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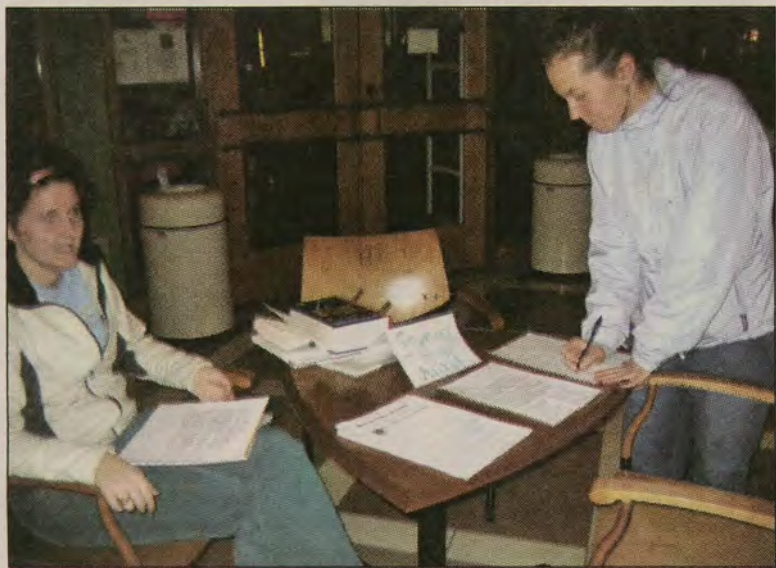
The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

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NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

Students protest commencement speaker



Saint Mary's senior Meaghan Herbst collects a signature from senior Hannah Starner in the Student Center Thursday night.

Saint Mary's College Democrats create petition against conservative justice Alito

By KELLY MEEHAN
Saint Mary's Editor

When Saint Mary's senior Meaghan Herbst sat down to have lunch Monday, she nearly choked when she saw the "Alito to address SMC grads" headline in *The Observer*.

Her initial shock soon turned to anger as she shared her discontent with fellow students. Herbst, the president of College Democrats, quickly e-mailed the group's members and soon found support from others ready to stand up against the administration's

commencement speaker selection of Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito — a jurist who Herbst said has made many court rulings against women's rights in the areas of family and medical leave, violence and sexual harassment.

"I was emotionally shocked and angered," she said. "I couldn't believe we would have someone so polarizing and misrepresenting of our mission at Saint Mary's as our commencement speaker."

Herbst, along with senior

see SMC/page 4

Soulforce kicks off tour at ND

By BECKY HOGAN
News Writer

The Soulforce Equality Ride is making its way across the U.S. to spread awareness about religious intolerance of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people — and its first stop among 32 Christian colleges and universities was Notre Dame.

A bus arrived on campus Thursday with representatives from Soulforce Equality, a non-profit organization that promotes "freedom for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people from religious and political oppression through the practice of relentless non-violent resistance," according to the group's Web site.

Last year, the organization began the Soulforce Equality Ride, a 50-day bus trip that visits schools across the nation.

This year the tour will make stops at 32 Christian colleges, but Notre Dame is the first and only Catholic institution on the Equality Ride's schedule.

Two buses with 25 riders and two co-directors will cover the country's territory. The first bus will tackle the West, while the second one will travel along the eastern regions of the United States.

The West bus arrived at Notre Dame Thursday and will remain on campus today.

The riders organized a press

see EQUALITY/page 6

Ticket office avoids promoting tournament

University: Class conflicts, lack of interest reasons to not publicize Big East tickets

By JOHN TIERNEY
News Writer

The World's Most Famous Arena didn't get any extra publicity from Notre Dame.

With the Big East men's basketball tournament underway at Madison Square Garden in New York and a significant number of students leaving campus early for spring break, it would be reasonable to expect a large Leprechaun Legion contingent to attend the games.

But few students will attend Notre Dame's games

this weekend, at least partially because neither the ticket office nor the athletic department promoted the availability of tickets for students.

While the lack of publicity contrasts greatly with the high-profile nature of the December lottery system for Sugar Bowl tickets, the University made a conscious decision not to promote tickets.

"As a general rule, the University does not promote off-campus athletic events that occur on class days," Notre Dame Ticket Office Director Josh Berlo said.

Berlo also cited the lack of student interest in Big East tournament tickets over the past few years as a reason for not promoting the event. He said the ticket office has received fewer than 10 ticket requests in the past two years, when the tournament has conflicted with class days. All of those requests, Berlo said, have been accommodated.

While Berlo said student interest has never been high, senior and Leprechaun Legion president Johnny McDermott said he's gone to the tournament in recent years.

"In the past, when the Big East tourney and spring break coincided, I have gone to Notre Dame's games in the earlier rounds, including freshman and sophomore year," he said.

But McDermott did not attend the tournament's quarterfinal and will not make the semifinal because of "midterms and other assignments I have due Wednesday and Thursday," he said. He said he will only go to Madison Square Garden if the Irish make it to the championship game

see TICKETS/page 6

Campus clears as spring break approaches

Students head to beaches, fly overseas to relax for week

By EVA BINDA
News Writer

After a week of midterms and deadlines, students on spring break will leave campus to tan in sunnier locations, visit their homes or simply relax on campus to catch up on lost hours of sleep.

For students who choose to go to the beach, popular destinations in previous years have included Mexico and the Bahamas. Junior John Cavanaugh plans to fly south of the border to Mexico with his family and girlfriend, a fellow Notre Dame student.

"I'm looking forward to relaxing — nothing too big or crazy," Cavanaugh said.

While students like Cavanaugh are in search of repose at the beach, other students will seek adventures in foreign coun-

see RELAX/page 4



Students board a Coach bus en route to O'Hare International Airport at the Bookstore Thursday afternoon.

ANDREW STEVES/The Observer

Service projects in Appalachia, Louisiana attract hundreds

By MEGHAN WONS
News Writer

While some Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students will spend spring break cruising the Caribbean or catching up on sleep, others will use their vacation to plunge into service seminars — one-credit experiential and service-learning opportunities led by the Center for Social Concerns (CSC) and focused on national and international immersion experiences.

CSC seminar assistant Rise Nelson Burrow said 283 students will participate in seminars this spring break in locations across the country.

Appalachia is a popular destination for students every year, and courses introducing students to cultural and social issues in the region are headed by a team of student vol-

see SERVICE/page 4

INSIDE COLUMN

Spring
toil

If you're reading this column it means you're on campus for the Friday before spring break. For this, you deserve much congratulations, for you are fulfilling one of the primary purposes of your time here at Notre Dame, being a student. I personally am not on campus today because I am fulfilling one of the primary purposes of senior year: finding a job.

Tim Sullivan

Photographer

Many of you still on campus may have stuck around to finish up an exam or paper or to wait for a ride to your spring break destination. Yet some of you are lingering on campus to do something revolutionary, something radical, whether you realize it or not.

You're willingly throwing in your lot for the week of your spring break with a group of mostly, if not all, strangers to go on a road trip to a place that you don't know much about except that its not too warm or sunny.

You don't have any tangible connection the people that you're going to be meeting and working with all week and can only presume good will.

You're ignoring the idea in popular culture that spring break is the time to worry about good ole number one and satisfying your pent up, snowed in, Office Space desires of sitting on the beach doing a whole lot of nothing.

That's right, you're going to Appalachia with the CSC. While in Appalachia, be aware of and open to the different culture of the place where you are working. You should notice a striking contrast between the pace of life at Notre Dame and at your service site.

Don't resist this strange notion of "taking it easy," but instead embrace it and the chance to stop and smell the roses. When given the chance, throw yourself into that opportunity to learn a new dance step.

Don't go in with the attitude that you are there to help out others in need- remember that you're on a service-learning trip. Even though the people of Appalachia are economically impoverished, they have much wisdom to offer us about how to live.

I don't have much room to preach because I'll be putting my feet up in Cancun this week, but you passed on that chance to spend your time in Appalachia.

Hopefully by week's end you will realize that in relinquishing the typical spring break, you have opened yourself up to a much more meaningful experience.

Tim Sullivan is a senior mathematics major, but he has forgotten how to prove Fermat's Little Theorem. He will be spending the next week sitting on the beach reading Joe Posnanski's brand new book "The Soul of Baseball: A Road Trip Through Buck O'Neil's America," soaking in the warm weather, and waiting for baseball season to start.

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

Contact Tim Sullivan at tsulliv4@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 ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO FOR SPRING BREAK AND WHY?



Alejandro Pellas

freshman
Alumni

"Hmmm..."



Kaitlin Devine

junior
Walsh

"A 10-hour road trip with Elizabeth Adams."



Elizabeth Adams

junior
Walsh

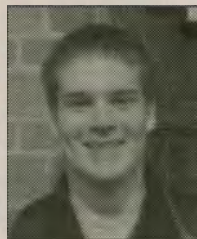
"Kaitlin singing on our road trip."



Colleen Beeler

junior
Walsh

"Flying and not driving to my destination."



Ryan Crane

sophomore
Alumni

"Not snowblowing my driveway like I did last spring break."



Kristy Schlueter

junior
McGlinn

"Going home so I can hang out with my sisters."



ANDREW STEVES/The Observer

Nancy Eversole Flanagan plays traditional Appalachian folk music Tuesday for students traveling to Appalachia next week as part of the Center for Social Concerns' service seminars.

IN BRIEF

The film "Pan's Labyrinth" will be shown tonight at 7 and 10 in the Browning Cinema in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

The Basilica of the Sacred Heart will be having Stations of the Cross at 7:15 p.m. This will take place every Friday during the Season of Lent.

The second round CCHA Hockey Playoffs will be held in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse tonight at 7:35 p.m. Notre Dame will Alaska. Tickets are available from the athletic department ticket office.

The men's and women's fencing NCAA Midwest regionals will be held in the Joyce Center at 8 a.m. Saturday. Admission is free.

The Notre Dame hockey team will play Alaska in the CCHA playoffs Saturday at 7:05 p.m. in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse. Tickets are available from the athletic department ticket office.

The Basilica of the Sacred Heart will be having a Solemn Mass at 10 a.m. featuring the music of the Liturgical Choir.

The Notre Dame hockey team will play Alaska in the CCHA playoffs Sunday at 7:05 p.m. in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse. Tickets are available from the athletic department ticket office.

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

OFFBEAT

Teacher allegedly whacks child with bow

BOULDER, Colo. — A substitute music teacher has been arrested after allegedly whacking a 10-year-old student on the head with a viola bow after telling the class they were "the worst players I've ever heard."

Newspaper and television reports said the trouble began when Carla Shinnars, 63, a teacher for more than 30 years in the district, was interrupted by a call on her own cell phone. She allegedly began swearing Feb. 12 at the Creekside Elementary School, where she had earned the nickname "Mrs.

Grumpy Lady."

Principal Karen Daly said parents and students complained.

The 10-year-old said Shinnars also pulled her hair.

Lassie saves family from fire, dies

ANDERSON, Ind. — A collie named Lassie roused her owners and enabled them to escape their burning home but died in the fire, relatives said. "The dog saved their life," said Judi Thompson after her parents' home burned Wednesday morning. "Even the firemen said that. Isn't that amazing? It gives me goose bumps."

Thompson said her parents, Robert and Elsie Whitson, were asleep in their bedroom at the rear of their home in the city about 30 miles northeast of Indianapolis when the fire broke out. The dog, which slept at the foot of the couple's bed, licked and nibbled at their hands until 81-year-old Robert awoke and the couple went outside, she said.

Anderson Fire Department Battalion Chief Larry Towne said firefighters found the dog's remains underneath some collapsed roofing.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

LOCAL WEATHER	TODAY		TONIGHT		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW
	52	36		42		41		45		43		50
				30		27		30		33		41

Atlanta 69 / 42 Boston 27 / 19 Chicago 38 / 14 Denver 63 / 36 Houston 72 / 50 Los Angeles 77 / 56 Minneapolis 31 / 11 New York 31 / 19 Philadelphia 35 / 17 Phoenix 80 / 53 Seattle 50 / 41 St. Louis 59 / 31 Tampa 72 / 57 Washington 41 / 22

Saint Mary's students to participate in Out of Darkness

Two women to raise money, walk 20 miles overnight for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

By KATIE KOHLER
Assistant News Editor

Every 16 minutes in the U.S., someone commits suicide. This overwhelming statistic was just the motivation two Saint Mary's students needed to take action.

On June 9-10, sophomores Dana Gatzolis and Pamela Lazaroff will travel to New York City to participate in the Out of Darkness Walk, a 20-mile overnight walk to collect funds for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and to create awareness and sympathy for people affected by suicide and depression.

Though each participant is required to raise a minimum of \$1,000 in donations, Gatzolis has extended her goal to \$10,000 in her second year participating in the walk. She has raised \$2,710 so far. Lazaroff has raised \$535 to date.

While suicide is not often discussed on the Saint Mary's and Notre Dame campuses as much as other colleges, Gatzolis and Lazaroff said they hope to spread awareness through their personal stories.

Two years ago, Gatzolis was diagnosed with severe depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder.

During her freshman year at Saint Mary's, her depression relapsed and she was forced to take a semester of medical leave after a suicide attempt.

"All of a sudden, this illness crept its way into my body and became an active part of my identity," she said. "During my freshman year, I changed from the peppy, bubbly, outgoing, fun girl I once was into someone who felt unworthy of happiness."

After returning to Saint Mary's to complete her sophomore year, Gatzolis hopes to help other students who may be going through the same experience.

"I have turned this experience into something positive," she said. "My vocation has never been more clear. Being personally intimate with depression has given me a deep compassion and understanding for those who are suffering from the same thing."

Lazaroff has battled depression as well. She was hospitalized her senior year of high school for anorexia

and depression.

"I have finally come to the realization of how serious this illness is," she said. "Over just a year and a half, I have discovered how common depression and suicidal feelings are. It was very disheartening to come to terms with this."

While Lazaroff said she recognizes how deeply personal these illnesses are, she hopes by participating in the walk in June, she will be able to inspire others suffering from depression.

