were Thursday, not on the No. 5 seed's second-round match at the U.S. Open that ended with a loss to Yaroslava Shvedova.

"I was very sad and emotionally I was really not on court," Jankovic said. "I really tried my best to be there and to try to play, but it was really hard."

"You could see I was not happy on the court. I was really suffering. I tried to think about my tennis, but I felt like I was so late and so slow."

Shvedova, a 21-year-old from Kazakhstan, won 6-3, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (6).

Jankovic planned to fly to Serbia on Friday to join her mother, who left New York on Wednesday to return home.

Rockies closer Huston Street shut down

DENVER — Colorado Rockies closer Huston Street has biceps tendinitis in his pitching arm and is being shut down for an undetermined amount of time.

Street said he first felt discomfort Tuesday night when he threw a six-pitch ninth inning against the New York Mets in his first action in a week. He brushed it off as the effects of a weeklong layoff.

He tested out his arm before the game and said it didn't feel any worse. But he couldn't get loose in the bullpen during Colorado's eighth-inning rally, so left-hander Franklin Morales filled in and recorded his first major league save Wednesday night.

Colorado's 5-2 win against the Mets allowed the Rockies to stay atop the NL wild-card standings.

Street, who has 33 saves in 34 chances, said he expects to be out a few days but no longer than a week.

Bruce Bowen retires after 12 seasons in the NBA

SAN ANTONIO — Bruce Bowen won't be pestering the NBA's best anymore.

The 38-year-old former San Antonio Spurs forward retired Thursday after 12 seasons and a reputation as one of the league's most menacing defenders, hounding opponents with a tenacity that some players groaned was more dirty than dogged.

He called it quits after being waived this summer by Milwaukee, where the Spurs dealt him in a veteran dump-off for swingman Richard Jefferson — a decision Bowen said he understood.

"You need to do things to better the business, and the Spurs definitely got better in the players they received, so I'm looking forward to continuously supporting the Spurs, but from more of a distance now," he said in a news conference at his wife's San Antonio salon.

U.S. OPEN

Teen Oudin upsets Dementieva at U.S. Open

Associated Press

NEW YORK — It's not quite the case that 17-year-old Melanie Oudin and her family knew for sure she would get this far, this fast.

Not when Melanie was 7, hitting buckets of tennis balls with Grandma Mimi back home in Marietta, Ga. Not a couple of years later, when Melanie and her twin sister began taking lessons together. And certainly not when Melanie lost her first two Grand Slam matches.

Still, there was Oudin at the U.S. Open on Thursday, ranked all of 70th, dealing with a painful leg and an overwhelming occasion on a supersized stage — and stunning No. 4-seeded Elena Dementieva 5-7, 6-4, 6-3 to set up a third-round match against 2006 champion Maria Sharapova.

All the while, Oudin sported this word stamped near the heel of her pink-and-yellow sneakers: "BELIEVE." The idea for that bit of inspiration came from her boyfriend, Austin Smith, a 15-year-old who helped Melanie prepare for her Arthur Ashe Stadium debut by practicing together in the 23,763-seat arena at 9:30 a.m. Thursday.

"During the match, I had confidence, and, I mean, I was right there with her the entire time," Oudin said. "She wasn't blowing me off the court. She wasn't hitting winners left and right on me."

Don't, though, get the mistaken idea that Dementieva played poorly or showed the sort of nerves she has in the past. Dementieva played rather well — displaying the stinging groundstrokes that carried her to two Grand Slam finals and an Olympic gold medal — and graciously gave credit to Oudin, who now will face the scrutiny that comes with being the "Next Great American Hope."

After the Williams sisters at No. 2 and 3, you have to scan all the way down to Oudin to find the next U.S. woman in the WTA rankings.

"It's just the beginning," Dementieva cautioned, "but it looks like she has a good future."

Truth is, Oudin — pronounced "oo-DAN," owing to her father's French ancestry — has a pretty good present, too. This was not, after all, her first such upset at a major tournament: Oudin reached the fourth round at Wimbledon by beating former No. 1 Jelena Jankovic.

"She knows," said Brian de Villiers, Oudin's coach, "that she can play with these girls now."

Next comes what figures to be a stern test against three-time major champion Sharapova, who eliminated another 17-year-old American, Christina McHale of Englewood Cliffs, N.J., 6-2, 6-1 at night. The 381st-ranked McHale was a wild-card entry who didn't really challenge Sharapova.

Looking ahead to facing Oudin, Sharapova said: "I definitely

have to go out there and expect her to play some of her best tennis."

Jankovic made another early departure from a Grand Slam event, losing to 55th-ranked Yaroslava Shvedova of Kazakhstan 6-3, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (6). Jankovic reached the U.S. Open final in 2008, and she was seeded No. 5 this year, but her head might not have been focused on the court on this day: Her grandmother died Wednesday night.

The losses by Dementieva and Jankovic mean half of the top 20 seeded women are out of the draw. No. 23 Sabine Lisicki also is gone, having left in tears as she was taken away in a wheelchair after injuring her ankle at the end of a 6-3, 3-6, 7-5 defeat against Anastasia Rodionova.

No. 1 Dinara Safina nearly joined the parade of surprising exits, turning in her second poor performance of the week before hanging on to edge 67th-ranked Kristina Barrois of Germany 6-7 (5), 6-2, 6-3.

"Another tough day in the office," said Safina, who double-faulted 15 times, including three in the tiebreaker. "There is no problem in the technique or nothing. Just in my head."

No seeded men lost in early action Thursday, when the winners included 2007 runner-up Novak Djokovic, and four Americans: 276th-ranked Jesse Witten, 55th-ranked John Isner, No. 21 James Blake and No. 22 Sam Querrey. French Open run-



American Melanie Oudin celebrates after defeating Russian Elena Dementieva in the second round of the U.S. Open.

ner-up Robin Soderling advanced when his opponent, Marcel Granollers, quit during the third game with a back injury.

Oudin twice received treatment from a trainer for her lingering left leg injury. Late in the match, Oudin was blinking away tears, trying to push aside the injury — and trying to finish off Dementieva.

That injury, de Villiers said, forced Oudin to pull out of two hard-court tuneup events.

"But this is the U.S. Open," he said. "She ain't going to give up anything. She's going to play on

one leg if she has to."

No matter what sort of message might have adorned Oudin's shoes on this day, even her biggest fans did not think this level of success would arrive at this age.

"This is what she loves. She just loves it. She loves the game. She loves the atmosphere," Oudin's mother, Leslie, said after giving her daughter a hug and a kiss outside the locker room. "I knew she'd always make the top 10 or 20. I did know that. But not now. Maybe when she hit 21 or something."

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NFL

Jagodzinski canned by Tampa Bay coach

Associated Press

TAMPA — Former Boston College coach Jeff Jagodzinski was fired Thursday as offensive coordinator of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, who have been unhappy with the progress of their passing game.

First-year coach Raheem Morris offered a vague explanation for the abrupt move on the eve of the team's pre-season finale against the Houston Texans. Quarterbacks coach Greg Olson was promoted to Jagodzinski's role and will take over play-calling.

"I have a lot of respect for coach Jags, and what he did, and the effort he put into his work, but we're at the point now where we need to be more precise, we need to be more detailed

and we need to have more direction on where we're going to go," Morris said.

Jagodzinski was hired in January, three weeks after being dismissed by Boston College for pursuing an NFL head coaching job.

At the time, adding an experienced assistant who was Green Bay's offensive coordinator in 2006 was viewed as smart move by Morris, who turned 33 Thursday and is the youngest head coach in the NFL.

He installed an offense featuring a zone-blocking running scheme and a passing attack that encourages the quarterback to be aggressive throwing the ball downfield. Morris stressed that philosophy won't change under Olson.

Offensive line coach Pete Mangurian, who presides over the running game, and assistant head coach/receivers Richard Mann will assume greater responsibility, too.

"It's not a knock on coach Jagodzinski. It's just what we needed to do, the plan we needed to have," Morris said.

"A lot of the things remain the same. This offense was going in the right direction. You've got to give Jagodzinski credit. He did get it started in the right direction. Now we've got to finish off the deal with some of our other guys."

Jagodzinski led Boston College to the Atlantic Coast

Conference championship game in each of his two seasons there, but was fired after being told he would be let go if he interviewed for the New York Jets' coaching vacancy.

He interviewed despite the ultimatum and was fired the next day. The Jets job eventually went to Rex Ryan.

Jagodzinski, 45, was offered a demotion to quarterbacks coach, but declined.

"I am certainly disappointed but I wish nothing but the best for Raheem Morris and the entire Buccaneer organization," Jagodzinski said in a statement released by the team.

Morris sidestepped questions about Jagodzinski's playcalling. And, he insisted the move had nothing to do with last week's

decision to begin the season with Byron Leftwich as the starting quarterback.

"I think Jags may be a better head coach, may be a better position coach, to be honest with you," Morris said, explaining why Jagodzinski was offered Olson's old job.

"We just didn't have the direction from the coordinator's spot, so we offered him a position on the staff. But realistically, it didn't make the most sense for both of the parties involved."

Jagodzinski led Boston College to a pair of bowl appearances and lost twice to Virginia Tech in the ACC title game during his brief stay with the Eagles.

He was an NFL assistant for eight years with Green Bay and Atlanta before moving to BC, where he tutored last season's NFL rookie of the year Matt Ryan.

Boston College athletic director Gene DeFilippo issued a statement when he learned of Jagodzinski's firing. "It's unfortunate. All of us at Boston College wish Jags and his family the very best."

Morris said he did not feel the change will disrupt Tampa Bay's preparation for the Sept. 13 season opener against Dallas.

"When you talk about being in chaos, you're talking about not having a plan," Morris said. "The plan has not changed."

"We're at the point now where we need to be more detailed and we need to have more direction on where we're going to go."

Raheem Morris
Tampa Bay coach

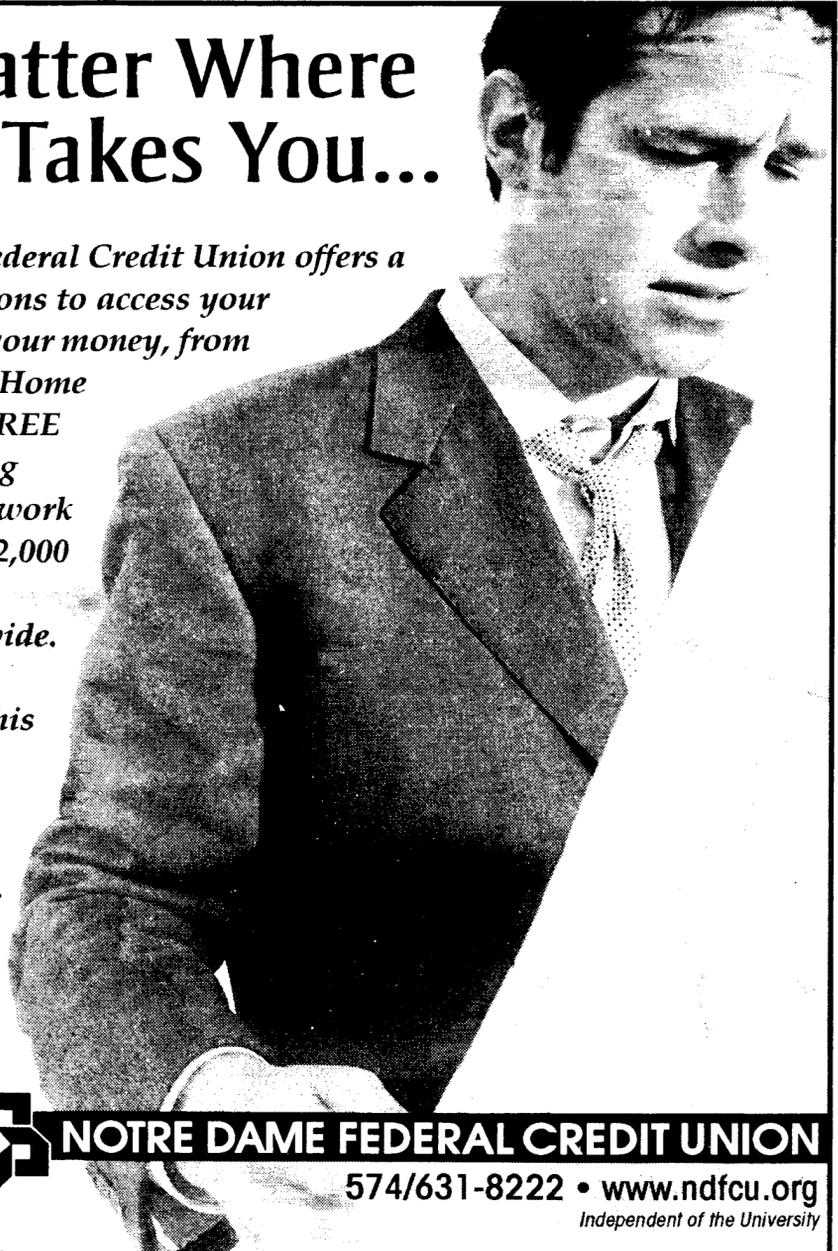
"A lot of the things remain the same. This offense was going in the right direction. You have got to give Jagodzinski credit."