"I think that many people, in this condensed environment of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's, may have experienced depression," she said. "In the attempt of helping other victims and their families, I have truly helped myself."

She said the purpose of the walk is to educate students to eliminate the "stigma" surrounding depression.

"I heard about the walk a couple of years ago and knew it was something I needed to be a part of," Gatzolis said.

This will be Gatzolis' sec-

"All of a sudden this illness crept its way into my body and became an active part of my identity."

Dana Gatzolis
sophomore

ond year participating in the walk. Last year, she walked with her mother, a friend who lost a brother to suicide and a friend whose father succumbed to the same condition.

"This walk is an extremely intense event, but it is filled with so much compassion," she said. "Everyone is there to support each other."

The walk takes place from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. Throughout the night, participants are encouraged to share their stories and the stories of members in their communities, Gatzolis said.

While both students already began fundraising drives at home, they are not limiting their efforts to those demographics. At Saint Mary's, Lazaroff has sent out letters to family and friends and sold T-shirts to spread the word.

"My goal is \$1,000 as a first-time walker," she said.

Gatzolis is using her experience from last year to gauge her fundraising tactics.

"After finals are over, I am planning to organize a garage sale, carwash, speaking at churches in my area and contacting local businesses," she said.

Over the past few months, she has also sent letters to close friends and family.

"Any help and any donation is greatly appreciated and will make a difference," she said.

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) is the only national non-profit organization funding research and educational programs on suicide prevention and assistance to families that have fallen victim to this tragedy.

The suicide rate increased last year from one victim every 18 minutes to one victim every 16 minutes.

Gatzolis and Lazaroff plan to continue their fundraising efforts until June to bring in as much revenue to the AFSP as possible.

"I just think that based on mine and Dana's personal experiences, that it is integral to our Notre Dame/Saint Mary's community to recognize how common this is," Lazaroff said.

Gatzolis echoed Lazaroff's call to action, praising her friend's commitment to the cause.

"Both Pamela and I feel passionate about this cause, and I am so happy she will be participating with me this year," she said. "It will be great to have each other's support."

Contact Katie Kohler at
kkohle01@saintmarys.edu

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Service

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unteers — The Appalachian Task Force — throughout the semester.

Nelson Burrow said members of the Task Force are students who have participated in at least one seminar and developed an interest in promoting education about, and action within, the Appalachian region.

Students traveling to various sites in Appalachia next week will have a diverse array of experiences, Nelson Burrow said. They may live on farms and work on home repairs, visit strip mining sites, work in schools or thrift stores, attend local religious services, learn to two-step to blue grass music, visit centers for the elderly or disabled communities and work on outdoor beautification projects.

Senior Katie Rose Hoover will participate in her fifth

Appalachia seminar next week in McDowell County, West Virginia.

"My interest in the region has, because of the seminar, developed into quite a deep and personal academic interest, especially in rural economic and community development," Hoover said. "I went on my first trip because I had nothing better to do for fall break. Now, five Appalachia seminars later, I will hopefully be moving to West Virginia next year to volunteer and learn more about the issues that are really important to people living there."

She said she never knew how much the Appalachia seminar would change her perspective about the U.S., her faith and her vocation.

"I am really excited to get back to the beautiful mountains, have the chance to reconnect with some old friends from the county, have a lot of fun with other Notre Dame kids, and continue to learn more

about the region," Hoover said, preparing for her final seminar.

Other student volunteers will spend week-long breaks in urban environments. That group of students includes the participants in the Children and Poverty Seminar, which is being led by two graduate students this year, Nelson Burrow said.

The program's goal is to educate participants in issues that affect many American children, including AIDS and healthcare, the juvenile justice system and education. Student participants left for New York City Thursday and will spend the week visiting "both children and poverty program administrators to experience first-hand the realities of growing up in poverty," the CSC Web site said.

Besides Appalachia, other CSC service options include the Environmental Justice and Human Rights in the Aftermath of Katrina seminar, which will expose students to the environmental issues minority communities in Louisiana face in the

aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Angela Miller McGraw, director of seminars and educational immersions at the CSC, said the Center is committed to addressing the needs and supporting the communities in New Orleans that were affected by Katrina.

Elsewhere, participants in the Holy Cross Mission in Hispanic Ministry Seminar will head to the West Coast to join Coachella, a rural southern California valley community.

The weeklong pilgrimage will expose students to the culture, spirituality, and economic hardships of the community.

Similarly, the Migrant Seminar will take students to Immokalee, Fla., to experience life as migrant farm workers for one week.

Students who preferred to stay away from the field hand lifestyle were also able to serve through the L'Arche Seminar in Toronto and Washington, D.C.

Throughout the week, student

participants in this seminar will visit L'Arche communities, places where people with disabilities and people without them "live and work together in the spirit of the beatitudes," Nelson Burrow said.

Other students will travel to the country's capital to study the role of energy in society and the impact of the nation's current energy use on the environment.

Coordinated by junior Felipe Witchger and senior Ashley Braun, participants in this D.C. seminar will have the opportunity to interact with senators, a regulatory agency and advocacy groups, Miller McGraw said.

Although the CSC relies on the expertise of various individuals who help lay the groundwork for the various seminars offered every year, Miller McGraw said students play an integral role in developing and leading them.

Contact Meghan Wons at mwons@nd.edu

Relax

continued from page 1

tries, including freshman James Petrocelli. He will be spending the weeklong vacation in the Bahamas and Cuba with a friend from his residence hall.

"I'm very excited, but I'm also a little nervous because it's a different place," Petrocelli said. "I'm looking forward to experiencing the Havana nightlife."

Freshman Conor Troy will experience an unfamiliar nightlife when he visits his older brother, Sean, a junior studying abroad in London.

"We're also going to Dublin for St. Patrick's Day," Troy said. "It should be pretty awesome. Hopefully I make it back."

The University is aware of the

risks students may face if they travel abroad, especially to countries where people are allowed to drink alcohol before they are 21 years old — a privilege some worry spring breakers may abuse.

Notre Dame Security/Police sent an e-mail to students on Monday with spring break safety tips and links to Web sites for more travel advice. The list of tips encouraged students to stay alert at all times if they are in unknown regions and use the buddy system. The e-mail also advised students to limit their alcohol consumption.

Further alcohol-related advice has been dispersed this week in a series of campus events, a part of Alcohol

Awareness Week.

The event's organizers — which include student government, the Office of Drug and Alcohol Education, Peers Inspiring Listening, Learning And Responsible Socializing (PILLARS) and the Coca-Cola Company — arranged a blood-alcohol content (BAC) card giveaway, an information fair at LaFortune Student Center and a Safe Spring Break T-shirt giveaway, among other activities, in an effort to promote drinking in moderation.

Not all students, however, will be partying in remote locations with lenient drinking laws.

For students who choose not to cross the country's boundaries during spring break, going home is a popular alternative.

Courtney Klosterman, a freshman from Arizona, is "looking forward to warmth, sunlight and sleep."

Sophomore A.J. Sporinsky will also visit his family. As a resident of Granger, Ind., however, he will stay close to campus and plans to work at a campus laboratory throughout the week.

"I'm doing nano research on campus so I'll be going between here and home," Sporinsky said. "But I also plan on going out with friends."

After all, students are looking forward to getting away from the pressures of classes and focusing on relaxation.

Contact Eva Binda at jbinda@nd.edu

SMC

continued from page 1

Allison Beyer and junior Giuliana Rosato, spearheaded a mission to address their concerns with the College administration — an undertaking that gained attention Thursday in the student center atrium.

Armed with a formal letter addressed to College President Carol Ann Mooney, the three students took turns sitting at a small table in the student center to collect the signatures of those who shared their resentment of the administration's selection.

Beyer said the goal of the letter is to get the College community talking about Alito, particularly how "a big name" does not automatically guarantee a speaker will correlate to the Saint Mary's identity.

The three students said they realize Alito has already confirmed his speaking engagement at the College, and said their protest is not against the judge but rather toward the administration.

Community members were able to sign the letter from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday — an opportunity for those who are concerned with the selection to voice their opinion. Beyer said the letter will eventually be delivered to Mooney, who was unable to meet with the students before spring break.

Executive Assistant to the President Susan Dampier said "several students have asked to meet with President Mooney, and they are going to schedule an appointment with her."

Rosato said this meeting would be an opportunity for students to explain why they are upset and to learn why Alito was selected to address 2007 graduates.

"It will give Mooney the chance to hear directly from the students," she said. "We hope to

explain how many decisions Alito made [that] are not in line with Saint Mary's mission statement."

Herbst said she hopes the administration will take students more into consideration in the future to choose someone more representative of the entire student body and someone less polarizing than Alito.

"Having Alito come here sends out a message to the country," she said. "It will allow people to associate him with us, and we need to make sure we are not sending the wrong message."

Rosato said many community members have compared Alito to Notre Dame's commencement speaker General Electric Chief Executive Officer Jeffery Immelt and deemed Alito a better speaker, without consideration of the deeper issues.

While Rosato, Beyer and Herbst collected signatures in the student center today, they also distributed a packet of information from the National Organization for Women's Web site entitled "Samuel Alito's Track Record Threatens Women's Rights."

Rosato said it was important that passers-by at least take a packet to review the information.

"It is important to tell students that [Alito] is more than a big name," she said.

Dampier said while Mooney is aware of the students who are not pleased with the selection, she will not release a statement about the issue.

"I believe that everyone has a right to their opinions," Dampier said. "I would hope that those who are disappointed with the selection of Alito will realize that there are many people who are thrilled with the selection."

As students and administrators begin to accept each other's opinions on the selection of Alito, Dampier said she hopes "that while some may feel the need to protest, no one

will be disrespectful and everyone will act with courtesy and civility."

Associate Professor of Philosophy Patty Sayre said she believes the clash between campus views presents a great opportunity for dialogue.

"I believe that [Alito's] track record is such that when compared to the sorts of values we hold at Saint Mary's, it raises serious questions," she said.

Although Sayre said she does not take a particular stance on the choice of Alito as the speaker, she said after sustained campus-wide dialogues she might be able to make a decision.

Herbst said she hopes to spark the campus debate through the letter-signing initiative and a chain e-mail that is circulating throughout the student body.

A copy of the "To Concerned Students" e-mail sent to The Observer states Alito is a "polarizing figure" who contradicts the College's mission statement through his rulings "against women's issues such as sexual harassment, violence against women and family/medical leave."

Rosato said this discussion will continue after spring break, but she was uncertain if it will culminate with any form of demonstration during the commencement or senior week festivities.

"Some people mentioned a protest," she said, "but that would take away the importance of the day. The focus should be on the graduates."

Herbst, however, said she believes the administration's decision was focused not on the 2007 graduates but rather on the College's publicity.

"The problem we have is not with Alito himself," she said. "The problem we have is with the backing of the administration's decision."

Contact Kelly Meehan at kmecha01@saintmarys.edu

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WORLD & NATION

Friday, March 9, 2007

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Bush visit incites protest in Brazil

SAO PAULO, Brazil — Police clashed Thursday with students, environmentalists and left-leaning Brazilians protesting a visit by President Bush and his push for an ethanol energy alliance with Latin America's largest nation.

Riot police fired tear gas at protesters in Sao Paulo after more than 6,000 people held a largely peaceful march, sending hundreds of demonstrators fleeing and ducking into businesses to avoid the gas.

There were no immediate reports of injuries, but some protesters said they had been beaten by officers after marching two miles through the financial heart of South America's largest city just hours before Bush was scheduled to arrive.

Clashes between police and anti-Bush protesters were also reported in Colombia, where Bush is scheduled to visit on Sunday as part of his five-nation tour to Latin America.

Nazi war records to be released

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — Moving more quickly than expected, the 11-nation body overseeing a long-secret archive of Nazi war records set procedures in motion Thursday to open millions of files on concentration camps and their victims before the end of the year.

Member nations made the decision knowing that within a year 10 percent of all Holocaust survivors now living may be dead, one American archive director said.

The governing commission of the International Tracing Service, the storehouse of an estimated 30 million to 50 million pages documenting the Holocaust, concluded a two-day meeting with a set of recommendations for copying and transferring files to Holocaust institutions for use.

NATIONAL NEWS

Democrats vow troop withdrawal

WASHINGTON — House Democratic leaders vowed Thursday to pass legislation setting a deadline of Sept. 1, 2008, for the withdrawal of U.S. combat troops from Iraq, a challenge to President Bush's war policy that drew a blunt veto threat in return.

Little more than two months after Democrats took control of the House and Senate, Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California said the bill would set "dates certain for the first time in the Congress for the redeployment of our troops out of Iraq."

Officials said the deadline would be accelerated — possibly to the end of 2007 — if the government of Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki failed to meet commitments for taking over security operations, distributing oil revenue and opening his nation's constitution to amendments.

Dems create global warming panel

WASHINGTON — House Democrats, intent on making climate change a marquee issue, created a special panel Thursday to study and offer recommendations on how to deal with global warming.

The Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, advanced by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, was approved on a vote of 269-150. A majority of Republicans voted against it, arguing the committee was unnecessary or that its budget could better be used by the ethics committee.

LOCAL NEWS

Man claims mascot caused injuries

INDIANAPOLIS — A man is suing the Indiana Pacers and the performer who portrays its feline mascot, alleging that the 6-foot-tall performer tackled him during a free-throw shooting contest, leaving him with permanent injuries.

After taking part in the free-throw contest, the lawsuit states that Jackson began to leave the basketball court but was tackled from behind by the team's mascot, "Boomer," a 6-foot-tall blue cat with gold whiskers.

Jackson's lawsuit seeks compensation for his medical bills, lost income, pain, suffering and "permanent injuries" which are not detailed.

AUSTRIA

Iran continues nuclear defiance

International Atomic Energy Agency resolves to suspend aid projects

Associated Press

VIENNA — Iran on Thursday shrugged off the latest punitive U.N. action — suspension of nearly two dozen nuclear aid programs — and showed no signs it was cowed by the possibility of even tougher penalties in the form of new Security Council sanctions.

The decision by the 35 board nations of the International Atomic Energy Agency to deprive Tehran of 22 technical aid projects was symbolically important. Only North Korea and Saddam Hussein's Iraq had been subject to such action previously.

Still, none of the programs directly applied to the Islamic republic's developing uranium enrichment program — which Tehran refuses to mothball despite nearly three months of Security Council sanctions and the possibility that those punitive measures may be tightened.

Ali Ashgar Soltanieh, Iran's chief delegate to the IAEA, said as much after the board agreed by consensus to suspend the programs.

"None of these projects are related to enrichment," he said of the suspensions. "The enrichment program will continue as planned."

IAEA technical aid projects are meant to bolster the peaceful use of nuclear energy in medicine, agriculture, waste management, management training or power generation. The technical aid is provided to dozens of countries, most of them developing nations — but none suspected of possibly trying to develop nuclear weapons, like Iran.

Enrichment, by contrast, has both peaceful and military applications.

Iran says it wants to develop its enrichment



UN security officials lead away a Kurdish demonstrator at the International Center in Vienna following the International Atomic Energy Agency's meeting on Monday.

program only to generate nuclear power, and enrichment is not prohibited under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

But Tehran's secretive nuclear ways — it hid sensitive activities from the world for nearly two decades until revelations four years ago of a covert enrichment project — led the Security Council to impose sanctions Dec. 23 because of fears its nuclear activities were a cover for a weapons program.

Still, there is little evidence the sanctions are working, beyond generating some domestic criticism of hard-line Iranian President Mahmoud

Ahmadinejad, who last month compared Tehran's enrichment program to an unstoppable train without brakes. And the sanctions themselves are milder than what their chief proponent, Washington, would like.

Instead of choking off Iran economically and politically, they only commit all U.N. member countries to stop supplying Iran with materials and technology that could contribute to its nuclear and missile programs and to freeze assets of 10 key Iranian companies and 12 individuals related to those programs.

Russian and Chinese opposition to tougher

action blunted Washington's sanctions drive — and there was evidence of the same in attempts to keep Security Council unity on new sanctions meant to punish Iran for ignoring last month's deadline on suspending enrichment.

Council diplomats on Wednesday said the five permanent Council members were again struggling, with U.S., Britain and France pushing for tougher measures than Russia and China will accept. The impasse led to Security Council ambassadors sending the problem back to high level discussions among their capitals.

Feds halt flights carrying detainees

Associated Press

BOSTON — Gov. Deval Patrick urged federal authorities Thursday not to move any more factory workers detained in an immigration raid out of state until their children are found and arrangements are made for their care.

More than 300 people were detained for possible deportation in a raid Tuesday at a leather factory that makes equipment for the U.S. military. About 150 have been flown from the plant at the former Fort Devens military base to a detention center in Texas, the governor said.

"I urged the federal government to

stop all flights out of Fort Devens immediately until we can be assured that all parents have been identified and appropriate arrangements made for their children and dependents," Patrick said.

Federal authorities postponed a third flight that was to depart at noon Thursday after Patrick twice called Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff seeking better cooperation from Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials.

Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Julie Myers said ICE agents asked each of the those arrested if they were sole caregivers to children, and 60 people were released because

they were. An agency spokesman has said ICE notified social workers about the raids ahead of time, and that no children were stranded.

At least 361 people were detained in Tuesday's raid at Michael Bianco Inc. in New Bedford, 47 miles south of Boston. Owner Francesco Insolita, 50, and three top managers were arrested, and a fifth person was charged with helping workers obtain fake identification.

Authorities allege Insolita oversaw sweatshop conditions so he could meet the demands of \$91 million in military contracts to make products including safety vests and lightweight backpacks.

Equality

continued from page 1

conference at one of the Notre Dame Avenue entrances Thursday, said Kelsey Pacha, a lesbian junior at Northwestern University and one of the 25 riders on the western route. But she said Notre Dame Security/Police did not welcome the demonstration.

"We were a little disappointed," Pacha said.

She said NDSP officers gave different riders citations.

"It was a hurtful [message] that we were silenced," said Delfin Bautista, another Soulforce rider. "We were trying to simply engage students in dialogue."

Pacha said the Soulforce riders hope to bring Notre Dame's attention to two issues: the University's failure to recognize AllianceND — a gay and lesbian support group on campus — as an official student organization and its refusal to allow the group to meet on campus.

"If there are 200 students on campus that support AllianceND, then it should definitely be able to be funded by University, publicize its events and meet on campus," Pacha said.

Pacha also spoke about the name changes to the Queer Film Festival, which last year became "Gay and Lesbian

Film: Spectatorship and Narratives" and this year the "Classics" film series.

"It is unfortunate that the University put pressure on students to remove the word 'queer' from the [production's] title. ... This speaks about silencing issues on [Notre Dame's] campus," Pacha said.

While Soulforce Equality riders recognize the weight of the University's strong Catholic identity on the administration's decisions, Pacha said there is an increasing number of Catholic institutions willing to officially recognize lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) groups.

"Although we know that Notre Dame has to comply with what the Vatican says, we also know that comparable institutions — such as Georgetown and Boston College — have recognized student groups," Pacha said.

As part of Soulforce's campaign on campus, four openly gay Notre Dame students spoke about their experiences in the Notre Dame community Thursday at LaFortune Student Center.

"At Notre Dame things are a little bit different than the other schools which have policies that prevent openly gay students from enrolling — Notre Dame doesn't do that," Pacha said. "We're expecting that people will be willing to talk to us about this, especially

groups like AllianceND."

Pacha said she became involved in the tour and the organization after a Northwestern graduate she knows founded the Equality Ride. She also has a friend who participated in last year's kick-off tour. Their experiences inspired her to take a seat in the bus this spring.

"Some of the riders are in grad school, some are in the seminary, a few are social workers and most of us are college students," Pacha said.

She said approximately one half of the riders are Christian and five out of the 50 riders are "straight allies."

"Soulforce believes the best way to fight oppression built into structures of government and laws is to refuse to comply with those rules in a nonviolent way," Pacha said. "We have all been trained in civil disobedience and what that looks like."

At every campus the Equality Rides visits, two riders from the group are selected to head the organization and planning of presentations and arrange discussions with campus administrators, Pacha said. She and Bautista were put in charge of organizing Soulforce's visit to Notre Dame.

"Most of us who are in school are either taking a semester off or a quarter off," she said. "It is definitely a sacrifice, but it is a worthy cause."

The Soulforce team said although it met with some

resistance from the Notre Dame community, the University is still more accepting of their effort than some of the other colleges on the schedule.

"At other schools we are expecting a lot of resistance," Pacha said. "We have already gotten angry e-mails from people telling us that they don't want us to come to their campus and threats that we will be arrested if we do. The situation [at these schools] is a little more volatile."

She said she wasn't frustrated with the situation, but rather thought it was unfortunate that schools would take such an extreme view against the creation of dialogue.

The Soulforce riders will attempt to spark positive discussion again today.

"We will be giving a gift to the University in the form of wreathes in front of the Tom Dooley statue today," Pacha said.

Discussion arose nearly 30 years after Dooley's death that the renowned Notre Dame missionary was gay.

"The riders will offer a wreath to honor those who are courageous and have fought for change and tried to make a difference," Bautista said.

After today's events, the bus will head to Wisconsin for the tour's next stop to continue spreading the message of tolerance and acceptance among hetero- and homosexual stu-

dents.

Pacha said as a Christian, the narrow-minded attitudes toward LGBTQ students on certain religiously affiliated campuses influenced her decision when she had to pick a college.

Though she was admitted to Notre Dame, she chose to attend Northwestern, thinking she may have struggled to find support at the University.

"A lot of us are Christians and a lot of us are gay Christians," she said. "We should be able to enroll in these universities without feeling like we are being condemned."

The Christian disposition toward LGBTQ students should be one of inclusiveness, not intolerance, Bautista said.

"The purpose of our Notre Dame visit is to try to get the University to take a stance on making the word 'catholic' truly mean universal," he said.

Each rider has a Web site that includes a Pay-pal link where people can donate money to the Equality Ride. Each rider's goal is to raise \$3,500 to cover the cost of ride.

Approximately 16 other campuses — including Brigham Young University, Pepperdine University, Yellowstone Baptist College and Wisconsin Lutheran College — are ahead on the tour's schedule.

Contact Becky Hogan at rhogan2@nd.edu

Iditarod racer takes wrong turn

Associated Press

TAKOTNA, Alaska — A 61-year-old rookie Iditarod musher turned up on the wrong trail Thursday, hours after race officials started to search for the woman thought lost along a treacherous stretch.

Deborah Bicknell of Juneau was spotted from the air driving her team through Ptarmigan Pass, a route formerly used in the race, said race spokesman Chas St. George.

"It appears she took the wrong trail," St. George said.

She was seen driving her dog team 18 miles from the Rohn checkpoint.

"That would be a pretty good indication that she's all right," St. George said.

Sandy Bicknell, the musher's husband, was with Iditarod officials in Anchorage when he received the news that she had been spotted. He had no other information other than what the pilot had relayed.

"We'll just have to wait and see," he said.

He heard varying estimates of how many extra miles Deborah Bicknell had mushed by taking the wrong trail, but said it was at least 50 miles.

He planned to rendezvous with his wife in McGrath, he said, "if I can get there fast enough to see her there."

The Iditarod race marshal has the authority to remove mushers from the race if they are out of the competition, but St. George said reaching the Rohn checkpoint would indicate Bicknell was still able to race.

Another musher also mistak-

only took the Ptarmigan trail in the race.

An aerial search was started for Bicknell after she failed to show up at Rohn. Bicknell was last seen at 9:12 a.m. Wednesday, leaving the Rainy Pass checkpoint, 224 miles into the race from Anchorage to Nome, said Megan Peters, a spokeswoman for the Alaska State Troopers.

The search for Bicknell included an Alaska State Troopers helicopter and two planes affiliated with the race.

It was not immediately known if she carried any tracking device or two-way communications, but for her to do so would have required prior approval from race officials.

Rainy Pass Lodge is 1,835 feet above sea level and mushers climb another 1,325 feet in the 48-mile leg to Rohn, the sixth of 24 checkpoints along the 1,100-mile race from Anchorage to Nome.

According to Iditarod officials, the climb is gentle but the terrain is barren except for a few willow thickets. Wind packs the snow hard and the trail often is icy.

After crossing a lake, the trail climbs to the summit, then starts a steep descent along Dalzell Creek. The creek runs to the Tatina River and continues about five miles to the Rohn checkpoint.

Concern for Bicknell was heightened after numerous mushers suffered broken bones and busted sleds along that part of the Iditarod trail.

Veteran mushers say conditions this year — with icy trails,

little fresh snow, bare ground — are some of the worst they have ever seen.

Paul Gebhardt said his sled would not go on the bare tundra, so he was forced to walk up the hills, get back in, and then get out again for the next rise.

Gebhardt said that five-time winner Rick Swenson of Two Rivers, who is competing in his 31st Iditarod, said the trail this year was just about as bad as it gets.

"Swenson says he's seen it worst. But he says it matches right up there with the worst," Gebhardt said. "It seems it's the worst to me."

Mitch Seavey, who won the race in 2004, said it's been a tough race. "If you actually think this is fun, you have a problem."

Eighty-two teams started the race Sunday in Willow; since then, 15 mushers have withdrawn, with many citing either poor trail conditions or weather. The winner usually arrives in Nome nine or 10 days after the start.

As far as the race was concerned Thursday, there was little movement among the leaders. Six mushers were at the Iditarod checkpoint, the halfway point of 1,100-mile race from Anchorage to Nome.

Lance Mackey arrived at 12:11 a.m. Thursday, followed six minutes later by Gebhardt. Two other mushers came after 6 a.m., Ed Iten and Seavey, and Tollef Monson and Cim Smyth arrived about two hours later. All appeared to be taking their 24-hour mandatory rest period.

Tickets

continued from page 1

Saturday night.

McDermott, who is from the New York area, will attend the championship game using privately acquired tickets, despite the availability of University tickets.

"I have not heard about University student ticket distribution," he said.

Leprechaun Legion vice president Walter Machnicki is not going to the tournament because he will not be in the New York area during spring break.

"Either way, I was aware that the University had student tickets because I've been there before," he said.


"But I haven't seen anything publicized this year."

Berlo said the ticket office was happy with the turnout in years the Big East tournament was held during Notre Dame's spring break.

"A few years ago, when the Big East men's basketball tournament was held over spring break we had tremendous support from the approximately 100 students that made the trip," Berlo said. "It was great to have a little bit of the Legion and its home court advantage at Madison Square Garden."

Notre Dame plays Georgetown tonight at 7 in the conference semifinals.

Contact John Tierney at jtierney@nd.edu



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Stocks			
Dow Jones	12,260.70	+68.25	
Up:	Same:	Down:	Composite Volume
2,452	128	812	3,020,304,212

AMEX	2,075.60	+1.18
NASDAQ	2,387.73	+13.09
NYSE	9,078.65	+79.45
S&P 500	1,401.89	+9.92
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	17,214.21	+123.90
FTSE 100(London)	6,227.70	+71.20

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
NASDAQ 100 TR (QQQQ)	+0.68	+0.29	42.97
ISHARE RUS 2000 (IWM)	+1.35	+1.04	78.01
INTEL CP (INTC)	+0.58	+0.11	19.23
S&P DEP RECEIPTS (SPY)	+0.85	+1.18	140.74

Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	+0.27	+0.012	4.509
13-WEEK BILL	-0.20	-0.01	4.945
30-YEAR BOND	+0.30	+0.014	4.65
5-YEAR NOTE	+0.11	+0.005	4.448

Commodities		
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	-0.18	61.64
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	+2.60	655.50
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+1.05	104.70

Exchange Rates	
YEN	117.3450
EURO	0.7601
POUND	0.5174
CANADIAN \$	1.1796

IN BRIEF

Wall Street recovers after plunge

NEW YORK — Wall Street extended its recovery from last week's big plunge, rising Thursday after several stable sessions helped buttress investor sentiment and allay some concerns about the economy.

The Dow Jones industrials were up more than 100 points in afternoon trading before pulling back amid rumors a subprime lender would declare bankruptcy. According to preliminary calculations, the Dow closed up 68.25, or 0.56 percent, at 12,260.70.