Raheem Morris
Tampa Bay coach

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NFL

Jets defeat the Eagles in game that sees Vick booed

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Michael Vick might need the first two weeks of the regular season to get back up to speed before he plays again — for real.

Vick was hardly dynamic in his first significant action in three years, just hours after the Philadelphia Eagles quarterback found out he'll be fully reinstated in Week 3. He ran for a 2-yard touchdown, but was sacked four times, lost a fumble and was intercepted as the New York Jets beat the Eagles 38-27 on Thursday night.

"I still think I'm a couple of weeks away," Vick said.

He finished 7 for 11 for 26 yards, and carried the ball seven times for 35 yards.

"It felt good to finally get out and get some snaps at the quarterback position," Vick said. "I think I played fairly well. A lot of things I could've done better, but it was good to get out there and play some quarterback on a consistent basis and shake off the cobwebs a little bit."

Vick, released from federal

custody July 20 after serving 18 months of a 23-month sentence for his role in operating a dogfighting ring, will be eligible to play Sept. 27 against Kansas City, commissioner Roger Goodell said earlier Thursday.

"It was good to get him in there," Eagles coach Andy Reid said. "I'm sure he'll be a little sore tomorrow. That's OK. He'll have a couple of weeks to recover from it."

Jets rookie Mark Sanchez looked sharp, completing all five of his passes, and capped his only series with a 21-yard touchdown pass to Jerricho Cotchery. Danny Woodhead, making a bid to make the team, ran for 158 yards and two touchdowns.

After David Akers kicked a 36-yard field goal to make it a four-point game, Erik Ainge threw a 73-yard touchdown pass to David Clowney to

make it 38-27 with 4:51 remaining.

Booed each time he ran onto the field in the first half, Vick has scored his first NFL touchdown since the 2006 season, giving the Eagles a 14-7 lead early in the second quarter.

"They booed and that's part of the game," Vick said. "At the same time, I felt some love. I understand that that's part of what I have to deal with and what any quarterback around this league has to deal with."

Playing in his second game with the Eagles, Vick lined up at quarterback, faked a hand-off and ran up the middle from 2 yards out 25 seconds into the quarter. It was really the only highlight of the game

after an important day for Vick, who met with Goodell a few hours before the game and was told he could play starting in Week 3.

Vick entered the game on the Eagles' third play from scrimmage to

mostly boos from the Meadowlands crowd and took a direct snap and ran 2 yards for a first down. One play

later, he lined up at quarterback.

There were no notable protests outside the stadium, but two fans made their displeasure known, one holding a placard that read "Watch Your Beagle," while the other one said, "Vick Is An Eagle."

Vick was in and out of the lineup in the opening half, and was intercepted on his first pass of the first half. His toss intended for Jeremy Maclin was slightly underthrown from 36 yards as Dwight Lowery picked it off.

He opened the second half as the quarterback, but his feet also got him in trouble, losing 22 yards when he tried to scramble on third down in the third quarter. He kept losing yardage before he was sacked by Jamaal Westerman at the 4-yard line. Vick also lost the ball on the play before recovering.

The Eagles were forced to punt, and it set up the Jets' go-ahead score as Woodhead ran for a 3-yard TD.

Vick started practicing with

the Eagles on Aug. 15. He played six snaps in Philadelphia's home game against Jacksonville, lining up at quarterback and receiver.

He completed all four of his pass attempts, but the Eagles' offense scored just three points in the possessions he played.

Donovan McNabb, Brian Westbrook and most of the Eagles' other starters didn't play in this

one, while most of the Jets' starters on offense and defense played one series.

Eagles rookie LeSean McCoy gave Philadelphia an early 7-0 lead with a 1-yard run.

Woodhead, who missed last season with a knee injury, had a 55-yard touchdown scamper in the second quarter. He took the handoff up the middle, maneuvered through traffic, kicked outside and took off down the right sideline to make it 14-14.

Kevin Kolb, who started at quarterback, connected with Tony Curtis on a 12-yard touchdown pass to give Philadelphia a 24-14 lead with 1:03 left in the half.

"I still think I'm a couple of weeks away."

Michael Vick
Eagles quarterback

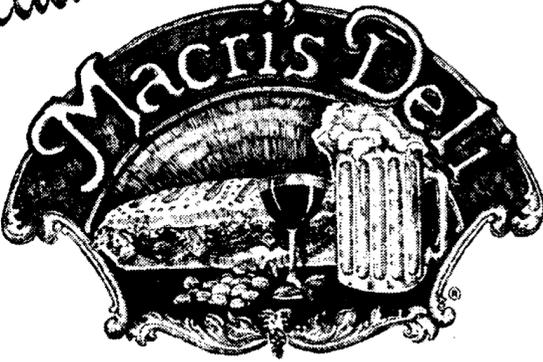
"They booed and that's part of the game. At the same time, I felt some love."

Michael Vick
Eagles quarterback

"It felt good to finally get out and get some snaps at the quarterback position."

Michael Vick
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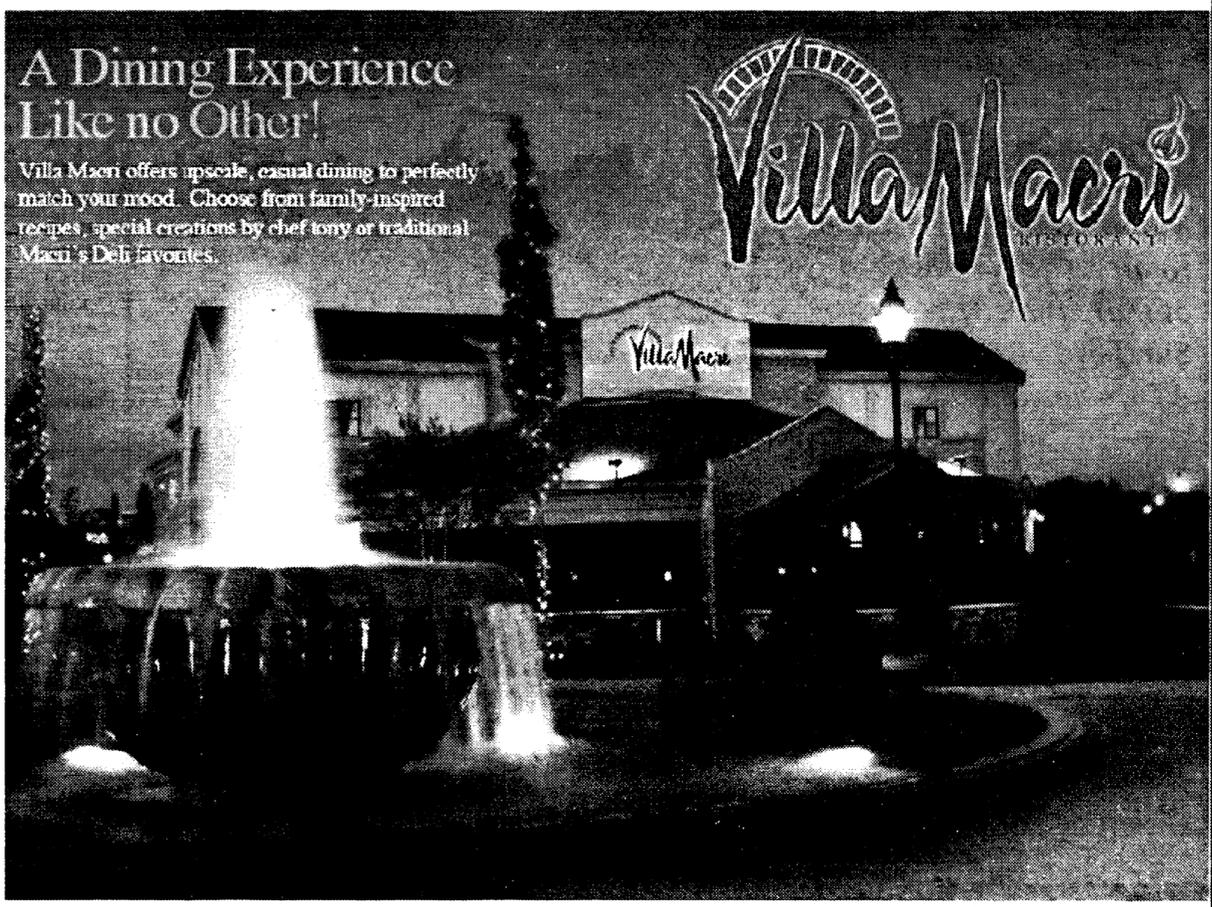
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PGA

Woods frustrated over putting in Boston

Associated Press

NORTON, Mass. — Tiger Woods created a slight stir Thursday morning on the TPC Boston when a Nike representative approached him on the first tee carrying two putters.

One was the Scotty Cameron model that Woods has used in 72 worldwide victories and 13 majors over the last 11 years. That's the putter he was using when he missed one crucial putt after another on the back nine at Hazeltine to lose the PGA Championship, the same one in his hands when he missed a 7-foot birdie putt on the final hole last week at The Barclays.

The other putter that Rick Nichols brought him was a Nike model. Woods studied it with a meticulous eye, leaning the putter on its toe as he looked down the shaft.

Is the world's No. 1 player so frustrated that he is willing to finally change putters? Is he fed up with missed putts that cost him a chance to win the last two tournaments?

Not quite.

Woods was only checking the alignment of the grip on

his backup putter. He prefers it to be 1 degree to the right, which slightly closes the blade on impact. This grip was too square, and the glue had already dried before Woods could twist it where he wanted it.

He has several backup putters, which hardly anyone ever mentions.

"That's because I haven't needed it," Woods said.

Woods is nowhere near panic mode with his putting. Even though he didn't win his last two tournaments, he still has 12 top 10s in his 15 starts on the PGA Tour. Besides, Woods felt more

at home during his pro-am round at the Deutsche Bank Championship on a course where he has won and finished second twice.

The greens at TPC Boston do not have poa annua, the strain of grass found at Hazeltine, which gets bumpy in the afternoon. The subtle breaks do not confound him like the ones at Liberty National a week ago.

"They're rolling perfect," Woods said. "They're rolling great. I was telling Stevie (Williams), 'Every time we

come here, we think the greens are undulating.' Not after last week."

Woods is coming off a performance memorable for all the wrong reasons.

He made a late charge into contention at The Barclays, finishing with a 6-iron to 7 feet for birdie on the last hole that ultimately would have put him in a playoff. His putt never touched the hole.

It was rare to see Woods fail to deliver a key putt on such a stage, which is one reason there is so much attention on this putting. He is averaging 28.58 putts per round on the PGA Tour, an improvement over the last four years.

Steve Stricker, among the best in golf with a putter, played the first two days with Woods at The Barclays and didn't see anything out of the ordinary except for the obvious.

"I don't think he made as many putts as he normally does," Stricker said. "The stroke looked fine. I didn't see anything funky there, not that I was really looking at his stroke. I guess we're just shocked when he doesn't make one because he's made so many over his career."

Woods attributed so many missed chances at Liberty National on putts that often broke multiple times before reaching the hole. He worked

some on his short game during his three days at home, no more than usual.

"I really putted well on the weekend, I just didn't make a lot of putts," he said. "When you're lipping out a lot of putts, you're not putting poorly. Those greens were a tough read for a bunch of people."

Woods has a hard time finding much fault with anything this year, except for not winning a major. His five victories are twice as much as anyone else, and he still holds the No. 1 spot in the FedEx Cup standings going into the second week of the playoffs.

The big surprise is Heath Slocum, who was planning a trip to Switzerland this week for the Omega Masters on the European Tour until he won last week at Liberty National. That moved him from second-to-last place at No. 124 to No. 3, right behind Woods and Stricker.

Players have been debating whether Slocum earned too many points, and they tried to balance his rocket rise with the notion that he did beat a field at The Barclays that included the top 124 players

on the PGA Tour.

The top 100 qualified for the Deutsche Bank (minus Paul Casey, who is injured), and that number will be pared to the top 70 players in points going to the third round next week at the BMW Championship outside Chicago.

Woods is virtually a lock to at least contest for the \$10 million prize that comes with the FedEx Cup, especially the way he has played over the last two months — two victories, two runner-up finishes.

"This last stretch, I think I've hit the ball pretty good," Woods said. "I've putted well in stretches. Some people have alluded to other things, but that's not too bad for my last four events. The overall year has been very consistent."

He missed the FedEx Cup playoffs last year recovering from knee surgery. The last time he played the Deutsche Bank was in 2007, when he tied for second, four shots behind Phil Mickelson. Woods took nine more putts than Mickelson that day.

"Every time we come here, we think the greens are undulating."

Tiger Woods

"This last stretch, I think I've hit the ball pretty good."

Tiger Woods



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Irish forward Jeb Brovksy goes up against a Georgetown defender in Notre Dame's 2-1 win over the Hoyas on Oct. 29, 2008. The Irish head to IU this weekend to take on two top-five teams.

Observer File Photo

St. John's

continued from page 28

could be a make-or-break weekend for his team.

"This is a huge weekend," Clark said. "This is arguably one of our biggest weekends of the year. Having to play top-five teams back-to-back is a challenge. We got off to a good start on Tuesday [against Michigan], and now we'll have to see if we can follow that up with a couple good results."

"This is arguably one of our biggest weekends of the year. Having to play top-five teams back-to-back is a challenge."

Bobby Clark
Irish coach

This match will represent the fifth meeting between Notre Dame and the Demon Deacons, with Wake Forest having won all of the previous matches. The two last met in the 2007 NCAA Tournament, where the Demon Deacons won the overtime match 1-0.

"[Against Wake Forest], we'll find out exactly where we are, and where we measure out, and what we have to work on," Clark said. "In my time here we've played Wake Forest two

previous occasions, and lost, so I feel maybe we'll be third-time lucky."

The Irish last sparred with the Red Storm in 2008 in a hard-fought, scoreless tie between then-No. 3 Notre Dame and No. 5 St. John's at the old Alumni Field. The Red Storm lead the all-time series at 10-3-4. Clark is looking for a little payback against St. John's after last season's tough draw. "We should have done something with St. John's last year, when we heavily outshot them," Clark said. "We'll find out a lot about ourselves against them."

The Irish take on the Demon Deacons at 5 p.m. today before Sunday's 11:30 a.m. match against the Red Storm.

In spite of the challenge facing his team, Clark said he expects to enjoy himself in Bloomington.

"It's always a great tournament and a fun atmosphere," Clark said. "I think the team is really looking forward to it."

Contact Mike Blasco at mblasco@nd.edu

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ALL STUDENTS RECEIVE THE T-SHIRT

Tar Heels

continued from page 28

"It is rather fitting for women's college soccer in general that the two best teams in the country are playing each other in a brand new stadium," Waldrum said, downplaying the meaning of the game to his team.

The last time the two soccer powers clashed was in last year's NCAA National Championship, in which North Carolina topped the Irish 2-1. The winning goal was scored with only two minutes left in regulation time.

"We definitely thought we had the ring on our finger, and then it was ripped off," senior forward Michele Weissenhofer said. "Being the competitors that we are, we will definitely hold that against them."

The team captain's sentiments were echoed by Waldrum.

"It has not been a hard week to get them excited about playing," Waldrum said. "Everybody is ready and anxious to play. Practice has gone well [this week]."

Waldrum said he thinks that the game presents an opportunity for his squad to evaluate where they are at this point in the season.

"You know what, I think it's more of seeing where we are now and being prepared for the next time we play them down the road," Waldrum said. "As we found out last

year, beating them early in the year doesn't necessarily mean you'll beat them at the end of the year. With that said, we've had this game on the calendar for a while now and we're excited about it."

Waldrum said he expects North Carolina to utilize the same game plan against the Irish that has made the Tar Heels one of the premier programs in the country.

"Against a Carolina team you have to do a couple of things," Waldrum said. "Over the past few years we've been successful with them and we're sure they're gonna use the same strategy as always. We've got to break their back three [on defense]. Their three in the back are very good and very athletic and we've got to get in behind them. They lure you in and let you think that you have space, but they drop back and defend their space well."

On the other side, Waldrum expects the UNC offense to put pressure on the Irish defense.

"We've got to handle their pressure," Waldrum said. "They're more of a direct team, not much of a soccer playing team. They want to dump the ball in your end and make you make plays."

The Irish first practiced on the new field at Alumni Stadium Thursday night after first laying eyes on it Tuesday night, when the men's team topped Michigan 5-0. Neither encounter with the \$5.7 million facility helped ease the team's impatience.

"Everyone is counting down

the minutes until we can step onto that field and play," Weissenhofer said.

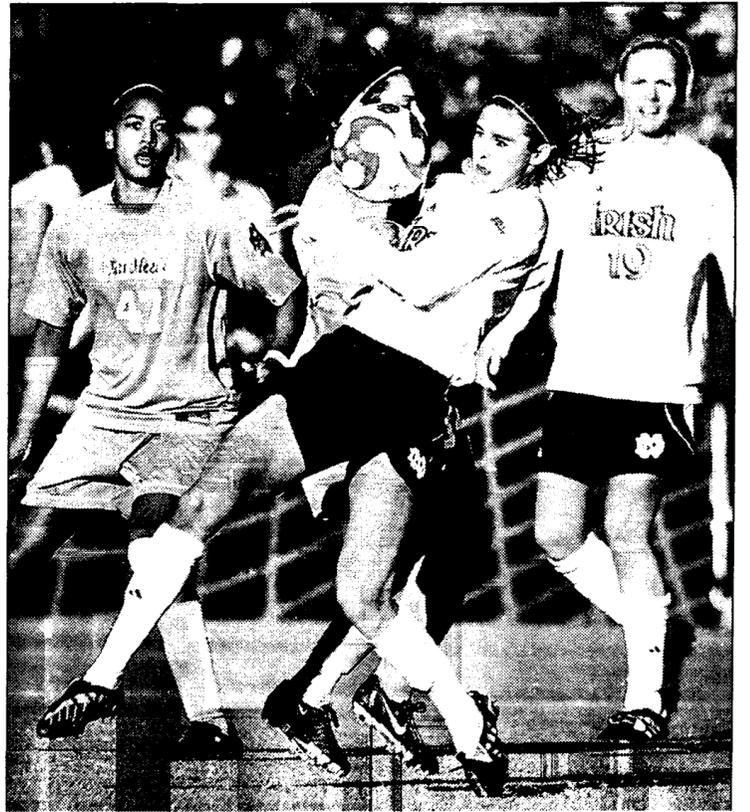
In order for the Irish to avoid losing the first stadium-opener in program history, focus and fierce competition will be key.

"We know whenever we play [North Carolina] it has not been pretty soccer," Weissenhofer said. "It really is who is going to compete and work the hardest."

The Irish will also face off Wisconsin-Milwaukee (2-0-2) as part of the Classic. Kick-off is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, and will follow a North Carolina-Marquette matchup at 11:00 a.m.

Of course, the marquee matchup is the first.

The Irish seniors have played North Carolina five times already in their career, and the two teams met twice last year. Their first, and possibly last, meeting this season will begin tonight at 7:30 p.m. at the new Alumni Stadium.



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Senior defender Haley Ford fields the ball in the 2008 National Championship against North Carolina.

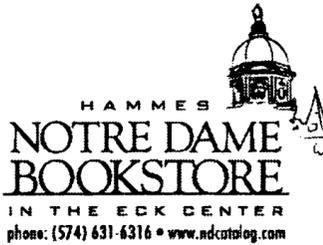
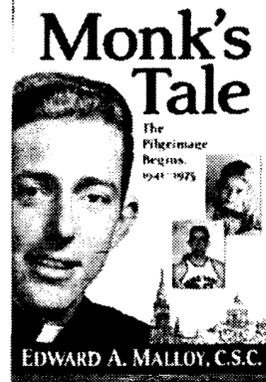
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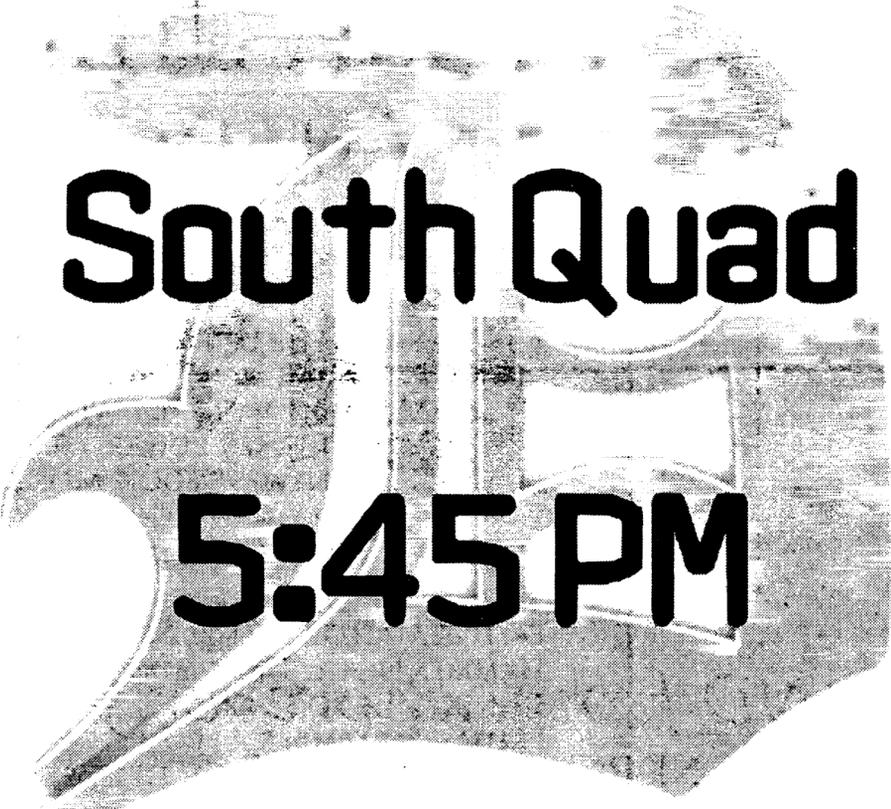
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Leprechaun

Charlie
Weis

Ranked

continued from page 28

10 teams in a week's span. "All the teams have different strengths," Irish coach Debbie Brown said. "It will be a really competitive weekend but we're really excited about it. Our goal is to win the tournament."

The Irish had a strong start to their season, sweeping Denver and Stanford Friday and Saturday before a 3-0 loss to LSU. Senior outside hitter Serenity Phillips and sophomore outside hitter Kristen Dealy both had strong

showings over the weekend and were named to the all-tournament team.

Among a powerful group of Irish seniors, Dealy is one of the underclassmen making a statement on the court early on in this season. She leads the team in points with 34.

Junior Kellie Sciacca and senior Christina Kaelin have also been central to the Irish offense this fall, with 24 and

15 kills, respectively. Heading to the all-Notre Dame's defensive blocks is senior Tara Enzweiler, followed close behind by Sciacca.

However, there's always room for improvement.

"We decided to work on the choices in our offense and how we can get to be smoother," Brown said.

We're working on improving our technique and passing on

defense. We all felt we didn't serve very well [last weekend], and have worked to reduce the number of errors on the court."

Irish have excelled so far in the side-out game, reaching close to 70 percent last weekend.

"It's hard on the opponent when serving that you aren't able to put a string of points together," Brown said.

Brown said it is difficult to play three games so close

together, but that she is confident in her team.

"I think we're just taking it one match at a time, which is hard on weekends like this," she said. "We have to be excited too. If we are able to execute the things that we worked on in practice this week, then I

think we can come back with a win."

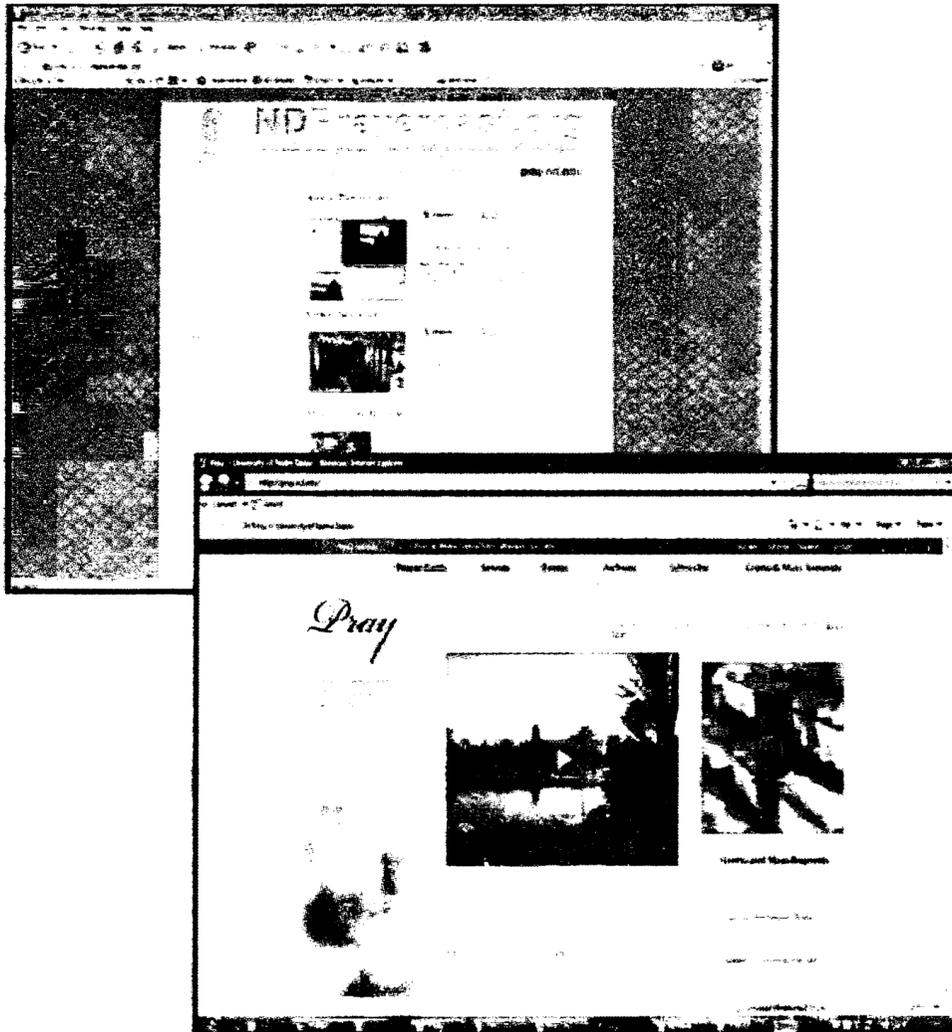
"It will be a really competitive weekend but we're really excited about it."