Thursday's advance helped investors speed past lackluster retail sales figures and focus on more promising comments about March sales. Investors also grew more confident following gains in markets in Europe and Asia. The dollar was mixed against major currencies and fought its way higher against the yen, easing some concern about whether global liquidity would tighten.

Costco Corp. reports drop in profits

SEATTLE — Warehouse retailer Costco Wholesale Corp. said Thursday its fiscal second-quarter profit dropped 16 percent, hurt in part by costs associated with revamping its consumer electronics return policy.

Net income for the quarter ended Feb. 18 fell to \$249.5 million, or 54 cents per share, from \$296.2 million, or 62 cents per share a year ago.

Last week, Costco announced a new return policy for consumer electronics devices including televisions, computers, cameras, camcorders, digital music players and cell phones. In the past, the company gave customers unlimited time to return those items, but the new policy shortens that window to 90 days.

In a conference call with investors Thursday, Costco Chief Financial Officer Richard Galanti said the company conducted a detailed review of when customers were returning items such as televisions, which he said bring in about \$2.5 billion in revenue each year. Last commercial market — hit 17 percent in 2002, according to the Cushman & Wakefield real estate firm. At the end of last year, it was close to 7 percent, Cushman & Wakefield said. Another firm, Colliers ABR Inc., said its vacancy rate was at 6.8 percent last month, its lowest since August 2001 and down from 12.3 percent a year ago.

Retailers report disappointing sales

Merchandising, economy, cold weather blamed for weak sales in February

Associated Press

NEW YORK — It wasn't just the snow on the ground that kept consumers from buying last month — it was also the clothes on the racks.

Shoppers who went to stores in need of winter wear as cold weather arrived were disappointed — retailers had sold it off during January. But it also appears that those who wandered over to see the spring merchandise weren't happy with what they saw; fashions reminiscent of the 1960s, like baby doll tops and mini dresses, that are likely to attract mostly younger shoppers.

The result was a disappointing February sales performance for many of the nation's retailers, especially those who sell apparel. As merchants reported their sales results Thursday, the weakness went beyond the usual stragglers like Gap Inc. and included stores like teen stalwart Abercrombie & Fitch Co. High-flying Bebe Stores Inc. reported its first monthly decline in 46 months, and Wal-Mart Stores Inc., which has had apparel merchandising problems of its own, had sales below analysts' estimates.

The fashions aren't the only issue retailers are contending with. Analysts worry that stores catering to the middle- to lower-income shopper could suffer as the economy continues to slow, and if gasoline prices shoot back up nationwide as the summer approaches.

Marshal Cohen, chief analyst at NPD Group Inc., a Port Washington, N.Y.-based market research company, said, "The retail market is in the middle of a storm. The weather is a good excuse, but the truth is weather is one direction. Another direction is merchandise."



Apparel retailers experienced a slow start to spring sales in February, blaming the cold weather and fashions that failed to appeal to most customers.

Cohen noted that retailers' biggest mistake is that stores are not in step with customers' penchant for buying clothing to be worn immediately. Another problem, he said, is that fashion has become "too commoditized," noting that the latest 1960s looks can be found everywhere at every price point. He added that consumers are becoming more individualistic in their styles. Not to mention that some experts doubt whether they will resonate with most customers.

Merchandising, the economy and the weather com-

bined to depress the February sales tally at The International Council of Shopping Centers-UBS sales, which rose a modest 2.5 percent, at the low end of projected 2.5 percent to 3.0 percent range. The results are based on sales at stores open at least a year, known as same-store sales and considered a good gauge of a retailer's health.

While February is one of the least important months of a retailer's calendar, merchants do hope to get some idea of which spring fashion trends are working.

Wal-Mart, dragged down

by weakness at its name-sake discount stores, reported a slim 0.9 percent gain in same-store sales, below the 1.5 percent estimate from Wall Street analysts surveyed by Thomson Financial.

The world's largest retailer blamed the sales shortfall in part to the continued weakness in the home and apparel business and said that area should remain soft through the spring.

Rival Target Corp. enjoyed a 5.7 percent increase in same-store sales, above the 5.1 percent estimate.

CHINA

Paulson urges more open markets

Associated Press

SHANGHAI — China's path to prosperity lies in opening up its financial sector, U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said Thursday in a speech urging the country's business leaders to embrace Wall Street-style capital markets.

"While China's people work every bit as hard — if not harder — than people in other economies, they are not yet as well off," Paulson said in a speech at the Shanghai Futures Exchange, where only a handful of commodities are traded, by local brokers.

"People in many other parts of the world have more choices of where and how to save and routinely earn

a much better return," Paulson said of the limited investment options open to Chinese citizens.

The worldwide jolt to financial markets last week triggered by a 9 percent tumble in Shanghai shares reflected China's growing sway in international financial markets — as well as rising volatility in markets bloated with funds chasing too few investment opportunities.

Such volatility could be blunted by greater openness to international institutional investors and wider use of a variety of financial products including financial futures and corporate bonds, Paulson said.

"China's markets lack these important elements," he said. "Without a meaningful institutional investor base, the market relies too

much on retail investors. The result can be a more speculative environment and more volatile equity market."

Paulson, a former head of investment powerhouse Goldman Sachs, chastised China for capping foreign investment in local banks, securities firms, insurers and other industries, saying its markets are in many ways less open than those of other, smaller countries in Asia.

"Nations that want robust, sustainable, harmonious growth do not impose caps," Paulson said. "China is a large and powerful country, and you should not limit your own potential by restricting your access to world-class financial expertise that can enhance your capital markets."

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

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An impeachment with two bad sides

Notre Dame student government has lost sight of its objectives. While the Student Senate did not remove Morrissey senator Greg Dworjan from office, his impeachment a week ago for campaign violations had little to do with improving student life or presenting a professional representation of the student body to the community and administration. Dworjan's behavior, however, was equally ill directed.

The senator was impeached both for using a student government copy machine to make posters urging students to abstain and for posting the flyers without approval from Student Activities. But it's unlikely the impeachment was the result of reasoned concern for the exact letter of the 59-page student government constitution. Imagine Dworjan had printed out and posted flyers reminding students to vote and imagine these flyers were unstamped and copied in the student government office. And now imagine an ethics committee voting to impeach Dworjan if turnout was higher.

This lofty sense of internal importance in the face of student apathy is also highlighted in Dworjan's defense of his actions, where he cites both Alexis de Tocqueville and "basic freedoms we enjoy as Americans" ("Impeached senator speaks out," Letter to the Editor, March 7). Dworjan told senators Wednesday he made the posters to exercise his "highest ethic." However, student government is not a national government, nor is it fighting to preserve democracy — and it needs

to stop pretending to be more than what students want it to be.

Students don't want procedural tie-ups and undergraduate red tape. Students want peer representation and a professional, unified voice.

The case of Dworjan and the Senate illustrates a larger problem. Student government should be about students, not about impeachment and ethics committees and convoluted run-off procedures. There is a side to student government that works for positive change while keeping student interests in mind, and there is a side that pads résumés and writes 59-page constitutions and impeaches when insulted by technicalities. Dworjan's impeachment is only the most visible manifestation of this second side to student government. It should come as no surprise that only 3,492

votes were cast a few weeks ago in the first election for student body president.

In its history at Notre Dame, the Student Senate has been abolished for nine years, reinstated, and again threatened with disbandment only four years later. In its perpetual quest for relevance, it all too often ignores its constituents. If anything positive comes from the actions of Dworjan and the Senate, it will be the push for an external governmental focus, away from meaningless infighting and toward the concerns of the student body it should strive to represent.

The Observer Editorial

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Remembering Rex

Before I covered a slain police officer's funeral, before I rode along in a squad car during overnight DUI patrol, before I was hung up on by more desk officers than I can count, I met Rex Rakow.

It was sophomore year, the sun-soaked Blue & Gold Game weekend of 2004, and Notre Dame Security/Police had just dropped a bombshell: The University was firing its security monitors. The monitors, who had been guarding and patrolling inside women's residence halls ever since Notre Dame went co-ed in 1972, were being replaced with an outdoor-based force of community security officers. To would-be parietals-breakers, it was cause to celebrate. To the rectors and girls who counted on the monitors to feel safe in their dorms at night, it was deeply disturbing. So to NDSP, it was a very delicate predicament.

That's why Rakow e-mailed me that Friday, remembering the Observer reporter who had spent January snoop-ing around the dorms late at night and publishing monitors' anonymous fears of losing their jobs. He had said then

that no final decisions had been made. Now that a big one had, he wanted to explain.

We met outside Notre Dame Stadium, walked up to the box seats and sat in an unoccupied room near the president's chair. As the Irish passed and tackled below — the crowd roars nearly drowned out Rakow when I played back my tape recorder later — the NDSP director didn't watch the game. Instead, he looked me in the eye and told me about how the University had changed, how security monitors hadn't, and how even though he thought they made the right choice, it stung to dismiss the dedicated women. "We're hoping to have done this as compassionately as we can," he said.

That conversation still resonates in my relationships with police. As I've moved forward in my reporting career, covering cops in South Bend, Chicago and New Jersey, I've run into plenty of journalists who believe police officers are paranoid, uncooperative, unnecessarily harsh. I've encountered police officers who believe journalists are insensitive, untrustworthy and way too

suspicious. But while I realize reporters and cops have some interests that just don't intersect, I also know that we have enough humanity in common to often bridge the divide.

I remember that when I call a police spokesman whose colleague has just been shot. I learned it from Rex Rakow.

I don't know if he had that effect on other student reporters, or if he knew what that interview meant to me. I sure didn't know then. But when I read today about his death, I immediately thought back to that afternoon, when he took the time to treat a young reporter like an equal.

As long as I'm talking to police, I won't forget it. I hope Notre Dame won't forget him.

The writer worked for The Observer from 2002-06 and was the 2005-06 editor in chief. She is currently a reporter with the Star-Ledger in New Jersey.

Claire Heining
alumna
March 8

Submit a Letter to the Editor or Guest Column to viewpoint.1@nd.edu or online at www.ndsmcobserver.com.

Letters to the Editor should be no more than 350 words in length. Guest Columns should be no longer than 800 words and must include a byline with name, year, and major. All submissions must include the author's name and contact phone number.

OBSERVER POLL

What are you doing for spring break?

	% of votes	# of votes
a. Staying on campus	12%	41
b. Service project	6%	19
c. Going home	38%	126
d. Traveling	44%	148

This poll is based on the result of 334 votes at <http://www.ndsmcobserver.com/>

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Conversation should be pleasant without scurrility, witty without affectation, free without indecency, learned without conceitedness, novel without falsehood."

William Shakespeare
English dramatist

The death of Catholic culture

We are now well into the second generation of Catholics growing up almost entirely ignorant of the faith their Church proclaims. The precipitous decline of Catholic school enrollment serves as one obvious indicator that fewer nominal Catholics are receiving the basic catechesis necessary to understand what goes on at Mass, or Who it is we worship there.

**James
Matthew
Wilson**

*The Treasonous
Clerk*

In a fashion typical of a culture in decline, most persons in the Catholic community subsist in their observances by habit or listlessly fall away, while a small flowering of devout and engaged Catholics blossom in increasing isolation. The fruitfulness of this group has been great, resulting in moving witnesses to life in Christ, and in an impressive emergence of attempts to address the crises of our age with the rich intellectual traditions of the Church. Most Catholics, however, float through their sacramental velleities, hearing nothing consciously and absorbing a little through proximity and habit.

The greater numbers of young Catholics get their only exposure to the life of the Church at a weekly guitar Mass. They attend public schools, where they are told everything they need to know is taught in its classrooms. They watch their daily glut of television, where they see that everything they desire can be bought somewhere. And they escape their childhood with at best a few years of weekly C.C.D. class, where they get their souls rubber-stamped for Confession, Communion and Confirmation.

Those who go on to attend a Catholic university are likely to receive a couple semesters of theology and perhaps a cou-

ple more of philosophy. This, in most circumstances, gives them an understanding of their Church and its sacraments slightly inferior to that which their grandparents imbibed through the Baltimore Catechism by the fifth grade.

Such ignorance of the narratives, creeds and traditions of Catholicism is itself grave. If asked, "Why do Catholics receive the Eucharist?" or "Why must they receive sacramental forgiveness for their sins?" most Catholics could not provide an answer. Indeed, many of the Catholics I know, practicing or not, would stare blankly at such questioning. It would never occur to them that there might be an answer to such queries. Moreover, they would be bored and in disbelief that anyone would bother to ask them.

Ignorance of the Church's faith, however, is just a symptom of an even more grave condition. It is one thing not to know the doctrinal expressions of particular sacred truths; it is another thing — and a more serious thing — to live one's life with a worldview blind to and uninformed by those truths. The great achievement of the so-called secularizing forces of modernity has been in reshaping the way in which we live in and perceive the world. Plenty of persons deny the religious truths their parents and grandparents approved and defended confidently. But plenty more persons affirm their belief in God, or confess they accept myriad other formal doctrines of our faith, while they see the world with the eyes of indifference and unbelief. One can claim to believe in the God Who died for our sins, while at the same time thinking about the world as if none of that business had happened. I do not speak of hypocrisy, but of a loss of religious feeling.

When a student at a Catholic university can write that dining halls should serve

meat on Fridays during lent because such "penance" is an individual activity, meaningless if everyone else does it, and a matter of importance only between himself and God, ignorance and blindness converge in a monstrous concatenation. To be clear, that student seems unaware that one performs penance as an act of repentance for one's sins. One "abstains" from meat on Fridays during lent as an act of solidarity with the poor and hungry, and as a sign of unity with other Christians preparing for Easter.

The ignorance that resulted in misnaming abstinence "penance" is easily corrected. I have just corrected it. But how can one correct a worldview that blindly believes one's life of faith is entirely private — an affair between the individual soul and God and nobody else? I am no Church historian, but I bet it took many generations for the truth that Christians are "one body in Christ" to disseminate widely and become deeply meaningful. It has taken at most two generations to wipe out that truth, to make it appear repugnant to the average American, Catholic or otherwise.