Debbie Brown
Irish coach

Contact Meaghan Veselik at mvesel01@saintmarys.edu

"If we are able to execute the things that we worked on in practice this week, then I think we can come back with a win."

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Young

continued from page 28

expected to carry the load, because we will need them to be comfortable in that role later in the year as the competition becomes more intense."

Juniors Erica Watson and Theresa Cattuna, and sophomores Kari Johnson, Molly

Hirt and Susanna Sullivan are all expected to stand out at Friday's meet for the women's team. Juniors Spencer Carter, and Ryan Gamboa, and sophomore Kelly Lynch are expected to be top names in the men's division.

The women's race begins at 6 p.m. today and the men will follow at 6:45 p.m.

Contact Molly Sammon at msammon@nd.edu

Steele

continued from page 28

"From an attacking perspective I have high expectations from Micki Hedinger, Sam Smogor and Katelyn Tondo-Steele," Crabbe said. "In addition, Colleen Ferguson, Jess Slean and Keely Noonan bring a full season of playing together in the midfield this year. On our backline we see two new faces, Corissa Hart and Taylor Paton, joining Ronayne and Michelle Marshall. Also, we get Katie Wehrli back in 2009 after she missed much of 2008. I expect every player on our roster to contribute this fall."

Senior Katy Durkin also scored a goal for the Belles in the game against Holy Cross.

Crabbe noted that he wants to see his players take more responsibility for their goals in each game. The Belles dropped eight of their contests last season that were decided by only one goal.

The Belles are also counting on seven freshmen to fill in the gaps on this year's ros-

ter.

"We have players coming from Georgia, Kentucky, Ohio, Illinois, Missouri and Indiana," Crabbe said. "They have done quite well so far. There are two in particular who will be called upon to start and contribute right away. We have added depth at goalkeeper as well which was by far our biggest priority coming into 2009."

The Belles will turn to senior Bridget Ronayne to lead the defensive squad this season.

"Bridget is a very mature player on the field," Crabbe said. "She is a good leader and her teammates respect her. Her success playing in the back for us comes from her ability to read the game and make good decisions under pressure. She is very good at minimizing mistakes which is key as a defender."

The Belles will face Centre College on Saturday at 7 p.m., and then face Transylvania on Sunday at noon.

Contact Kate Grabarek at kgraba01@saintmarys.edu

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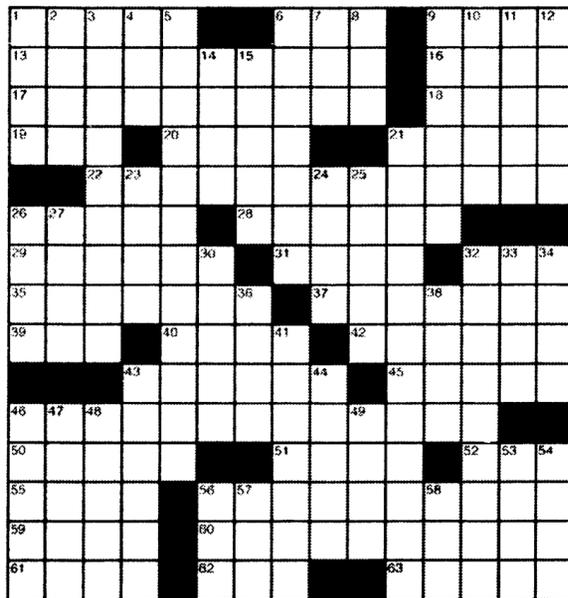
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CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across**
- 1 "___ better be!"
 - 6 Factory staple
 - 9 Abbr. in a "works cited" list
 - 13 "I'm not done yet!"
 - 16 It's passed on
 - 17 Oscar-nominated portrayal of Frida Kahlo
 - 18 Discipline
 - 19 Financial statement abbr.
 - 20 Reason to make a prank call, maybe
 - 21 What a player may mean by knocking on the table
 - 22 Relatively close
 - 26 Subject of the 1955 film "The Last Command"
 - 28 Baby shower gift
 - 29 Band members with long necks?
 - 31 Many students on "Gilmore Girls"
 - 32 It's 11 miles NNW of JFK
 - 35 Something not on the menu
 - 37 Roll top?
 - 39 Certain correlative
 - 40 Really appeal to
 - 42 Early TV news commentator famous for doing Timex ads
 - 43 Heads up
 - 45 Makes scarce
 - 46 Where a fouled player might go
 - 50 Crystallizes
 - 51 Passage blockers
 - 52 Stars participate in it: Abbr.
 - 55 Pendant option
 - 56 Comics character with a "gang"
- Down**
- 1 Minute, informally
 - 2 "Not ___!"
 - 3 Wasn't full of holes
 - 4 The Adriatic vis-à-vis the Mediterranean
 - 5 Red-handed
 - 6 Helen Thomas in the White House press corps, e.g.
 - 7 Boiling point?
 - 8 Cry of surprise
 - 9 March on
 - 10 It contains 613 mitzvot
 - 11 "... love's shadows ___ rich in joy!": Romeo
 - 12 ___ of all
 - 14 Onetime C.I.A.-backed foreign leader
 - 15 Plumber seen in an arcade
 - 21 Mayo sauce?
 - 23 Computer debut of 1998
 - 24 They might store electric charges
 - 25 Nike rival
 - 26 Part of M.P.A.A.: Abbr.
 - 27 Slimming option, for short

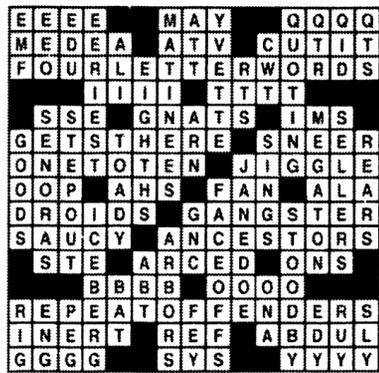


Puzzle by Mike Nothnagel

- 30 Fast Eddie's girlfriend in "The Hustler"
- 32 It might store an electric charge
- 33 It's often piercing
- 34 Vultures were sacred to him
- 36 Refuge
- 38 Cardinal
- 41 Like many beachgoers
- 43 Single-___
- 44 Become rapturous
- 46 Product of glacial erosion
- 47 Square things
- 48 Make rapturous
- 49 Independent, noble types, it's said
- 53 Typist's position
- 54 Remains
- 56 It comes after the last number
- 57 Troglodyte
- 58 "My baby at my breast," in Shakespeare

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kiran Desai, 38; Charlie Sheen, 44; Valerie Perrine, 66; Eileen Brennan, 77

Happy Birthday: The more you separate yourself from the crowd, the better. Present with confidence whatever you want to pursue. You have a good plan and your sound way of approaching whatever you feel will bring you good results should be sufficient to get things off the ground. Set your course for future success. Your numbers are 9, 11, 15, 23, 37, 40, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Talks will lead to a better relationship with friends, lovers and your peers. Be open about the way you feel and how you see things unfolding in the future. The input you get back will help you establish what you should do next. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Get involved in something you feel strongly about and you will make a difference. The knowledge and experience you gain will help you in your personal and business life. Taking action will show others that you are capable of being a leader. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You could easily make a mistake if you are too giving of your time, money or skills. By taking a professional approach, you stand a better chance of getting a proposal that will compensate you and allow you to help a cause you believe in. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may be put in an awkward position if someone wants you to do something that is a little different or too exotic for you. Sticking around home can be fun if you plan to do things with someone who means something to you. Don't argue, just do what suits you best. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can come up with some moneymaking ideas if you look at what you have and what you can use to service others. Your entertaining personality will capture someone's interest. You will benefit from an unusual source. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't leave anything to chance. Look at every means available in order to get the upper hand professionally. Perfection and detail will count and will lead to a better position in the end. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You should do something nice for yourself. Buy something that will make you feel good or sign up for a course that will raise your self-esteem or enhance your skills. Love is on the rise. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll have to watch what you do, say and promise at home or to people with whom you are personally contracting. Don't leave anything to the imagination. Overspending, overdoing and over-consuming will all lead to loss. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Think before you speak. An emotional situation will cause you grief if you make a promise in the heat of the moment. Keep things honest and refrain from committing to something that you know you will not do. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You are sitting in a good position, so be prepared to follow through even if it means someone else's loss. You have played a fair game and it's time to collect what's owed to you. Don't give in to someone trying to play on your emotions. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): False pretenses will lead to a parting of the ways between you and someone you care about. Be ready to compensate someone you jilted, even if it was unintentional. Clarify exactly what you have to offer. ★★

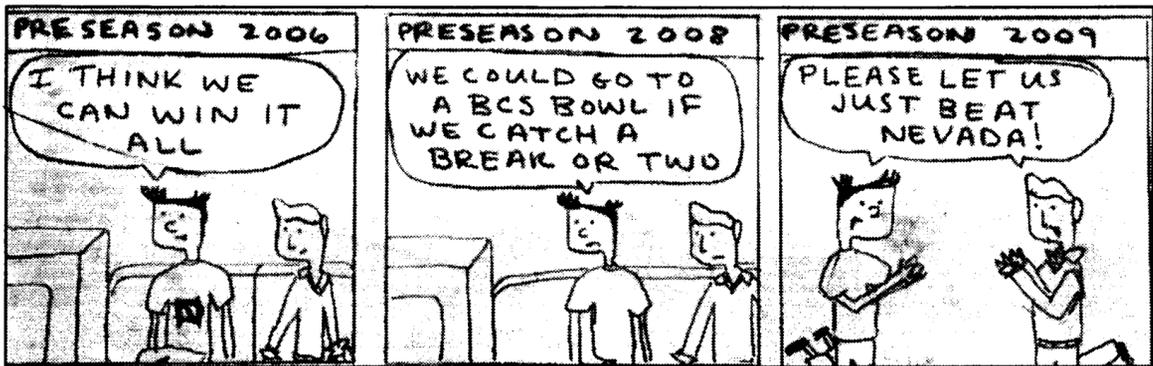
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll be emotional regarding a relationship and how you are being treated. Consider your own actions before you point the finger at someone else. Don't feud over stupid, trivial annoyances. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are a take-charge individual. You will stand up for your beliefs and aren't afraid to fight back. You are a humanitarian and a reformist.

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

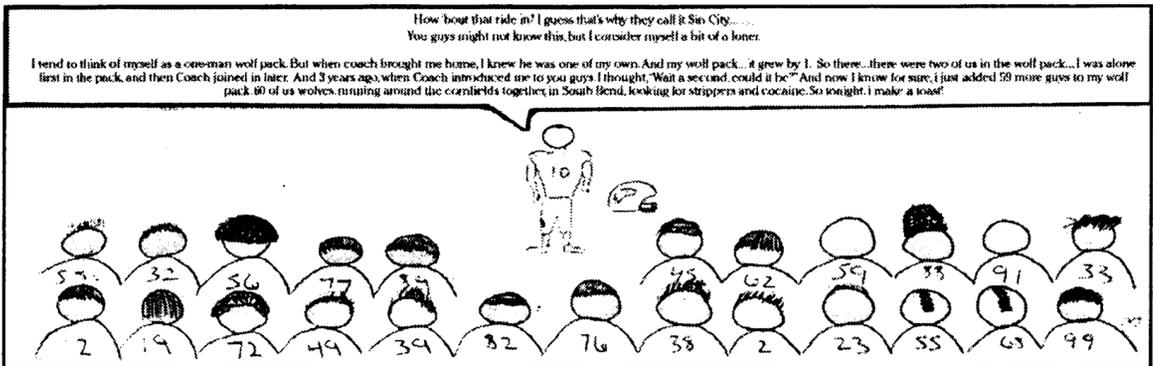
SCHAD & FREUDE

WILL GUAPPONE & BRI KRAFCIK



THE TAKEOVER

DIGGER HOLTZ



JUMBLE

JEFF KNUREK
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek

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

TRINP
RODUG
WROFUR
INDATE



Answer: AN " " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: LOUSY GUILD PLENTY COUPON
Answer: The golfer left the library because his slacks were — TOO LOUD

THE OBSERVER

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ND SOCCER

Good, Better, Best

No. 2. Irish women to play No. 1 Tar Heels

By DOUGLAS FARMER and
MIKE GOTIMER
Sports Writers

Notre Dame opened Alumni Field 19 years and two days ago with a 5-1 victory over Northeast Missouri State. Irish coach Randy Waldrum coached his first game on the Irish bench 10 years and one day ago — a 3-2 overtime loss to No. 1 North Carolina.