The great vision of Christianity is that no person is an individual and no one exists alone. God created all things and keeps them in being through a personal act of His love. He creates us not separately, but for each other and in His Kingdom. The families, clubs and countries of which we are children, members and citizens are legitimate but relative analogues to our role as subjects of that Kingdom. When we worship together in mass, we perceive with our senses the fellowship of the Kingdom. When we pray in silence in a monastery, we experience that fellowship in the deepest part of our souls. Being part of Christ's spiritual body is what makes us most fully persons. From this perspective,

there is no such thing as an individual, but only persons in one spiritual body (an analogue to the Blessed Trinity).

Dana Gioia, chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, recently observed, "Most of what modernity has accomplished has been the secularization of culture and society. Contemporary consumer culture not only makes the individual the center of value; it also caters to the lowest elements of human nature — greed, vanity, gluttony, lust and sloth. Conformity, complacency, and creature comfort hardly represent the ideals of a great culture. They may be economically powerful motives, but they inhibit any genuine spiritual development."

Historically, individualism began as a Protestant doctrine. Since it leads, by its very nature, to a thoughtless variety of atheism, it now may be called an atheist doctrine. When someone tries to explain a Christian practice like abstinence from meat on individualist, private grounds, it is not that person's misinformation that perturbs me. I worry rather that such a person is merely one sign of the malformation of an entire culture. When Catholics can no longer perceive themselves as part of God's Kingdom, as intrinsically bound up in the sacramental movements of the Church's life, it is only a matter of time before they can no longer confess any belief in the Trinity. And unfortunately, it is far easier to inculcate a belief than it is to help someone to see creation anew.

James Matthew Wilson is a Sorin Research Fellow and loves a good Fish Fry. He can be reached at jwilson5@nd.edu.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pornography views unrealistic, dated

In his Letter to the Editor, ("Eradicate pornography," March 8) freshman Ryan Slaney defines pornography as "images which cause males to lust over the female body." Does this mean that the women's undergarment section in the Sears catalog is pornographic? If so, I'm in trouble. Slaney also states with "clear and resounding" affirmation that the Sports Illustrated swimsuit edition, the reason us subscribers squirm around our mailboxes like a Christmas tree every February afternoon, is indeed pornographic. If this is the case, then yours truly is not getting his money's worth. In fact, perhaps the greatest perk of living off campus is that I can finally browse porn sites without fear of losing my Internet privileges. Hey, if all those middle school health videos say its normal, then by golly it must be.

Furthermore, do we really still think of women as the innocent "angel in the house" who could never be considered so barbarian as us men as to look at naked photos of guys? I heard that long-haired dude from last year's American Idol was in a Playgirl last month, and that certainly wasn't published for my sake.

Still, Slaney does make a clean split between us hedonistic heathens and the morally sound Catholics such as himself, who "feel that a male should appreci-

ate a woman's mind along with her body." That's why women are allowed to be priests, right? Now don't get me wrong, this letter in no way is intended to insult Slaney or the Catholic Church. Still, I just cannot imagine that Slaney's fellow Vermin, the men of Carroll, who live in the Alcatraz of dorms, would agree that they "feel embarrassed" of "the images of scantily clad women" found above the beds of young men such as myself, who need an extra little push to wake up on these frigid winter mornings. At least that's what my roommate, an apparent ex-Carroll legend who will remain anonymous, believes.

Perhaps one who is truly concerned about the ever prevalent practice of condescending women should spend less time freedom-fighting and presupposing what it would take to make the campus a less-offensive place to live, and should spend a little more time participating in women-organized events that celebrate feminism, like attending the National Women's Day Jamboree, which took place in front of Stonehenge yesterday at noon. Only three males were present.

Joe Geglio
senior
off campus
March 8

One way to stop 'lusting'

I think that Ryan Slaney made many excellent points in his recent Letter to the Editor, ("Eradicate pornography," March 8) but I feel that even he fell short of doing the lord's work to its fullest extent.

He argues that "pornographic images are those which cause males to lust over the female body." He also says that the cultural acceptance of porn "leads to the cultural acceptance of objectification of women." These are both true, and I agree that pornography should be stopped.

But Slaney's fault lies in his view that porn is only naked or nearly naked pictures. I feel that all pictures of attractive women are pornographic, since they may cause lust in men, even if fully clothed. And what about women not in picture form, but in person?

Seeing an attractive woman on the quad can cause lust as well, and this must be put to a stop.

I think that the only solution is to prohibit any woman, in picture or human form, from entering the line of sight of any man unless she is covered from head to toe in a burka and veil. I would also suggest that men shouldn't be allowed to see other men, in the event that one of the men may be gay, but I'm sure there are not gay people at our Catholic university. If there were, I'm sure they'd have an official club or something.

Greg Howard
junior
Alumni Hall
March 8

Free sacrifice is worth it

Dan Hicks' Viewpoint, ("Sacrifice is Worth It," March 8) drew attention to our responsibility to make "minor sacrifices for the sake of very dear goods." During the Lenten season, it is particularly important to contemplate our responsibilities to those who are in need, and I applaud Hicks for doing so. Unfortunately, he framed the entire issue in the context of increased taxation and government action, which is ultimately coercive in nature.

We have the right to own private property in this country, and this is not only intrinsically valuable as a form of freedom, but has provided our society with remarkable prosperity and personal independence. While we celebrate our right to hold property, we must also recognize the responsibility to use that property as a steward for our Lord who entrusted us with it. When

we use our resources for luxuries while others are in legitimate need, we not only fail to meet our responsibilities as stewards but provide ammunition to those who seek to restrict or eliminate our rights to hold property.

While you're out on spring break, think about whether you really need to buy that extra drink, because you probably won't remember it anyway. If all of us (myself included) choose fun but unnecessary purchases consistently over giving to those in need, Dan Hicks' school will grow stronger and eventually the taxman will take by force what we failed to give in love.

Jonathan Klingler
senior
Keenan Hall
March 8

SCENE & HEARD

Celebrity shearings garner praise, scare fans

Maybe it's cabin fever from being stuck indoors during South Bend winters, or spring fever arising from the prospect of spring break and warmer weather. Or maybe it's just the onset of insanity.

Regardless, we all feel that temptation come springtime: The urge to grab some scissors and shear off our winter locks in favor of shorter, cooler styles. This is an equal opportunity phenomenon: after Britney Spears, anyone is fair game for lawn mower jokes.

However, shunning our customary coiffures in lieu of shorter, more streamlined looks is a precarious undertaking, and there are some significant questions that must be asked before going under the blade.

Fortunately, our obsession with celebrities gives us significant fodder to point out good and bad examples of shearing. For some, taking a Mach 3 or a barber's No. 1 blade to the scalp is a career move, bumping them from boy-band status to pop stardom, or rescuing them from film prequels to a return to form. For others, shorn locks can be a sign of mental instability.

So without further ado, here's the good, the bad and the just plain ugly of celebrity head shavings and near-shavings.

Demi Moore

Pairing her close-cropped hair with a killer body, Moore proved that the only thing sexier than a man in uniform is a

woman in uniform. As a tomboy with sex appeal, not only did the femme fatale manage to kick butt, she's possibly the sexiest 40-year old on the planet who's robbing the cradle with Ashton Kutcher. Consider it a double "Punk'd." Clearly, less was Moore.

Justin Timberlake

JT's hairstylist has earned his or her pay throughout the years. With hairstyles ranging from bouncy blonde curls to David Beckham-esque "white man" cornrows, Timberlake's many hair-do's during his stint as the lead singer of 'N Sync turned out to be hair-don'ts. However, after saying "bye bye bye" to his curls and growing some chin stubble, JT has brought sexy back, landed a No. 1 album and even had a memorably hilarious hosting stint on Saturday Night Live.

Natalie Portman

After being forced to spit out George Lucas-written love lines opposite Hayden Christensen in the Star Wars prequels, Natalie Portman needed a change. Said change came while shaving her head onscreen during an intense torture scene in the film "V for Vendetta," which got her career back on track. Sometimes you need to crack a few eggs to make an omelet, even if it means exposing some eggshell.

Britney Spears

The former wife of Kevin "Fries!" Federline became something of a head case in more ways than one after an impromptu "Britney shears" session left her looking like a deranged Teletubby or Nick Stahl's character from "Sin City." Spears has left both fans and the public

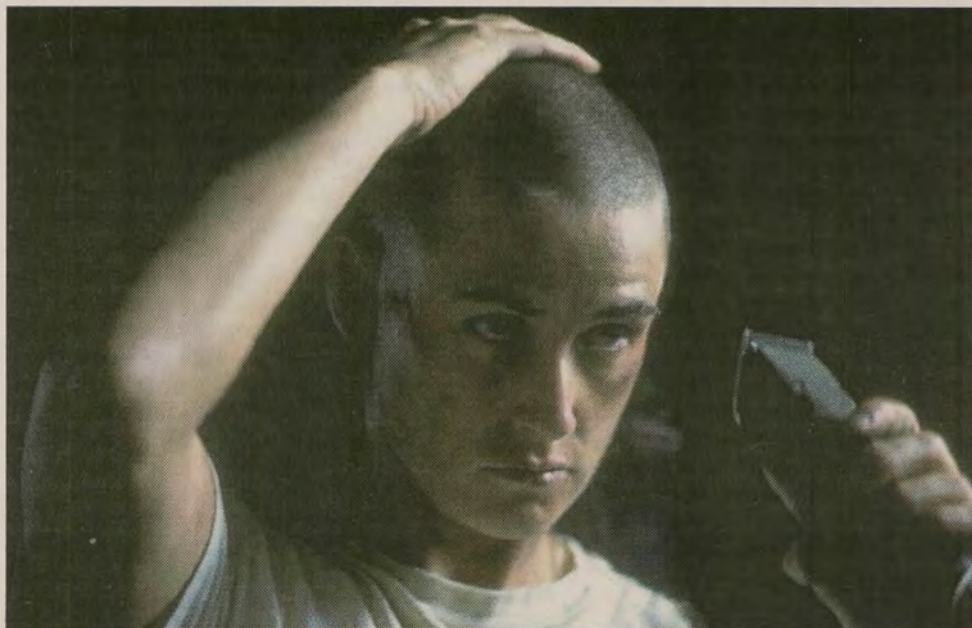


Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Shearing one's locks is a common act during the final weeks of winter. However, celebrity stylings like Demi Moore's can raise concern about going under the blade.

scratching their heads as they read about her latest exploits in the tabloids. Perhaps the old saying needs to be changed — "Hell hath no fury like a woman shorn."

Jack Nicholson

It's uncertain whether or not Nicholson was ever sane to begin with, but the star of "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" looked like he needed to be institutionalized after sporting his new 'do at this year's Oscars. The sight of Nicholson cackling away with his sunglasses and spotty bald head was genuinely disturbing.

So as you sit there, either with blade in hand or anxiously twiddling your thumbs in the barber chair, think long and hard about your choice of haircut. It's not like the stuff won't grow back, but you'll want to go for the Justin "do," as opposed to Britney's "don't." After all, what's hair today may be gone tomorrow.

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

DVD REVIEW

Jack Ryan fights terrorists in new DVD release

By SEAN SWEANY
Assistant Scene Editor

With the proliferation of superheroes in the movies today, plain old action heroes can sometimes be overlooked. John McClane ("Die Hard") and Jason Bourne come to mind for occasionally being overshadowed by their mutated counterparts.

Another such hero is Jack Ryan — a character crafted by author Tom Clancy who later became famous in film adaptations of Clancy's novels. A CIA agent fighting terrorist threats, Ryan became famous in three 1990s movies: "The Hunt for Red October," "Patriot Games" and "Clear and Present Danger." The new "Jack Ryan 3-Pack DVD" combines these three classics in one set worthy of any Tom Clancy fan.

The Hunt for Red October (1990)

This John McTiernan film ("Die Hard") follows the early career of Ryan — played here by a young Alec Baldwin — as he tries to rise through the ranks of the CIA. When a new Russian submarine captained by Captain Marko Ramius (Sean Connery)

heads for American waters, the U.S. government fears an imminent attack. Ryan, however, believes that Ramius is planning to defect, and is sent to rendezvous with the sub while evading Russian forces.

Perhaps less appreciated than the other Jack Ryan movies, "October" is the best and most compelling of the three. Baldwin's Ryan has doubts and fears that lend him a believable realism. Sean Connery's Marko steals the show as an icy commander treading a fine line between conscience and commitment. Thankfully, the film is suspenseful without being dull.

Patriot Games (1992)

With "Patriot Games," Baldwin left the franchise and Harrison Ford took over as an older Ryan. In "Games," Ryan accidentally thwarts an IRA attack in London and incurs their wrath for the film's remainder. Ford's acting and high-octane action make up for the thinly developed plot.

Here, Ford shows why he is one of the most bankable stars in film, and he contrasts well with the IRA terrorist who hunts his family (Sean Bean). As the only film in the set to earn an R rating, "Patriot Games" has a high intensity level. While not the strongest of the Ryan flicks, Ford's acting and the action sequences keep the film entertaining.

Clear and Present Danger (1994)

Ford returns as Jack Ryan for "Clear and Present Danger,"



Photo courtesy of movies.yahoo.com

Harrison Ford stars as author Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan in 1994's "Clear and Present Danger." The "3-Pack Giftset" includes three Clancy adaptations.

the best received film of the three. Now the CIA Deputy Director of Intelligence, Ryan finds himself in the middle of an illegal U.S. war against Colombian drug lords and must take matters into his own hands to expose the truth.

The film's script is smart and tight, making "Danger" surprisingly brainy. Ford gives a stellar performance, as do co-stars James Earl Jones and Willem Dafoe. Also, stronger action sequences make "Danger" feel more complete.

Each movie in the 3-Pack comes on a separate disc with new cast and crew inter-

views produced specifically for the DVD. While these are the only substantial special features, they go into significant detail about the adaptation of Clancy's novels and the filming of the movies.

The greatest feature of the "Jack Ryan 3-Pack" is the collection of these three films in one place. Clancy fans and action movie lovers can rejoice to see Jack Ryan take on submarine warfare, terrorist threats and government corruption while going along for the ride.