Tonight Notre Dame looks to re-write history as the No. 2 Irish (2-0-0) face the top-ranked Tar Heels (3-0-0) at 7:30 p.m. in the women's first game at newly-opened Alumni Stadium. The game is part of the Inn at St. Mary's Classic.

see TAR HEELS/page 23



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Sophomore midfielder Courtney Barg heads the ball during the 2008 NCAA Championship.



Observer File Photo

Senior forward Bright Dike evades a defender in a 3-0 win over Michigan State Nov. 8, 2008.

Men to take on No. 3 Wake, No. 1 St. John's

By MICHAEL BLASCO
Sports Writer

The Irish are riding high after Tuesday's 5-0 drubbing of No. 21 Michigan that inaugurated the new Alumni Stadium. But Notre Dame may get ripped back to earth with two matches against top-five teams this weekend.

The No. 10 Irish travel to Bloomington, Ind., today to take on No. 3 Wake Forest at the Adidas/IU Credit Union Classic. On Sunday, Notre Dame will clash with No. 1 St. John's in an unofficial Big East showdown.

Ninth-year Irish coach Bobby Clark said he realizes that this

see ST. JOHN'S/page 22

ND CROSS COUNTRY

Runners to start off season at Valpo Crusader Open

By MOLLY SAMMON
Sports Writer

The 2009 season opens for both the Irish men's and women's cross country teams today as they travel to Sunset Hills Park in Valparaiso, Ind. for the Valparaiso Crusader Open.

In terms of competition, both teams are looking at Friday's meet as one of the easiest that

they will encounter this season and an excellent chance to place in first for a good boost to carry on through the duration of the season.

"This is a very low-key meet, and the only time we're running a six-kilometer race," men's coach Joe Piane said. "We normally run an eight-kilometer race. It will give the guys a sense of confidence."

Since the beginning of the

summer, the runners have been preparing daily with the challenges of this season in mind.

"Our runners have been training since the end of the outdoor track season for the fall," women's coach Tim Connelly said. "So far, most of our work has been general conditioning work, with very little race-specific work to date. That will come later in the season."

Both teams have been work-

ing hard at distance training and not focusing much on interval training. The coaches said that some of the members from each the men's and women's teams have been running 75 miles a week to prepare for this season.

Friday's opening meet is a chance for both teams to use some of their less experienced runners in order for them to get a feel for how they will match

up for the remainder of the season as it gets tougher and more competitive.

"The group that will compete are people who weren't in the top seven last fall, but certainly have the potential to be contributors this year," Connelly said. "I want to put these people in the position that they are being counted on as scorers and

see YOUNG/page 26

SMC SOCCER

Belles continue season at Centre

By KATE GRABAREK
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's (1-0-0), coming off its first win of the season over Holy Cross on Tuesday, will travel to Danville, Ky. to play in Centre College's tournament.

"I am looking for a good competitive attitude from all of our players, regardless of their role on the field," Belles coach Ryan Crabbe said. "Our energy level when we defend will be important. Finally, we

need our attacking players to take greater responsibility in front of goal this year. In 2008 we spent too much time waiting for one player to score all of our goals. This year we have quite a few players capable of contributing on the score sheet."

Sophomore Katelyn Tondo-Steele scored a goal for the Belles in their game against Holy Cross, and Crabbe said he is looking to her to be a force for the team this season.

see STEELE/page 26

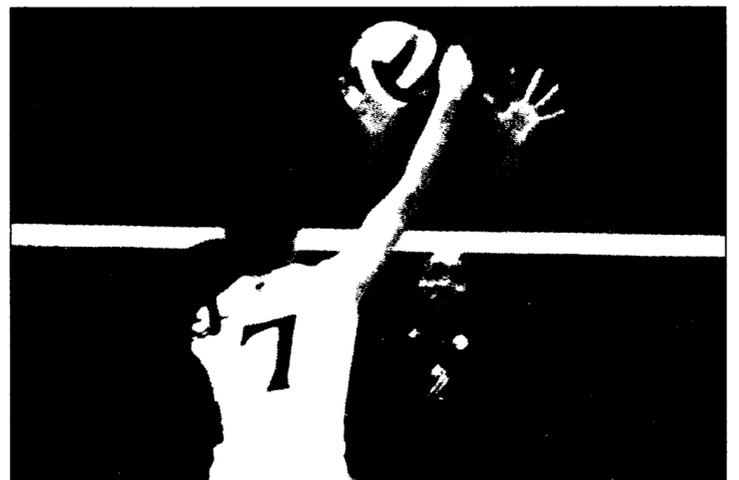
ND VOLLEYBALL

No. 7 Michigan awaits Irish in Cincy

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

After opening the season with two wins and a loss in the Shamrock Invitational, the Irish head to Cincinnati this weekend to face another three challengers at the Xavier Invitational.

Notre Dame (2-1) will go up against Xavier, Tennessee and No. 7 Michigan. Their match against the Wolverines, along with their 3-0 win over No. 5 Stanford at the Shamrock, will be the first time since 2007 that the Irish have taken on two top-



PAT COVENY/The Observer

Junior middle blocker Kellie Sciacca goes for a kill during Notre Dame's 3-0 win over No. 5 Stanford Saturday.

see RANKED/page 25

IRISH INSIDER
PODCAST

Check out The Observer's Irish Insider podcast
at ndsmcobserver.com/podcasts

as beat writers Bill Brink, Matt Gamber & Sam Werner preview Saturday's game against Nevada

IRISH INSIDER

Friday, September 4, 2009

THE
OBSERVER

QUICK OFF THE BLOCKS



*Brian Smith hopes to
lead the Irish to a fast
start against Nevada*

COMMENTARY

New mantra for ND: just win, baby

When it comes to team mantras or philosophies, Irish fans have heard it all from Charlie Weis in recent years. Weis has asked his team to "get nasty," to "dive right in," and, most recently, to "just win, baby."

Weis is an NFL guy, right? So he should be familiar with this little ditty from long-time Raiders boss Al Davis: "Just win, baby." Given the current state of affairs in Oakland, perhaps Davis' Raiders aren't the best role models for this Irish bunch. But that mantra — well, there's something to it.

Fans and media alike have spent much of the offseason dissecting the failures of the past two seasons while reliving the Christmas Eve thrashing of Hawaii that seems to have, to some, signaled the rebirth of Notre Dame football. Many have pointed to an Irish schedule that boasts just one preseason top-25 team and have suggested that perfection, or at least 10 or 11 wins, might be in reach.

In short, there's been a lot of chatter about Irish football in the months since the boys in blue and gold were last on the field.

To Weis' credit, I think he's on the right track with this latest concept of asking his players to ignore expectations and do their talking on the field. And looking at this team, I just can't help but get the overwhelming sense that the 2009 Irish are ready to do just that.

It's not all about the Hawaii Bowl, but I have to admit, that performance was impressive enough to give even the downtrodden Notre Dame fan hope.

Granted, Hawaii wasn't the toughest opponent the Irish could have squared off against last bowl season. But considering the downturn at the end of last season — the home loss to Syracuse and the beating at the hands of USC — to come out and dominate anyone was a step in the right direction.

What has given me more hope than the Hawaii Bowl, however, has been the way the Irish have talked the talk and, it would seem, walked the walk like a team cognizant of its past failures and confident in its future successes.

Since that loss to USC, I've seen a greater sense of urgency and a more demand-

ing level of accountability in the Notre Dame program, beginning with Weis at the top.

There's no doubt he was on the hot seat at the end of last season, but athletics director Jack Swarbrick — who received rave reviews for his work after one year on the job — saw enough positives to give Weis another shot. Judging by the bowl performance and then the slew of new coaches he brought in during the offseason, Weis committed to making the changes necessary to make the most of that opportunity.

Tony Alford, Frank Verducci and Randy Hart were brought in to coach the running backs and offensive and defensive lines, respectively, bringing with them new perspectives and years of experience.

That sense of urgency and level of accountability seems to have been passed down to the players, as looking at the current Irish two-deep, it seems that the best players are going to see the field — regardless of expectations, recruiting rankings, class year, you name it.

The position battles we saw in camp weren't determined (at least it seems) by one guy folding up his tent and quitting, giving in to the other; everything points toward competitive battles that, in many cases, remain too close to definitively call.

The fact that Weis seems prepared to play as many guys as it takes, to rotate talented players in and out with team, not individual, interests, at heart, shows me that he's ready to win any way he can.

Do it with a run-and-gun, pass-heavy offense, or do it with a balanced, multi-back ground game.

Do it with an opportunistic, blitzing front seven, or do it with a rock-solid, big play-preventing secondary.

Do it with miracle-man Mike Anello forcing turnovers on special teams, or do it with fundamentally-sound field position tactics.

Do it with a "schematic advantage", or do it, quite simply, with what's working the best.

At this point, after watching two disappointing seasons follow on the heels of two blowout BCS losses, Weis, and Irish players and fans, should have just one thing on their minds.

Just win, baby.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu



Matt Gamber

Sports Editor

FOOTBALL RECRUITING

Parker, Roberson, Utupo to visit

By MATT GAMBER
Sports Editor

Though game planning for Nevada has surely occupied the Irish coaching staff all week, there's no doubt a few Notre Dame assistants will be thinking about, and keeping an eye on, two major recruits this weekend.

Four-star safety Sean Parker and three-star running back Cameron Roberson will both be in attendance Saturday as they make their official visits to campus for Notre Dame's matchup with the Wolfpack.

Parker, a 6-foot, 185-pound safety out of Harbor City, Calif., has nearly 30 scholarship offers and is likely months away from making his college choice. But Irish recruiting expert Mike Frank thinks Notre Dame is a legitimate contender for Parker, who posted 68 tackles, five interceptions, two sacks and two fumble recoveries as a junior at Narbonne High.

"He's a big, big-time player, and Notre Dame needs safeties pretty bad. He's very vital to Notre Dame's recruiting efforts," said Frank, who heads the online ESPN affiliate Irish Sports Daily. "I expect him to take all his

visits and be a late-decision type of guy, but he's as good as you're going to find."

Most of the nationally-prominent programs are on Parker's radar, though Frank said he believes the high school senior is high on Michigan and is rather open to leaving his home state of California.

"He'll probably play free safety because of how well he can run. He could play corner, but he's a big body, too," Frank said. "He's a tremendous talent and I think he's one of the very top players in the country. He's as elite as you're going to get."

At 6-foot-1, 215 pounds, Roberson is a bruising back out of Newbury Park, Calif., where he rushed for 18 touchdowns as a junior at Newbury Park High. Notre Dame and Northwestern represent Roberson's top four, though Washington and Arizona were also on his radar, Frank said.

"There's a chance he'd commit this weekend, but he'll probably wait to take a

visit to Northwestern to figure out his situation," Frank said. "He'll figure out what school he really likes."

Three-star commit Justin Utupo will also be on campus this weekend. The Lakewood, Calif., defensive lineman committed on July 6 without ever visiting campus. He recorded 10 sacks as a junior at Lakewood High.

As an aside, Tuesday was the first day coaches could extend scholarship offers to the high school class of 2011. Irish coach Charlie Weis and his staff offered nearly 25

scholarships on opening day, compared to a previous high of five, Frank said.

"They're way ahead of pace from where they were in previous years, and the staff did a tremendous job of getting prepared for this year," Frank said. "They did a real good job of researching, finding top players in the country who have a really good shot at qualifying [academically at Notre Dame]."

"Getting in on these kids early is very important, and Weis understands that. It should certainly have a positive effect."

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

"[Sean Parker] is a big, big-time player, and Notre Dame needs safeties pretty bad."

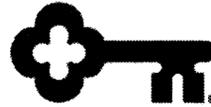
Mike Frank
Irish Sports Daily owner

"There's a chance [Roberson] could commit this weekend."

Mike Frank
Irish Sports Daily owner

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Tuesday, September 22, 2009
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Recycle.
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Mr. Versatility

Brian Smith provides Irish linebacking corps with experience, flexibility heading into 2009

By **BILL BRINK**
Sports Writer

Not to glorify retribution, but sometimes it can be healthy for a defense.

Ask Brian Smith. After a teammate was illegally blocked during a game — he wouldn't say which one — Smith called the defense together.

"As a defense we can't let this happen," he told his teammates. "Next time you get a shot at this guy, take it."

Guess who got the first shot?

"I cleaned the guy's clock," Smith said. "I was trying to send a message to the team. If someone hits you in the mouth, we're brothers. We got to take care of each other."

That sentiment holds true this season, when Smith, a junior, plays an interchangeable role in Notre Dame's linebacking corps. Smith will play two positions, the weakside and middle linebacker. He's comfortable

playing either, but given the choice, he'd take the Will.

"Because it allows me to run," he said. "I'm not taking on as many blocks. I can come downhill and hit you in the mouth

instead of maybe sideways or forwards sometimes."

What a tough guy, with all his talk about hittin' people in the mouth and taking numbers of opposing players he needs to light up later. But there's a calmer side.

"One thing you'll find on my iPod I don't have a lot of

hard fast songs," he said. "I like to listen to slow John Legend type of music."

"If there was anything in the world I could do instead of play football it would be to sing and play the piano like John Legend."

Can he sing?

"Not at all," he said. "I always sing in the locker room, and they always tell me to shut up."

He used to learn to play the piano by ear, however, along with the tuba, trumpet, saxophone, drums and bass guitar. Eventually, he realized he wanted to focus on football, and he got tired of music after a while.

Actually, Smith, from Overland Park, Kan., knew since second grade he had a future in football.

"If you're good in first grade in any form or fashion, you're going to be the best player out there," he said. "I was one of the better ones out there and when you're the best you just want to keep doing it."

Smith started as a fullback and thought he'd be

going to college in the backfield. But during his junior year at St. Thomas Aquinas High School, the team instituted a spread offense, rendering the fullback less important. There was a shortage of

linebackers, so Smith told the coaches he could play there.

Once he got to Notre Dame, he played in 11 games his freshman season and started the last three. He started nine games his sophomore year, missing two because of an injury. He had 54 tackles and forced a

fumble against Michigan, which he returned 35 yards for a touchdown.

But back to this season, where the Irish linebackers will rotate positions depending on the formation. Senior Toryan Smith will start at middle linebacker with Brian at the Will, but when freshman Manti Te'o enters the game, Brian will slide over to the Mike.

"He can play any linebacker position, so that allows me to move him around in different packages and do different things with him," assistant head coach and linebackers coach Jon Tenuta said.

The two positions require Smith to change his assignments on the go, but he said he's getting better at it.

"So in my mind, at Will, [it's] 'Okay what do I got, here, here, here,'" he said, running down his mental checklist. "But it all changes when I'm at Mike. I do an okay job of shifting gears. I need to get better at doing that come game time."

At 6-foot-3 and 240 pounds, Smith has the athleticism to play either spot. He's also got the mental capacity for either place, Tenuta said.

"Brian Smith's a tremendous talent, period. He's got great athleticism," Tenuta said. "He's smart, every day he learns more and more. He knows his role."

His role, whatever it may be, will be an important one Saturday, when the Irish face Nevada's pistol offense. The pistol, which positions the quarterback about three yards behind the center with a running back directly behind him, is dangerous regardless, but put it in the hands of Wolfpack quarterback Colin Kaepernick and it's deadly.

Smith remembers the first time he saw Kaepernick



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer
Irish linebacker Brian Smith makes a sack against Hawaii during Notre Dame's 49-21 win over the Warriors in the Hawaii Bowl.

"If someone hits you in the mouth, we're brothers. We got to take care of each other."

Brian Smith
Irish linebacker

play. "They were playing Boise State, and it was 72-64, final score, quadruple overtime," he said, a slight exaggeration of the actual 69-67 final. "And the first thing that came to mind when I saw him, I think he was just a freshman, was, 'He's a little version of Vince Young.'"

That mini-Vince rushed for more than 1,000 yards last season and scored 17 touchdowns on the ground.

"He has a lot of ability," Smith said. "We have to work on containing him and play sound football come Saturday."

Similar to Navy and Michigan, the Pistol offense allows the quarterback, especially a mobile one like Kaepernick, to scramble and run the option. To prevent this, the players are assigned one of three offensive players to shadow: the quarterback, the "dive man" — the runner who could take a handoff straight up the middle — or the "pitch man," who swings outside with the quarterback waiting for the ball.

"It's fun unless sometime you face a team that doesn't pitch it all the time, and you're stuck on the pitch man and you're just out there and you have to go to the pitch man every time, but the time you so happen

to not go to the pitch he pitches it," Smith said.

The defense has at least some inclination, however, of where the ball is headed. The players, Smith said, are taught to read formations to decipher what the offense is most likely to run.

"Coach Tenuta does a good job of dictating us, final formation of what the offense is going to do," he said.

Quite a convergence of events for Smith on Saturday. Two positions to play, the addition of a very talented but still inexperienced linebacker in Te'o, the first game of the season,

against a quarterback with wheels in an unorthodox offensive set.

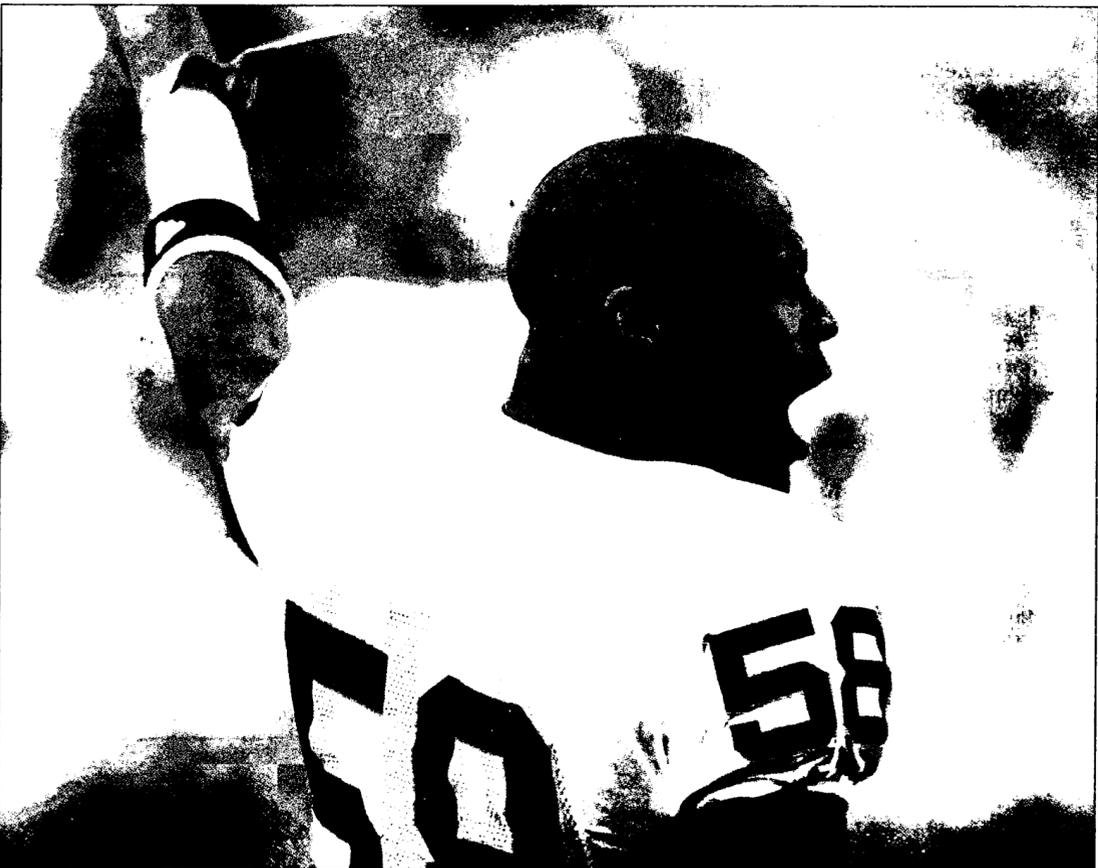
"It's going to show how versatile I am and help me be able to attack from different spots on the field, so I'm ready for it," he said.

To illustrate Saturday's importance, he quoted coach Charlie Weis, who took the mantra from Bill Parcells.

"This is step one of the marathon," he said. "You want to get off the blocks well in a marathon, start fast and continue it on week by week."

"[This game] is going to show how versatile I am and help me be able to attack from different spots on the field, so I'm ready for it."

Brian Smith
Irish linebacker



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer
Smith cheers on his teammates on during Notre Dame's 33-7 win over Washington on Oct. 25, 2008. Smith racked up four tackles and a sack against the Huskies.

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

Notre Dame Fighting Irish

Record: 0-0

AP: 23 Coaches: 23



Charlie Weis
head coach



Jon Tenuta
Def. Coordinator
Assistant HC



Corwin Brown
Co-Def. Coord.
Associate HC

Fifth season at Notre Dame

career record:
29-23
at home:
15-11
in openers:
3-1

2009 Schedule

Sept. 5	Nevada
Sept. 12	@ Michigan
Sept. 19	Michigan St.
Sept. 26	@ Purdue
Oct. 3	Washington
Oct. 17	Southern Cal
Oct. 24	Boston College
Oct. 31	Washington St.
Nov. 7	Navy
Nov. 14	@ Pittsburgh
Nov. 21	Connecticut
Nov. 28	@ Stanford

Head-to-Head

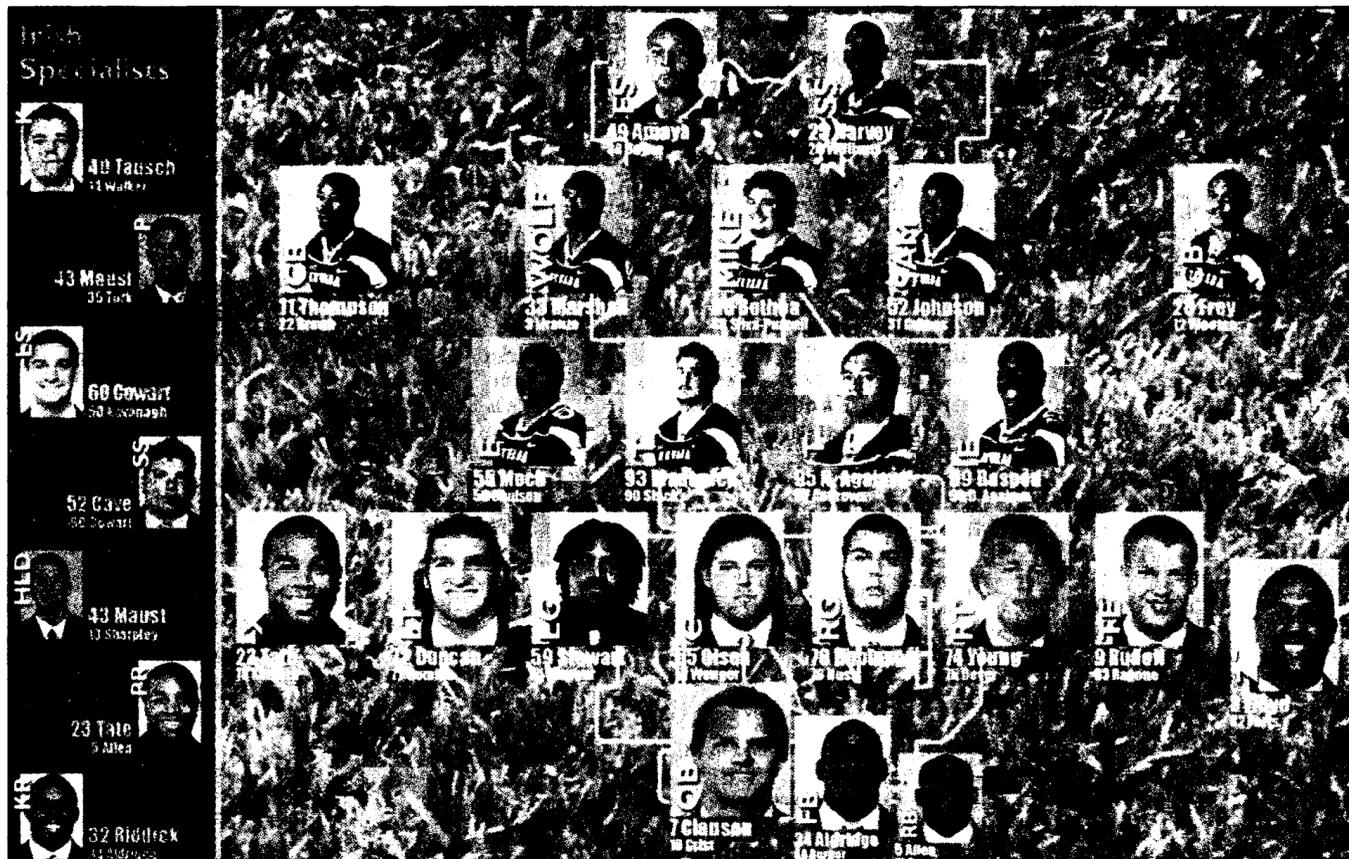
ND OFFENSE	NEV DEFENSE
Scoring: 24.69 ppg (67th)	Scoring: 32.31 ppg (99th)
Total: 355.08 ypg (65th)	Total: 400.23 ypg (91st)
Rushing: 109.69 ypg (100th)	Rushing: 88.62 ypg (6th)
Passing: 245.38 ypg (34th)	Passing: 311.62 ypg (119th)
Turnovers against: 28 (93rd)	Turnovers for: 25 (42nd)
Fumbles lost: 11 (68th)	Fumbles rec.: 9 (69th)
Interceptions: 17 (101st)	Interceptions: 16 (26th)
Sacks Allowed: 22 (45th)	Sacks: 37 (10th)
T.O.P. for: 31:17 (25th)	T.O.P. against: 27:15 (7th)

Returning Leaders

ND OFFENSE	NEV DEFENSE
QB JIMMY CLAUSEN 268-440, 3,172 yds., 25 TD	FS JONATHAN AMAYA 68 tkl., 2.5 TFL, 4 INT
RB ARMANDO ALLEN 134 rush, 585 yds., 3 TD	DE KEVIN BASPED 50 tkl., 18.5 TFL, 10 sacks
WR GOLDEN TATE 58 rec., 1,080 yds., 10 TD	DE DONTAY MOCH 50 tkl., 17.5 TFL, 11.5 sacks
WR MICHAEL FLOYD 48 rec., 719 yds., 7 TD	LB JAMES JOHNSON 48 tkl., 12.5 TFL, 1.5 sacks
TE KYLE RUDOLPH 29 rec., 340 yds., 2 TD	LB KEVIN GRIMES 45 tkl., 1 TFL, 2 INT

HEAD TO HEAD

Irish Offense vs. Wolfpack Defense



IRISH PASSING

There aren't many nice things to say about Nevada's pass defense. The unit ranked 119th among Division I FBS teams last season, giving up a whopping 311 yards per game last season. The lone bright spot for the Wolfpack is senior safety Jonathon Amaya, who led the team in tackles and interceptions in 2008.