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The Jack Ryan
3-Pack Giftset

Paramount



CONCERT REVIEWS

Merrimans' Playhouse invites new audiences

By MICHELLE FORDICE
Scene Writer

Hidden in the back corner of South Bend's Century Center is an event that most Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students are unfortunately missing. Once a month, the Merrimans' Playhouse Jazz Performance Series exhibits jazz talent from around the area in a setting welcoming to both enthusiasts and first time listeners. The Merriman Trio features a new musician to fill their third spot for each show, which both allows long time listeners to hear something new and lets those less familiar with the genre experience the essentials of jazz music.

Going to Merrimans' Playhouse is less like a concert and more like a special invitation to a relaxed jam session. The music is entirely improvisational. One of the integral components of the playhouse is the series of guest artists featured in each performance.

Regularly, the "trio" is actually a duo, consisting of upright bassist Mary Merriman and drummer Stephen Merriman. Every session, a new guest artist from around the area is invited to complete the trio, assuring a new sound. For Mary Merriman, this provides a great opportunity to work with a variety of artists.

"[Each musician brings] their own way of playing this art," she said.

This format is beneficial for the audience as well; the listening becomes

more active than passive. Audiences get to watch a conversation between the artists that is often, especially for more formal concerts, done beforehand. The musicians, who have not played together regularly, listen and watch to stay together and trade solo moments.

Furthermore, the artists joke and talk with each other and with the audience throughout the evening, breaking the boundaries of the stage. The audience gets the chance to sacrifice some of the customary polish in order to see more of the creative process that the music often undergoes.

March's concert featured pianist Eric Clancy from Fort Wayne, Ind. The show covered a wide range of music, from pieces composed by Thelonius Monk, to Cole Porter and Miles Davis. While many of the songs were classics, the artists provided

their own interpretation of each and, not surprisingly, many of them focused around the piano in an effort to display Clancy's artistry.

This year's series will eventually feature other artists such as saxophonist Rich Cohen and pianist Jim Steele.

Co-founder and drummer of the Merriman Trio, Stephen Merriman, described the aim of the playhouse as working to provide a "neutral zone." The Merriman Trio endeavors to break down as many barriers as possible, including those of

This year's series will eventually feature other artists such as saxophonist Rich Cohen and pianist Jim Steele.



Photo courtesy of merrimansplayhouse.com

From left, Stephen Merriman, Mary Merriman and a fellow musician perform recently in South Bend. The Merrimans form two thirds of the Merriman Trio.

gender, socioeconomic class, age and race, and to unite people in a common love of the ever familiar but ever changing sounds of jazz. The location of the series, in downtown South Bend, was chosen to allow for greater access to the public.

"[At Merriman's Playhouse] you're not going to get preached to," he said.

The relatively new Merrimans' Playhouse still has a lot of room to grow as it slowly gathers a following, but the essence of the series is a wonderful opportunity to share

music with the community. Attending concerts such as this one is an easy way for Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students to get out and appreciate some of the talent to be found in South Bend.

Tickets to Merrimans' Playhouse are \$5 in advance and \$8 at the door. The next performance, featuring saxophonist Rich Cohen, will be held on April 19 at the Century Center in South Bend. More information about other upcoming performances can be found at merrimansplayhouse.com.

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Schola Musicorum showcases talent with chants

By ANALISE LIPARI
Assistant Scene Editor

Dressed entirely in simplistic black, Notre Dame's Schola Musicorum performed a powerful selection of Gregorian chants Wednesday night in their latest "Abend-Musique" concert at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The Reyes Organ and Choral Hall, housing the University's impressively sized pipe organ, was a lovely venue for their concert, which featured a variety of pieces sung in their original Latin.

The aesthetic of the Reyes Organ Hall calls to mind images of medieval monasticism and high church services, and the music, taken from the 15th and 16th centuries, fit that theme perfectly.

The Schola Musicorum is led by Alexander Blatchley, director of the University's Chorale, and Daniel Stowe, director of the University's Glee Club and Symphony Orchestra. The Schola also features a number of students. The ensemble was originally formed by the University's Department of Music in 1993 with the intent of drawing from original medieval manuscripts for their pieces. The "Abend-Musique" concert, a biannual tradition for the group, takes its name from similarly-named concerts held by 17th century German composer Dietrich Buxtehude. "Abend-Musique" literally means "Evening Music" in German and French, respectively.

The history of the Gregorian chant alone makes the Schola's repertoire interesting

for the average audience member. As the "Abend-Musique" program indicated, Gregorian chants make up the most extensive body of liturgical or ritual music in world history. In the years since Vatican II, however, they are less commonly heard, as the use of Latin has decreased in Catholic practice worldwide. Sung without musical accompaniment, the chants highlight the vocal talents of those performing them with simplicity.

The first piece performed was a selection from Psalm 90, "Introitus: Invocavit me." Featuring a solo by Blatchley, the impressive vocals and ethereal sound of the piece both made for a strong opening to the evening's concert. The phenomenal acoustics of the Reyes Organ Hall added to the overall strength of the vocal performances, with the full-bodied and phenomenal music emanating from the group towards the audience.

Thankfully for those audience members without an extensive background in either Gregorian chants or Latin, the concert's program provided both the original Latin words and modern English translations of each piece. Following along with the Latin was a challenging but rewarding task, and having each piece's words, which were inspirational scripture passages and prayers, in English translation was much appreciated.

The concert continued with further passages from Psalm 90, each with their own variety of vocal gymnastics and solid performances. Anne Siebels' solo during the "Graduale: Angelis suis mandavit" was particularly memorable for its impressive

Sung without accompaniment, the chants highlight the vocal talents of those performing them with simplicity.

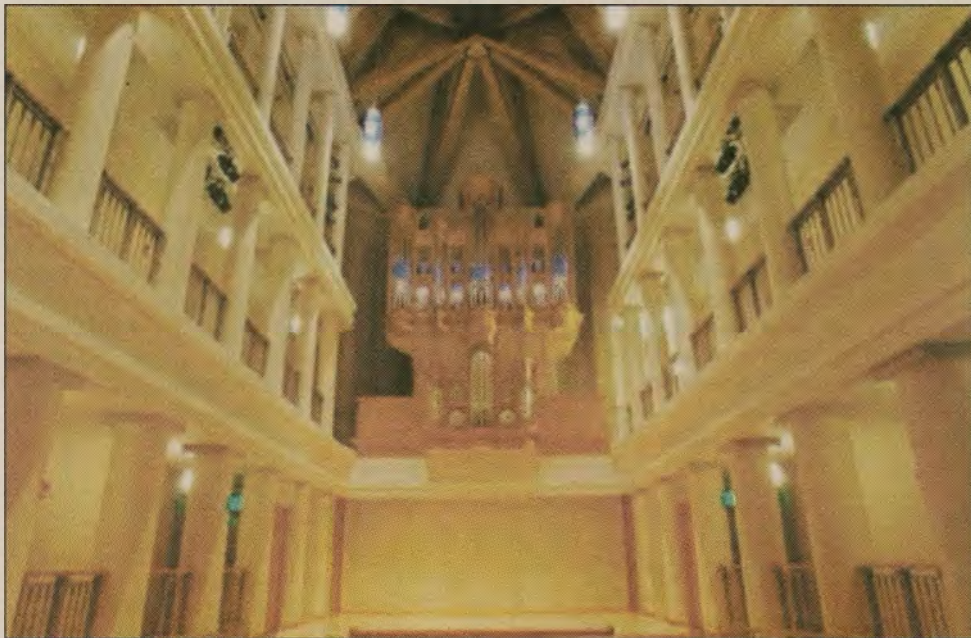


Photo courtesy of performingarts.nd.edu

The recent Schola Musicorum concert took place in the Reyes Organ and Choral Hall at the DPAC. The Hall's acoustics accentuated the group's vocals.

height and range.

Other highlights included Orlande de Lassus' joyful "Psalmus: In exitu Israel" during the Ad Vesperas, and the concert's final piece, "Hymnus: Te lucis ante terminum," during the Ad Completorium, ending the evening on a rich, uplifting note.

Unfortunately for the high caliber of the performance, the Organ Hall was notably at less than full audience capacity. The idea of an evening of 15th century music might seem incomprehensible or uninteresting to the average college student, but the sheer beauty, elegance and full depth

of the Gregorian chants made Wednesday's Schola Musicorum concert something not to be missed.

The music's evocative power leaves the audience with a rush of images and feelings. Thoughts of the opulence of pre-Reformation masses or the strict simplicity of monastic life centuries ago are inevitable when listening to such rarely-heard pieces, making concerts like the "Abend-Musique" both historical and excitingly new experiences.

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NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Duke falls in first round of tourney

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Freshman Brandon Costner already knows what makes a disappointing season bearable at North Carolina State.

Try beating North Carolina during the regular season, then knocking off Duke in the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament.

Costner helped the 10th-seeded Wolfpack (16-14) accomplish that Thursday night, scoring a career-high 30 points and grabbing seven rebounds to help end No. 21 Duke's reign as tourney champions 85-80 in overtime.

"As you all know, the rivalries are great on Tobacco Road, and nothing will make our fans and us happier than to beat Carolina and Duke," Costner said. "To succeed in beating them this year is a great accomplishment."

Engin Atsur scored all 21 of his points after halftime to help avenge a 23-point regular season loss to the Blue Devils (22-10), who had won seven of the previous eight ACC tournament titles, including the past two.

But this time, Duke entered the league's signature event as the seventh seed, its lowest since 1995.

"At this point, we've got nothing to lose. We just want to finish our season strong," said Atsur, who didn't play in the regular-season game against Duke because of a hamstring injury. "We just don't want to finish our season as quick as losing in the first game of the tournament. I think we were mentally stronger than ever and we want to keep doing this."

The Wolfpack advanced to Friday's quarterfinals against No. 2 seed Virginia.

Greg Paulus led Duke with 18 points and Josh McRoberts and DeMarcus Nelson both scored 17. The Blue Devils fell behind 73-70 on Costner's three-point play in the opening minute of overtime and never fully recovered.

"It really hurts a lot because I've been here two years and we've won it," said Nelson, who fouled out late in overtime. "Not being able to have that opportunity this year really hurts. But we have to move on from this

and make this a growing opportunity for our team."

Duke played without freshman Gerald Henderson, who served a mandatory one-game suspension for a flagrant foul that broke Tyler Hansbrough's nose during the closing seconds of a loss to North Carolina last Sunday.

The loss was the third straight for the Blue Devils.

"I don't know if our team's gotten tired, gotten worn down," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "I know they're still working hard, but that can happen at the end of the year. We've tried to take care of that over the last couple of days, but what we attempted to do obviously didn't translate into us doing a better job."

North Carolina State rallied from a 60-54 deficit in regulation and had four shots to win in the final 10 seconds. But Costner misfired on a short jumper in the lane, then Atsur and Courtney Fells missed 3-pointers before Atsur's desperation tip flew over the rim at the buzzer.

Costner got the Wolfpack off to a quick start in the extra period, and North Carolina State led 82-76 after Atsur, who was scoreless in the first half on 0-for-4 shooting, made a pair of free throws with 43.4 seconds left.

Martynas Pocius converted a 3-point play to give Duke hope, but the closest the Blue Devils got after that was 83-80. Costner made two free throws to close out the third straight upset in the opening round of the tournament.

This was a rare first-day appearance for Duke, which entered with its lowest seeding since a ninth-place finish 12 years ago. Thursday night's loss stopped a six-game winning streak in the ACC tournament, however the Blue Devils still have won 23 of their last 25 in the league's showcase event.

Henderson, who has said he was not trying to hurt Hansbrough, watched from the stands at the St. Pete Times Forum. Although the 6-foot-8 freshman averages only 6.8 points, he was most effective as a scorer in his past two games, with 15 against Maryland and a career-high 16 against North Carolina.

ND SWIMMING

Eight swimmers race in NCAAs

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

They already made history this season by winning a conference-record 11th consecutive Big East title, but the Irish will try to rewrite the record books once again this weekend at the NCAA Championships in Minneapolis.

The most participants the Irish ever sent to the NCAA Championships was nine in 2002, when Notre Dame sent eight swimmers — including current Irish coach Carrie Nixon — and one diver. That team accumulated 52 points on its way to 19th place — the program's highest finish at the NCAAs except for 2000, when the Irish finished 18th.

Notre Dame will send eight swimmers to the Championships this year, but the Irish failed to qualify a diver at last weekend's Zone C Diving Championships. Only 15 schools are sending more participants than the Irish this year.

"Our team is different this year, and the fact that we have more people going changes our demeanor and our confidence," Nixon said after the Big East championships. "The more girls you have going, the more emphasis you place on the Big East meet. The amount of girls going is the biggest difference between this year and previous years."

Leading the way for Notre Dame will be senior captain Katie Carroll. Carroll is making her fourth consecutive appearance at the NCAAs, with her best result coming in 2005 when she finished 6th in the 400 individual medley — good enough to earn All-America honors.

Carroll will have three chances to earn All-America honors this year, and her best chance appears to be in the 400 individual medley. Her time of 4:14.99 has her ranked 12th nationally in the event, and she also enters this weekend's meet ranked 16th nationally in 200 butterfly.

Another Irish swimmer famil-

iar with the NCAA Championships is senior Julia Quinn, who will be making her third appearance at the meet but only her second with Notre Dame. Quinn qualified as a sophomore at the University of Minnesota. This year, she enters the championships ranked No. 33 in the 100 breaststroke and No. 73 in the 200 IM.

The final returning member of Notre Dame's squad is sophomore Claire Hutchinson, who is ranked 25th nationally in the 1,650 freestyle.

Filling out the squad for the Irish will be first-time participants Megan Farrell, Rebecca Grove, Caroline Johnson, Ellen Johnson and Christa Riggins.

"It's a special time, and we're very excited to have our second biggest group going," Nixon said. "It's the culmination of your career to get to [the NCAA Championships], and it's very important to perform well there."

Contact Greg Arbogast at garbogast@nd.edu

SMC TENNIS

Belles face tough squads

By GENE NOONE
News Writer

While many college students will travel to Florida to work on their tans this spring break, the Saint Mary's tennis team is headed to the Sunshine State to begin the 2007 season.

The Belles travel to Orlando Sunday to take on several challenging opponents. The pool of teams in Orlando will include Franklin and Marshall, Wisconsin-Lacrosse, Haverford and the University of Puerto Rico.

Coming off a solid 2006 season, the Belles will look to regain the success they had a few years ago in winning four straight conference tournament titles from 2001 to 2004. This edition of the squad looks poised to regain the title with a combination of strong senior leadership and new freshman talent.

Senior captain Kelly McDavitt, who claimed a fourth-place finish in No. 2 singles at last season's MIAA championship, will

lead the team. The senior is already well versed in the leadership role after serving as a co-captain last year. The Belles will look to McDavitt's veteran experience throughout the season.

Other top returnees include sophomore Mary Elizabeth Campbell, who posted 11 singles wins last season, senior Tara O'Brian, who also posted an 11-win campaign, and senior Grace Gordon, who produced eight victories as a member of last season's No. 2 doubles team.

Several freshmen will work to have an immediate impact on this year's team. Saint Mary's coach Dee Stevenson hopes some of these freshman players will raise the level of competition during the spring trip.

The Belles have a busy week ahead of them. The team will be playing multiple matches a day for most of the trip. On Sunday, the Belles take on Franklin and Marshall. They will then face Wisconsin-Lacrosse and Haverford Monday. After a break on Tuesday, the team will return to the court Wednesday to play

the Hamilton and Haverford, followed by Bentley Thursday. Saint Mary's closes out the week with matches against Drew and Skidmore Friday.

Although playing so many matches in a short amount of time may seem demanding, Stevenson said the team is excited to get to Florida to play a number of competitive matches. He expects the most challenging tennis to be played against Wisconsin-Lacrosse and the University of Puerto Rico.

The team hopes for a good showing in Florida so that it can gain momentum going into the MIAA season.

"Our goals for the year include winning our conference, getting invited to the Midwest Tournament and finally getting invited to the NCAA Tournament," Stevenson said.

When the Belles return from Florida, they have their first home match against Olivet March 21 at 3 p.m.

Contact Gene Noone at enoone@nd.edu

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"It's spring break! Woot!" — DK

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Today in history:
1945: Bombing of Tokyo
1959: Barbie debuts
1964: First Ford Mustangs made
1987: *The Joshua Tree* released
1997: Biggie is shot

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AROUND THE NATION

Friday, March 9, 2007

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 13

Women's Basketball ESPN/USA Today Top 25

	team	record	points
1	Duke	30-1	763
2	Connecticut	28-2	743
3	North Carolina	30-3	709
4	Tennessee	28-3	699
5	Maryland	27-5	622
6	Stanford	27-4	617
7	Ohio State	28-2	545
8	Arizona State	28-3	536
9	Vanderbilt	27-5	529
10	LSU	26-7	485
11	Oklahoma	23-4	479
12	Purdue	27-5	457
13	George Washington	26-3	412
14	Georgia	25-6	363
15	Texas A&M	23-5	354
16	Middle Tenn. St.	27-3	307
17	Baylor	24-6	277
18	Bowling Green	26-3	213
19	Rutgers	20-8	180
20	N.C. State	23-9	155
21	Marquette	25-5	147
22	Wisc. Green-Bay	25-3	146
23	Michigan State	23-8	89
24	Louisville	26-6	86
25	California	23-8	46

NCAA Baseball Baseball News Top 20

	team	record	points	previous
1	Vanderbilt	14-0	495	1
2	Florida State	17-0	494	2
3	North Carolina	11-1	492	3
4	South Carolina	10-1	491	4
5	Virginia	14-1	487	8
6	Clemson	7-3	484	5
7	Oregon State	13-3	480	9
8	Cal State Fullerton	12-5	476	11
9	Texas A&M	15-1	472	19
10	Rice	11-6	471	6
11	Arkansas	10-5	468	10
12	Pepperdine	13-4	466	13
13	Auburn	13-2	464	24
14	Arizona State	12-5	462	12
15	Miami (Fla.)	9-5	461	15
16	Mississippi	9-4	458	16
17	Nebraska	5-4	455	7
18	Kentucky	12-0	454	NR
19	Texas	12-6	453	22
20	Long Beach State	8-4	452	20

NCAA Softball ESPN.com/USA Today Top 15

	team	record	points	previous
1	Tennessee	9-0	494	1
2	Texas A&M	10-0	471	3
3	Arizona State	13-0	469	2
4	Arizona	9-2	433	4
5	Alabama	10-0	427	5
6	LSU	11-1	373	5
7	Oregon State	6-2	363	7
8	Stanford	9-2	324	12
9	Louisiana-Lafayette	12-1	317	13
10	Oklahoma	10-0	312	14
11	Texas	8-2	302	11
12	Northwestern	6-4	301	8
13	Michigan	9-1	277	15
14	UCLA	7-4	271	9
15	Washington	7-1	220	17

around the dial

NCAA BASKETBALL
Notre Dame at Georgetown
7 p.m., ESPN

NHL
Chicago at Phoenix
9 p.m., Comcast

NFL



Ex-Buffalo running back Willis McGahee runs through the Jaguars defense in the first half of a game last season. The former Miami star was traded to Baltimore Thursday for three draft picks, two this year and one in 2008.

Bills trade RB McGahee to Baltimore

Associated Press

The Ravens and Bills agreed to a trade Thursday that will send running back Willis McGahee to Baltimore in exchange for the team's third and seventh-round picks in this year's draft, along with the Ravens' third-round pick in 2008.

Even without the option years at the end of the contract, the deal is worth \$26.42 million over five years.

Buffalo dealt McGahee in anticipation of difficulty resigning him.

For the Ravens, it's the second year in a row they pulled off a trade for a mar-

quee veteran. Last year they dealt for Tennessee Titans quarterback Steve McNair, who led the Ravens to the AFC North title.

"This is a runner who can make people miss and has the explosion and speed to take it the distance," Ravens general manager Ozzie Newsome said. "He also has the power and size to run inside. He's a viable receiver out of the backfield and is a good pass blocker, not something every back can do."

"He also plays physical and with toughness, which are things we pride ourselves on here."

The Titans were also reportedly interested in

dealing for McGahee.

The Bills, whose remaining running backs are Daimon Shelton and Shaud Williams, are now in the market for multiple backs. They have shown interest in the Colts' Dominic Rhodes and the Titans' Chris Brown, and both have visited the team. Former Patriots running back Corey Dillon has not visited Orchard Park, but the Bills are said to be interested.

Buffalo's first-round pick out of Miami in 2003, McGahee is coming off a down season in which he finished with a career-low 990 yards rushing, but led the team with six rushing touchdowns in 14 starts.

In 2005, he had 1,247 yards rushing and five touchdowns in 15 starts. He established himself as the Bills starter in 2004 with 1,128 yards rushing and 13 touchdowns in 11 starts. That performance led the team to trade former starter Travis Henry to Tennessee the following summer.

McGahee sat out his rookie season recovering from major knee surgery.

The Bills have been disappointed in McGahee for conducting most of his off-season workouts in his native Miami, rather than traveling to the team's Orchard Park headquarters.

IN BRIEF

Kresge leads by two after ace in PODS Championship

PALM HARBOR, Fla. — Cliff Kresge nearly holed out from the fairway twice with a wedge in hand, so when his 5-iron from 184 yards headed toward the flag Thursday, his caddie instinctively said, "Go in this time."

And it did.

It was one of two eagles for Kresge, who was 8 under through 11 holes until a few errant drives down the stretch made him settle for a 6-under 65 and a two-shot lead in the PODS Championship, the first time he has ever led any round in 114 starts on the PGA Tour.

Among those at 67 was Arron Oberholser, who believes he has a grip on his back problems with an innovative workout routine.

"For 11 holes, it was a dream round," Kresge said. "And then I kind of got in my way a little bit at the end. Still, 6 under is darn good."

LSU women's coach resigns amid allegations

BATON ROUGE, La. — LSU's acting women's basketball coach said he was unaware of any improper conduct that would have caused Pokey Chatman to abruptly resign from a program she had coached the past three seasons.

Bob Starkey said he could not explain the timing of Chatman's decision. A day after she announced she would resign after the NCAA tournament, Chatman said Thursday she was leaving the team immediately.

"There's been 20 to 25 things that are just floating out there, and I think she thought if she just stepped away from it she could eliminate that from even multiplying," Starkey said. "She has her reasons, and hopefully, soon she'll address that herself."

The Times-Picayune of New Orleans reported that the resignation was prompted by the school's discovery of alleged inappropriate conduct between Chatman and one or more players.

Braves pitcher Hampton injured in batting practice

Mike Hampton is hurt again, and this time it has nothing to do with his arm.

The Atlanta Braves' left-hander injured his left side during batting practice, and won't be ready for the start of the regular season.

Hampton, starting the seventh season of a \$121 million, eight-year contract, will miss the rest of spring training and could be out as long as two months. The Braves had been counting on him to bolster a rotation that includes John Smoltz, Tim Hudson and Chuck James.

"I think I pulled it pretty bad," Hampton said Thursday in Kissimmee, Fla. "There's nothing you can do about it now except try to get it healed up and get it better."

Hampton was taking batting practice Wednesday at the Braves' complex while the team was playing the Detroit Tigers in nearby Lakeland.

SMC GOLF

Sophs lead Belles in Myrtle Beach

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's will be led by four sophomores as it travels to Myrtle Beach, S.C., March 17-18 to open the spring season.

Sophomores Meredith Fantom, Perri Hamma, Meaghan Fontein and Molly Goldsmith are joined by junior Katie O'Brien and freshman Theresa Tonyan in the 10-team event at Fairfield University. Belles coach Mark Hamilton expects to see a fairly tough field.

"There are five Division I teams, three Division II teams, one NAIA team and us," he said. "It will be pretty stiff competition."

Unable to practice outdoors in the winter, the Belles have made good use of indoor facilities. The team practices chipping and putting on Notre Dame's campus and takes full swings at Bobick's golf shop.

Hamilton said the winter provided the coaches and golfers with time to study videos of their swings and correct any problems. Both Hamilton and O'Brien have said that the tight cuts around the greens will be crucial.

"We worked pretty hard on the short game this winter, more than we ever have in the past, and that's usually the first thing that goes in the winter," Hamilton said. "We work on the short game and then we work on any mechanical issues that the ladies have in there swings. That's when we try to get that taken care of."

O'Brien agrees that emphasizing the team's short game is

important because of the long winter months. She said the Belles have spent a lot of time chipping and putting. And, so far, her coach has seen it pay dividends.

"To the person, I've seen improvement in talent," he said. "It's been a good off-season for working on the swings and short game."

O'Brien said the winter has been a chance to recharge and get a fresh start to the spring season.

"I think that the gap between seasons was a well needed break for our team," she said. "We are all refreshed and ready to start play again."

Hamilton said he expects O'Brien to lead the team. O'Brien, who was second on the squad in the fall with an 87.3 round scoring average, missed a portion of the season with mononucleosis.

"She would have been All-conference, but she didn't have the required number of rounds," Hamilton said. "So we're expecting her to lead the way."

Hamilton acknowledges that the lack of real competition will have an effect on the golfers.

"Getting out on the golf course, we're definitely going to be a little rusty," he said.

To counteract that lack of playing time on the course, the team will travel to Pinehurst, N.C., to prepare for the tournament.

"Our team is looking forward to spring break in Pinehurst," O'Brien said. "This should be a great opener for our spring season."

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MEN'S LACROSSE

Irish try to avenge loss versus UNC

By PAT O'BRIEN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame looks to rebound from its loss to Cornell last weekend when the No. 15 Irish (2-1) face No. 13 North Carolina (4-1) Saturday at 1 p.m. in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Last season, the Irish bested the Tar Heels 9-7 in South Bend. The all-time series between the teams is even at three wins apiece.

"This is another test to prove how good we are," Irish junior goaltender Joey Kemp said. "It is very important to bounce back from a loss."

Freshman attack Will Yeatman and junior midfielder Michael Podgajny lead the Irish with nine points each. Senior attack Brian Hubschmann has also been productive on offense, already netting seven goals to go along with one assist.

North Carolina played well in its first three games but the Tar Heels received a rude awakening when they lost 19-8 to No. 7 Navy. North Carolina got back on the right track, though, by beating Bellarmine Wednesday 10-6 for its fourth win of the season.

Now, for the Irish, it's a matter of following in their footsteps.

"It is never good to lose two games in a row in a short, 14-game season," Irish senior midfielder Lucius Polk said. "[Both teams] are both coming off recent big losses. We need a big start to these four games



JENNIFER KANG/The Observer

Irish defenseman Ross Zimmerman cradles the ball upfield during Notre Dame's 9-7 win over Loyola (Md.) Feb. 17.

that we have in a 10-day span."

The Tar Heels have underclassmen leaders of their own in freshman attacker Gavin Petraccia, sophomore midfielder Ben Hunt and sophomore goaltender Grant Zimmerman. Petraccia leads North Carolina with 14 points, while Hunt and Petraccia both top the squad with nine goals each.

Zimmerman has started all five games in goal with a

.515 save percentage.

Notes

◆ North Carolina has already tied last season's victory total. It finished 4-10 in 2006 and failed to make the NCAA Tournament.

◆ Notre Dame is 1-1 away from home. North Carolina is undefeated at 3-0 in Chapel Hill.

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A DRIVEN LIFE



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Irish guard Tory Jackson drives against Syracuse center Darryl Watkins during Notre Dame's 89-83 win in the Big East tournament.