The Irish, meanwhile, are set to boast their most prolific passing attack since Brady Quinn left campus. A more mature Jimmy Clausen will still have Golden Tate and Michael Floyd to throw to, and Kyle Rudolph is emerging as one of the best pass-catching tight ends in the country. All this aerial assault needs to be truly elite is a solid third receiver, and Duval Kamara hopes to

make that leap this season.

There are many reasons Nevada could make this a close game, but this isn't one of them. Expect the Irish to throw the ball with success early and often. Though Clausen, may not put up Hawaii Bowl numbers, he could come very close.

EDGE: NOTRE DAME

IRISH RUSHING

In the offseason, Charlie Weis promised a renewed commitment to the running game, analyzing the rushing attacks of all 10 BCS teams from last season. Junior Armando Allen is now the full-time starting running back, with junior Robert Hughes and Jonas Gray waiting in the wings. Hughes won't be available for

the first half due to a suspension stemming from last year's fight against USC, and Gray could use the opportunity to make his case for more carries. James Aldridge at full-back provides another ground option.

On the other side of the ball, Nevada returns much of a defense that gave up only 88 yards per game last season. Defensive ends Dontay

Moch and Kevin Basped are all-conference caliber players and could give the Irish offensive line some trouble. The stats may not tell the whole story, though, as teams often didn't have to run and instead feasted on the Wolfpack's porous secondary.

EDGE: EVEN

IRISH SPECIAL TEAMS

Nick Tausch makes his debut at placekicker Saturday, and we'll see if there are any nerves from the freshman on opening day.

Another freshman starting on special teams is kick returner Theo Riddick. The

coaching staff has gushed about his talent and stressed the need to get him on the field.

The Irish may have the talent advantage, but you can never tell how freshmen will respond to the big stage.

EDGE: EVEN

Charlie Weis takes back the reigns as play caller, and should be licking his chops going up against a weak Nevada pass defense. Weis has an astounding array of weapons at his disposal, from Golden Tate to Armando Allen to Michael Floyd.

Weis should be able to

assert his will against the Wolfpack through the air and potentially on the ground as well.

As long as Weis doesn't outthink himself, this one really won't be that close.

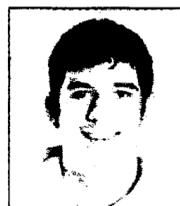
EDGE: NOTRE DAME

IRISH OFFENSIVE COACHING



Bill Brink
Managing Editor

Forgive me for playing Devil's Advocate, but I'm not drinking the Lou Holtz Kool-Aid just yet. You can use many arguments for Notre Dame's resurgence: Michael Floyd this, Golden Tate that, what have you, but Notre Dame was a 7-6 team last season and played like it. They need to prove they can win games they're supposed to win, which to Irish fans everywhere Nevada is. Not so fast. Their coach invented their offensive set and Colin Kaepernick will dance around all day. The Irish win a close one, however — thanks to touchdowns from Floyd and Tate.



Michael Bryan
Associate Sports Editor

The Irish defense will struggle a little against the pistol at the outset, but the offense should click the entire game. Kyle Rudolph has a career day with over 100 yards and close to 10 catches. Adjustments at the half and a little experience against Kaepernick and the formation will lead to a few stops, and Notre Dame pulls away late. The Wolfpack offense won't have the passing game to come from behind when forced to throw the football. Manti Te'o will see a lot of the field and will not disappoint, and Nick Tausch will make every kick he gets a look at in his debut.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 34, Nevada 28

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 41, Nevada 28



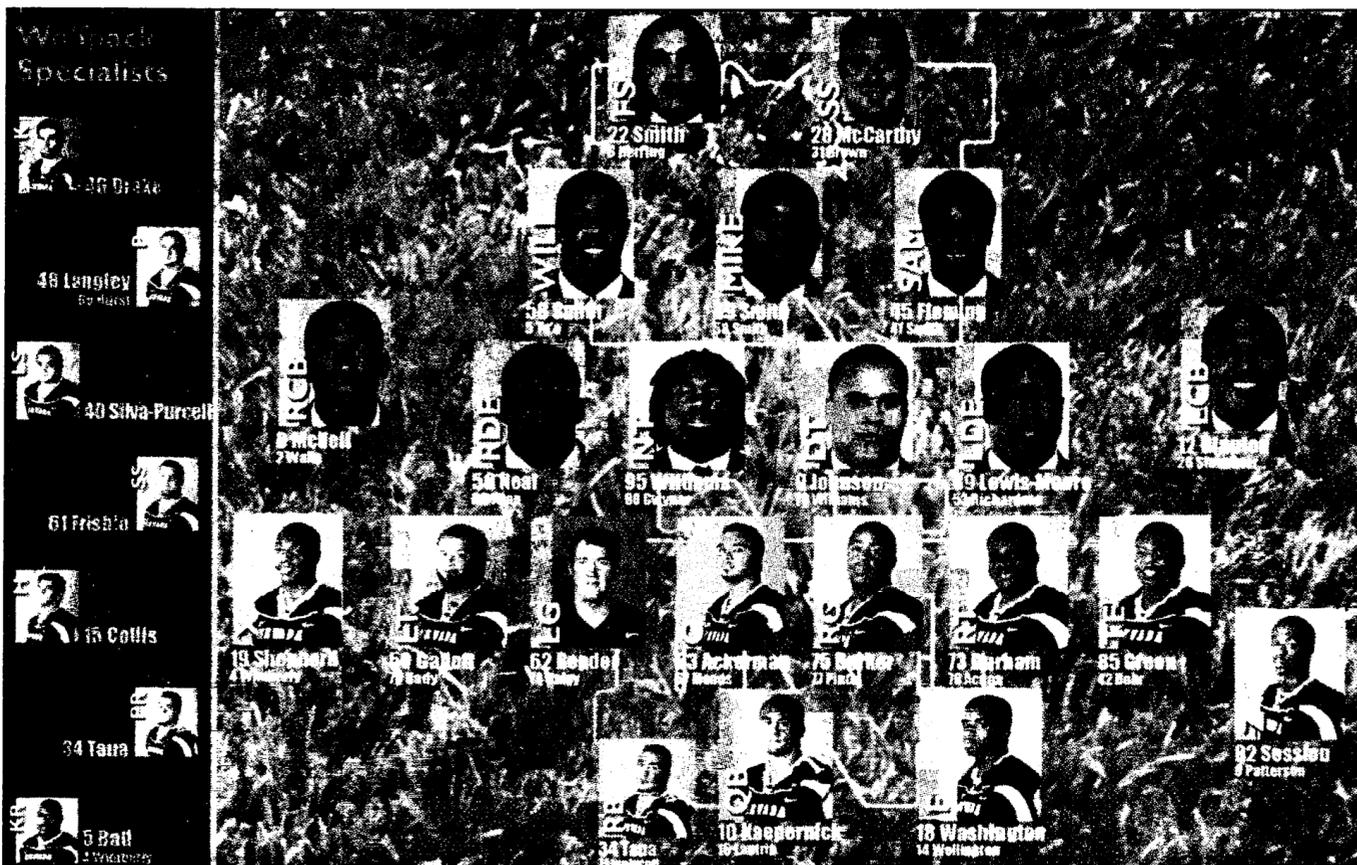
For more matchups and pregame analysis at ndsmcobserver.com

Think we're crazy?

NEVADA

O HEAD

Wolfpack Offense vs. Irish Defense



Nevada Wolfpack Record: 0-0

AP: NR Coaches: NR



Chris Ault head coach

25th season at Nevada

career record: 198-91-1

Sixth in wins among all active Div. 1-A coaches



Chris Klenakis Off. Coordinator Offensive Line



Nigel Burton Def. Coordinator Safeties

2009 Schedule

Sept. 5	@ Notre Dame
Sept. 19	@ Colorado St.
Sept. 25	Missouri
Oct. 3	UNLV
Oct. 9	Louisiana Tech
Oct. 17	@ Utah St.
Oct. 24	Idaho
Oct. 31	Hawaii
Nov. 8	@ San Jose St.
Nov. 14	Fresno St.
Nov. 21	@ New Mexico St.
Nov. 27	Boise St.

While Wolfpack quarterback Colin Kaepernick is a perfectly capable passer, he doesn't really have anyone to throw to this year. Nevada returns only two receivers who actually caught a pass last season. Running back Vai Tava is a threat out of the backfield, and can make plays after the catch, as well.

The Irish secondary should be one of the team's strengths this season, with

three top-level cornerbacks in sophomore Robert Blanton, senior Darrin Walls and senior Raeshon McNeil. Kyle McCarthy returns in his role as strong safety, and Harrison Smith moves back to his natural position of free safety after playing linebacker last season. The Irish also boast a quick linebacking corps that should be able to cover Tava out of the backfield. Freshman Manti Te'o, junior

Brian Smith and sophomore Darius Fleming can provide help against the pass.

The only situation where Notre Dame might struggle is if Nevada is so successful running the ball that it opens up opportunities for Kaepernick downfield.

NEVADA PASSING

EDGE: NOTRE DAME

Even though the pistol offense causes some uncertainties for opposing defense, the Irish can be assured that the Wolfpack will run the ball and commit to the ground game. Colin Kaepernick ran for more than 1,100 yards and 17 touchdowns last season, and running back Vai Tava notched 1,500 yards and 15 scores. Oh, and the Wolfpack also have

sixth-year senior Luke Lippincott in their backfield. Lippincott sat out last year because of injury, but led the WAC in rushing in 2007 with more than 1,400 yards and 15 touchdowns. Any time a team can boast three 1,000-yard rushers — no matter what kind of offense they run — that's pretty good.

The Wolfpack stable will be going

up against an inexperienced front line that includes only two players with more than a year of playing time.

The Irish youth will have to play beyond their years if they hope to contain the Wolfpack, a tall order for any defense.

NEVADA RUSHING

EDGE: NEVADA

Like the Irish, Nevada's kick returner is a young player who's just too talented to keep off the field. Redshirt freshman Mike Ball may not be able to beat out Vai Tava or Luke Lippincott, but could make an impact returning kicks. Tava, the punt returner,

provides experience on that unit.

Notre Dame, however, fielded the best kick coverage in the country last season, and Mike Anello is back 100 percent from last year's broken leg.

EDGE: EVEN

Jon Tenuta is calling the plays on defense now, and he combines with Corwin Brown to form one of best defensive coaching tandems in the country. Neither of them, though, can be credited with inventing a new defense formation.

Nevada head coach Chris Ault is a legend, having coached the

Wolfpack for 24 seasons and is considered the grandfather of the pistol offense. Ault won't rest on his laurels, though, and adds new wrinkles every season to continually frustrate defenses.

EDGE: NEVADA

NEVADA OFFENSIVE COACHING



Matt Gamber

Sports Editor

The Irish can't afford to sleepwalk through their opener like they seemed to do a year ago. Though the Nevada program may not have the prestige of traditional Notre Dame opponents like Michigan and USC, the Wolfpack are actually one of the tougher teams on this year's schedule. Kaepernick will give the Irish defense fits as a dual-threat quarterback, but Notre Dame's defense should settle down and its strong secondary should neutralize the Wolfpack passing game. Clausen, Floyd and Tate could put up video game numbers on Nevada's weak secondary as the Wolfpack never just enough to keep the Irish attacking into the fourth quarter.



Sam Werner

Associate Sports Editor

At the very least, this one should be fun to watch. Both teams feature offensive attacks that can put points on the board in bunches and the new scoreboards in Notre Dame Stadium will be put to the test right away. Kaepernick will give the Irish defense trouble, and put up his typical gaudy stats. Vai Tava and Luke Lippincott will get in on the party as well, and Notre Dame's run defense never won't be pretty. But, for my money, give me Jimmy Clausen, Michael Floyd and Golden Tate against the 119th-ranked pass defense any day. The Irish won't run the ball like some fans will want, but, as in the Hawaii Bowl, it will be only because they don't have to.

Celebrity Pick



Each week The Observer asks a well-known celebrity to sound off on ND's chances.



Jeff Jackson

Irish hockey coach

It'll be exciting to watch Jimmy Clausen come of age leading a balanced, ball-control offense reminiscent of the glory days. And from everything I've heard, the Irish defense is going to be one of its strengths.

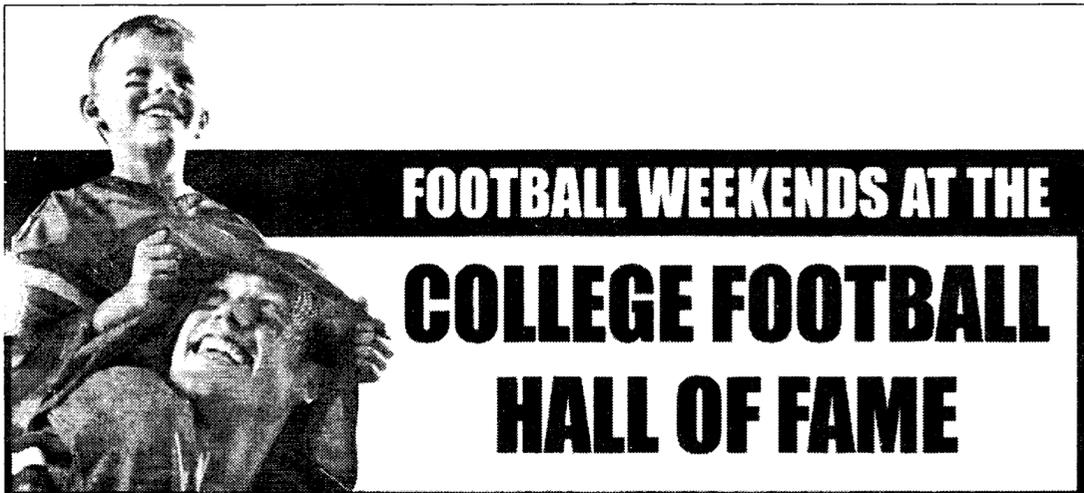
FINAL: Notre Dame 31, Nevada 14

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 38, Nevada 21

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 35, Nevada 24

analysis, check out the Irish Insider podcast m/podcasts





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TREVOR ROBINSON
R6 6'5" 305 LB.
HOMETOWN: ELKHORN, N.E.

What song is most played on your iPod right now? Grace is Gone by Dave Matthews.

What's your favorite TV show? The Real World on MTV. Joey was my favorite character before he left.

What's the toughest class you ever took at Notre Dame? Accounting I. It's like another language to me.

What's your favorite location on campus that has nothing to do with football? North Dining Hall. I love the make-your-own pizza and a glass of chocolate milk.

If you could have one superpower, what would it be? I'd like to be invisible.



IRISH GREEN

Located on the south lawn of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, the **Irish Green** will be open to the public every home football weekend. The Irish Green will be filled with family entertainment—live bands and visits from campus entertainers, including the ND Glee Club, Poms, and Cheerleaders.

Friday, Sept. 4

- Noon** Varsity Shop on the Irish Green opens
- 3:00 p.m.** Irish Green opens with live DJ music
- 3:30 p.m.** Visit from the ND Poms
- 4:00 p.m.** Live performance by Oblates of Blues
- 6:30 p.m.** Pep Rally at Dillon Hall
- 6:30 p.m.** Irish Green closes

Also:

ND Stadium Tunnel open to the public, Friday: 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Campus Tours from Eck Visitors' Center, Friday: 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 5

- 8:00 a.m.** Varsity Shop on the Irish Green opens
- 10:00 a.m.** Irish Green opens
- 10:00 a.m.** Live DJ music and a visit from the ND Poms
- 11:00 a.m.** Live performance by Mack Pherson & the Struts
- 12:15 p.m.** Visit from the ND Cheerleaders
- 1:00 p.m.** ND personalities hosted by Chuck Lennon; guests include Mark Hubbard and Heisman winner Johnny Lattner and a group of players from '53 team
- 1:30 p.m.** ND Glee Club
- 2:00 p.m.** Live DJ music
- 3:00 p.m.** Irish Green closes
- 3:30 p.m.** Kick-Off: ND vs. Nevada

GAME DAY

gameday.nd.edu

Olsen confident about move to center

By SAM WERNER
Associate Sports Editor

Heading into the 2009 season, college football analyst Phil Steele tabbed Eric Olsen as the 25th best offensive guard in the country. Too bad Olsen will be lining up at center for the Irish.

No, this wasn't an oversight on Steele's part. After three years and 19 career starts at left guard, Olsen will move one spot to the right this season.

New offensive line coach Frank Verducci said he first contemplated the switch during winter conditioning, as he was just becoming acquainted with the Irish players. Verducci said that his previous experience in the NFL helped him see Olsen as a potential center.

"Right before I came here, we were in the process of evaluating guys for the draft, and when you come in you kind of look at these seniors like where they would fit in that picture," Verducci said. "[Olsen] doesn't have prototypical guard size at the next level, but he does have excellent center size."

Olsen said that, initially, he was a bit hesitant to make the switch.

"On a personal level, going into senior year, after starting the whole season at left guard, it was a little nervousness that came with that," he said. "Starting a new position, trying a new thing on having the responsibility of snapping the ball."

He added, though, that he believed in Verducci's long coaching history.

"To be honest, I really didn't have much of a choice but to put all my trust and faith in Coach Verducci, know that he's going to do the right thing to put us in the best position to win," Olsen said.

Olsen will be replacing senior Dan Wenger, who just a few weeks ago was placed on the Rimington Award Watch List for the nation's top center. Wenger is now listed as a back-up behind senior Chris Stewart, and Weis indicated that he would play in Saturday's opener against Nevada.

Olsen, for his part, has seized the job at center and never looked back.

"Like anybody else, he had a learning curve at the position," Verducci said. "There are just nuances, but he's done a good

job overcoming that and we're confident in him going into the game."

Verducci said that Olsen was quick to pick up the techniques of playing in the middle, but that the mental part of the position took a little more time.

"He has all the physical qualities," Verducci said. "I think the hardest thing is the mental part of the game. At the

other four positions, you're basically being told if there are any adjustments. If you're the center, you're telling what those adjustments are."

It is often the center's responsibility to point out aspects of the defense, such as who the middle linebacker is or where any potential blitzes may be coming from. Oh, and then he has to block the 300-pound behemoth bearing down on him.

"You have to understand the whole thing," Verducci said. "You have to understand coverages, never mind defensive linemen. You have to get a broader perspective on the game."

Olsen said that even though he was a little nervous at first, the move to center could pay big dividends for him or his team down the road.

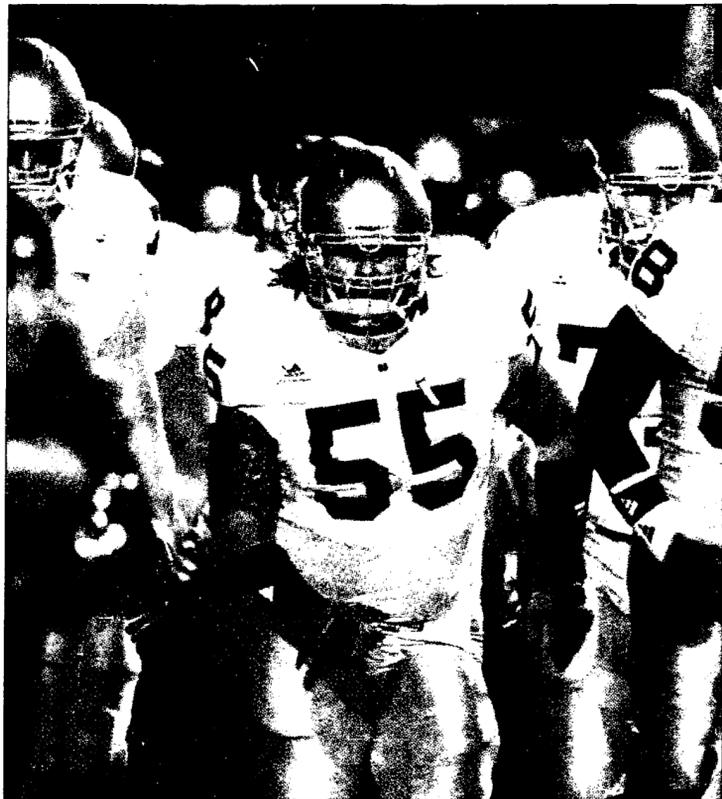
"As far as helping the team, yeah, it's

going to help the team," he said. "But it's also going to help myself be a more versatile player. Injuries happen all the time in football. And to play more than one position is something that's very valuable on the offensive line."

Verducci and Olsen are also thinking a few years down the road with the position change. Since Olsen is a senior, the NFL

"There are just nuances, but he's done a good job overcoming that and we're confident in him going into the season."

Frank Verducci
Irish offensive line coach



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Irish center Eric Olsen, 55, takes the field against Boston College last season. Olsen started all 13 games at left guard in 2008.

could potentially await at the end of the season.

"I hope so, knock on wood," Olsen said when asked about a possible professional future. "Right now I'm trying to look at this season. This is my senior year. I've enjoyed my career so far and I'm really trying to have the best year I can right now."

Verducci, though, had other things on his mind.

"Let's just worry about getting past Nevada first," he said with a laugh when asked about Olsen's NFL prospects. "Let's just get past the first snap of the first game."

Contact Sam Werner at swerner@nd.edu

Kaepernick perfect fit for Ault's unique pistol offense



Wolfpack quarterback Colin Kaepernick, left, fakes a handoff during a game against Utah State on Oct. 18, 2008.

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Associate Sports Editor

Nevada quarterback Colin Kaepernick is to the pistol what Tim Tebow is to Urban Meyer's spread offense: the perfect dual-threat leader. The 2008 WAC Offensive Player of the Year will be featured Saturday in Wolfpack coach Chris Ault's innovative formation, and will be the biggest threat to an Irish victory in the season opener.

Kaepernick, a junior, has thrived as a freshman and sophomore in the innovative offense that utilizes his speed and size. With immense talent throwing and running the ball, Kaepernick amassed 39 touchdowns last season, and more than 2,500 yards passing and 1,000 yards rushing.

"There's only been five quarterbacks in Division I history that have thrown for 2,000 yards and rushed for a 1,000 yards in one season," Irish coach Charlie Weis said. "That's in the history of college football. And he's one of them."

The pistol offense is a variation of the shotgun Ault created in the late 70s in his third year with the Wolfpack. The basic formation has the quarterback in a shotgun position, three yards behind the center, with the running back lined up directly behind him.

"It's a little bit different because it's not like anything we've ever seen before," Irish senior safety Kyle McCarthy said. "But there's obviously some option mixed in. So you have a little bit of Michigan and Navy in there. But they're more than capable of passing the ball

with success. So we've got to be ready for anything."

Out of the formation Kaepernick can run play action passes, zone running plays with an option to tuck the ball and run, or straight handoffs to one of his talented backs, Vai Tavares and Luke Lippincott.

Tavares rushed for 1,521 yards in 2008 as a redshirt junior, averaging 137.2 total yards per game. The starting job only became Tavares', however, after Lippincott suffered a knee injury in the Wolfpack's second game of the year.

Another possible advantage of the pistol is the ability of the quarterback, especially one as big as Kaepernick, to obscure the defense's view of the running back behind him, allowing for effective misdirection runs or play fakes.

In 2007, a healthy Lippincott led the WAC in rushing with 1,420 yards and 18 touchdowns. After being granted a sixth year of eligibility, he should pair with Tavares to give Kaepernick multiple power running threats.

"The unique part in Nevada's offense is the fact that they don't lose their downhill plays, their straight downhill plays," Weis said. "Although the quarterback is in the shotgun, the back's still behind the quarterback. So it still gives you the element of being able to run all your normal I-formation type plays without having to have an

offset back."

With both Lippincott and Tavares healthy, it seems likely that Ault will incorporate formations using one back behind Kaepernick and one offset to his side. The pistol variations Ault may use Saturday will necessitate a disciplined and focused effort from the Irish defense.

"We're ready for any adjustment. And our guys have prepared, we've been practicing against the conventional offense all c a m p," McCarthy said.

"So whatever Nevada comes out and lines up in, after — we'll be ready for it. And if we're not, after the first series or whatnot,

we've got the coaching staff to get it adjusted on the sideline."

While Kaepernick's mastery of the pistol running attack (averaging seven yards per carry in 2008) has grown his reputation as a runner, he has also showed off his passing ability at times. In the Wolfpack's close loss to Maryland in the Humanitarian Bowl he threw for 370 yards while his running game was limited by a foot injury, and was named the bowl's most valuable player in the Nevada loss.

While Notre Dame may not be able to stop both the running and passing attack of Kaepernick Saturday, containing him to only doing one may be the key to victory.

Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu



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