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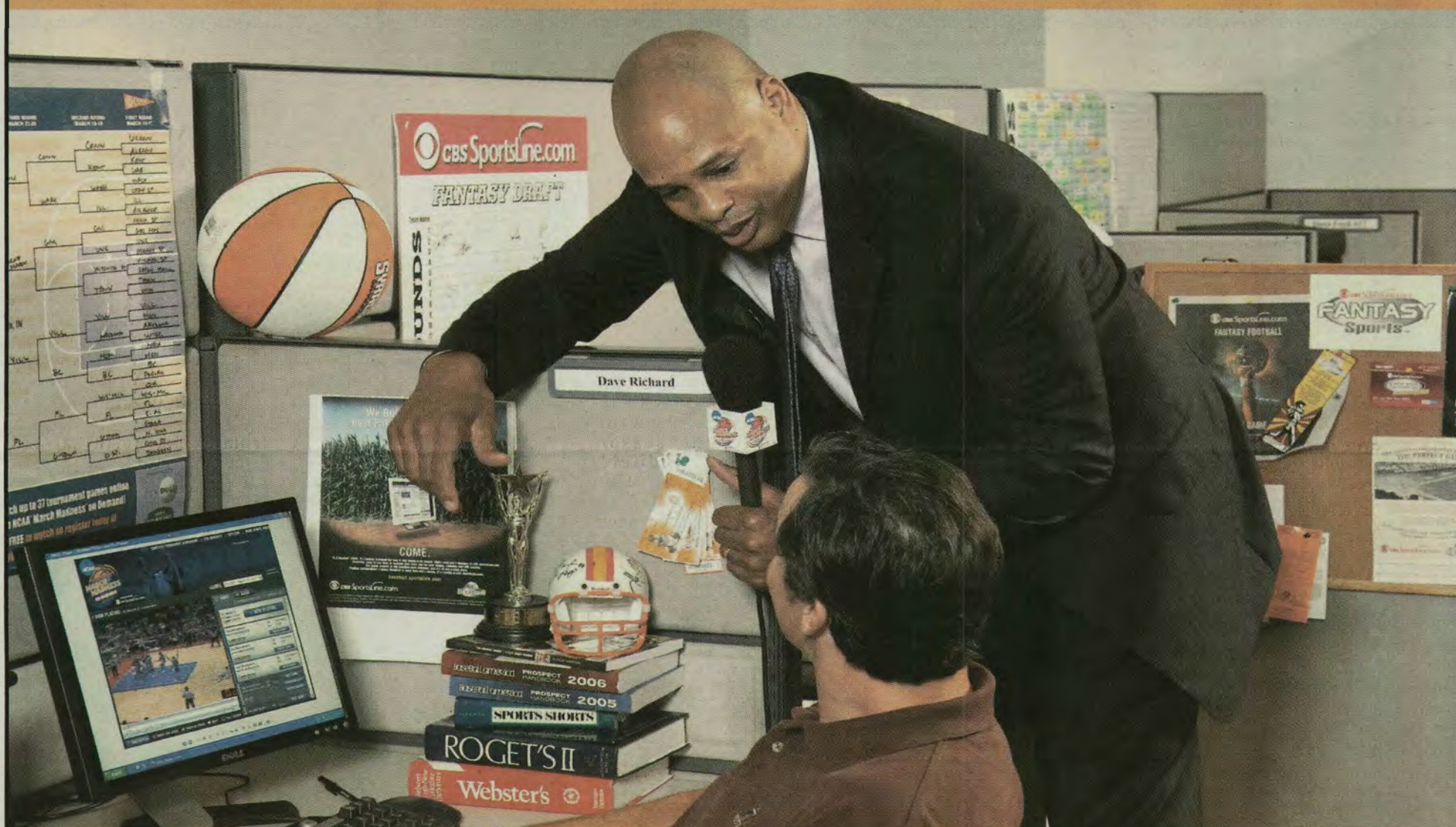


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TRACK AND FIELD

Six to compete at NCAAs

ND distance runners will race at nationals

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

With a men's conference title already under its belt, Notre Dame will compete in the NCAA Indoor Championships today and Saturday in Fayetteville, Ark.

Six runners at the NCAA Indoor Championships will represent Notre Dame — two individual runners and a four-person relay team.

Head coach Joe Piane is incredibly proud of his team and has found a creative way to put the team's accomplishment in perspective.

"There are 310 Division I teams," he said. "If everyone had five guys in the mile, that's 1,500 milers. They take 15 guys. That means one percent of all the athletes get into the meet. You have to be a pretty incredible athlete or pretty incredible relay just to get into the meet."

"There are teams, like Alabama, that have one athlete in — and they're happy. It's hard to get in."

Senior Thomas Chamney

will run the 800 meters — his best finish (1:47.82) is the second-fastest time in both the country and in the history of Notre Dame indoor track.

Irish junior Jake Watson will compete in the mile. In the Mayo Invitational Feb. 3, he ran a 4:00.71 mile at the Loftus Center — good for ninth overall in the nation and third fastest in school history.

The Irish distance medley relay composed of Watson, junior John Cavanaugh, senior Ryan Postel and senior Todd Placek will round out the

Irish representation in Fayetteville. At the Alex Wilson Invitational last weekend, the group posted a season-best time of 9:35.71 — third-best in school history. Junior Adam Currie will also attend as an alternate for the distance medley relay.

Of the athletes traveling, Piane feels that they all have a chance to score.

"We've got kids that are very good, and quite frankly, I think Watson can get into

the finals and possibly score," he said. "I think we can get some points out of our distance medley and hopefully some points out of Chamney — the kids that are going have the potential to score."

The Irish mile relay team fell just short of the championships. The top 11 teams were invited to race — Notre Dame was ranked 12th.

Piane said the intensity of practice has decreased in preparation for the championships.

"You just don't do a lot," Piane said. "At this point in time, you can't get them in better shape. You just want to make sure that they're sharp and they do have a little bit of speed, but you don't kill them this week."

This is the largest squad Notre Dame has ever sent to the championships. In three of the past four years, the team has sent five athletes.

Contact Bill Brink at
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"You have to be a pretty incredible athlete or pretty incredible relay just to get into the meet."

Joe Piane
Irish coach

ROWING

Irish season starts with races at Tennessee, UM

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

Spring break will exist in name only for Notre Dame, as the Irish are only a week away from beginning their spring season with a schedule that includes some of the top rowing teams in the country.

Notre Dame is coming off the most successful season in its history after winning the Big East team title in addition to achieving an NCAA team bid. The Irish will be look to garner their fourth consecutive Big East team title in addition to their second consecutive NCAA team bid this season.

But in order to reach these goals, Notre Dame will have to overcome a very challenging schedule.

"We've once again put together a schedule that will be very challenging and will help us gauge our improvement throughout the season," Irish coach Martin Stone said in February. "Every year we've tried to upgrade our schedule. I believe that this year's schedule is very tough and one that will test us throughout the spring."

Notre Dame will open its season next Saturday in Knoxville, Tenn., when it takes on Tennessee and Minnesota. The Volunteers fin-

ished last season as the No. 2 team in the South region while the Golden Gophers were No. 3 in the Central region at the end of 2006. The Irish were No. 6 in the Central region last year.

The schedule does not get any easier the following weekend when Notre Dame travels to Ann Arbor, Mich. for a regatta against Michigan and Michigan State. The Wolverines finished 2006 ranked No. 2 in the Central region, and the Spartans were No. 4 in the region in the final poll.

The other notable meet on the Irish schedule is a trip to Redwood Shores, Calif., for the Windermere Real Estate Regatta — widely considered one of the season's top meets — on April 14-15.

Among the participants will be Stanford, Washington, Washington State, California and UCLA, who together account for five of the top six teams in the final poll of 2006 for the West region.

The Irish will open up with two-time defending national champion California Saturday morning before racing Stanford that afternoon and UCLA Sunday morning.

Contact Greg Arbogast at
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ND WOMEN'S GOLF

Nakazaki to drive team during break invites

By LORENZO REYES
Sports Writer

Three underclassmen will round out Notre Dame's top-four as the Irish head into their spring break tournaments.

The Irish will travel to Boulder City, Nev., March 12 for the three-day, 17-team UNLV Spring Invitational. The team will look to improve on its 10th-place finish at the Central District Classic last February.

Notre Dame will travel south to Austin, Texas, following the event for the Betsy Rawls Longhorn Invitational. The Irish will be one of 15 teams to compete for the title. The three-day tournament begins March 16 and will be played at the University of Texas Golf Club.

Notre Dame will compete with the same lineup in both tournaments. Senior co-captain Noriko Nakazaki will tee off from the No. 1 spot for the Irish. Nakazaki is coming off a 15-over 230 with rounds of 75-75-80 — putting her in a tie for 30th place in the field. It marked her fifth team-leading performance in the six tournaments of the 2006-07 season.

Sophomore Lisa Maunu will play from the No. 2 position in both tournaments. Maunu shot a 254 (89-87-78) putting her in a tie for 71st several weeks ago.

Freshman Kristen Wetzel will represent the Irish at the third spot next week. Wetzel

was tied in 46th place with an overall score of 234 (79-79-76).

Fellow freshman Annie Brophy will tee off from the fourth spot. Brophy enters the tournament after shooting a 16-over 231 (79-76-76), which was enough for a 36th place tie.

Finishing off the list is freshman Julie Kim, who is golfing in her second collegiate tournament. Kim tied for 30th place alongside Nakazaki with a 230 (76-73-81) at the Central District Classic.

Irish coach Susan Holt noted the challenges Notre Dame will face in the coming week.

"We are going to face some competitive fields next week, which can put us in position for postseason play," she said. "Any head to head wins we can come up with would help our confidence on our way to the playoffs."

The team has been working on getting back to basics.

"As a team, we are trying to focus on playing one shot at a time, one hole at a time — simplifying the game," Holt said. "We are trying to get back to the basics of executing the shot each at a time."

Holt is hopeful that simplifying the fundamentals will result in the team's success next week.

"If we can get all of our players to golf with that mindset for 18 holes and three rounds, this play will drastically help the team improve,"

Contact Lorenzo Reyes at
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ND SOFTBALL

ND heads west for tourneys

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Writer

Notre Dame heads west to California once again to play in two tournaments over spring break. The Irish continue their tough early schedule next week with three ranked teams, including No. 2 Arizona State.

The Sun Devils (22-2) have held opponents to two or less runs in 17 of their wins so far this season, including seven shutout victories. They will face Notre Dame to open up the Judi Garman Classic March 15 at 9 a.m.

The Irish will square off with No. 14 Louisiana-Lafayette in the same tournament and No. 12 UCLA Sunday in the second game of the Long Beach Invitational.

The Irish are 0-3 so far this season against ranked opponents, most recently losing a 1-0 pitcher's duel to No. 9 Michigan March 4.

The Fresno State Bulldogs and Eastern Kentucky University round out the rest of Notre Dame's scheduled opponents over the break. The Irish will also play two more games that will be decided by how they fare in the round robin part of the tournament.

First up for the Irish is Eastern Kentucky, who has been inconsistent so far this season. The Colonels still pose a quick scoring threat, with freshman Shyenne Hussey leading the offense. Hussey has 12 RBIs and four home runs with a .600 batting average in her first 12 collegiate games. The rookie was named the Ohio Valley Conference player of the week Feb. 26.



TOM FOLEY/The Observer

Irish second baseman Katie Laing bats against Michigan during Notre Dame's 3-1 win Oct. 16 at Ivy Field.

Sophomore pitcher Brittany Bargar will have the task of shutting her down. Bargar is 6-3 so far on the season, tying her for the most wins of any pitcher in the Big East. She also leads the conference in strikeouts with 58, averaging slightly more than one per inning.

Senior Kenya Fuemmeler (1-4, 4.25 ERA) will get the ball for the second game of the afternoon against the Bruins. UCLA is in its first year under new head coach Kelly Inouye-Perez after long-time skipper Sue Enquist resigned at the end of last season. Enquist defeated Notre Dame three times — most recently in 2005 — while coaching the Bruins.

Inouye-Perez has her team off to a solid start so far this season with a 15-6 record. So far, UCLA has been getting it done with the long ball. As a team, the Bruins hit 31 home runs in their first 21 games. In Wednesday's 8-1 win over Cal State Fullerton, the team hit five dingers, including one in the very first at-bat from junior outfielder Krista Colburn.

After Sunday, the Irish will have four days off before making the short 25-mile trip to Fullerton to play the rest of their games.

The Observer could not reach team members Thursday.

Contact Dan Murphy at
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Regional

continued from page 20

American and women's sabre national champion in 2004, is recovering from bronchitis. At times in her final matches in last weekend's individual competition, Providenza walked slowly back to the on-guard position to take a few extra breaths before resuming her bouts. After finishing second in the tournament, she is confident that she'll earn her fourth consecutive bid to the national tournament.

"I'm feeling so much better," she said. "I'm definitely tired, [but] my cough is almost gone, [and] I think I have a voice."

Providenza said she wouldn't think about the pressures of trying to qualify for the NCAA Championships for a fourth straight year. And when she considered what the Irish squad has accomplished this year, she pointed to a fellow sabreist, sophomore Ashley Serrette.

In the team competition last weekend, Serrette and Providenza each went 2-1 against Ohio State in the Buckeyes' 5-4 win over the Irish women sabreists.

Serrette, who finished seventh

in the individual competition and went 18-2 the week before at the Northwestern Duals, said that she got over a mental block to spur on her recent run. And now, with similar competition as a week ago, she needs to improve just two spots to secure a place at the national competition, which would be more than just an accolade on her growing résumé.

Dr. W University is only a 25-minute drive from Orange, N.J., and getting a chance to go home and see her family is something Serrette will fence for this week, especially since she is staying on campus for break.

"I really want to qualify because I think that I am capable of it," she said, expressing her confidence while avoiding a cocky tone. "I see it as something that is possible."

Serrette's evaluation of her own future is much like Bednarski's prognosis for his squad. After falling to several of the top teams already this season, the Irish coach is nevertheless optimistic.

"We know that we had a hard

year and we are not ranked by the polls as favorites in the tournament," he said before turning to the positive. "And we know our rivals escaped us — but not by far."

Bednarski said the Irish might benefit from the underdog role, especially against Midwest rival

Ohio State, whose competition with Notre Dame he compared to the feud between Duke and North Carolina, which extends into their elite fencing squads.

And nothing would be sweeter for the Irish than shutting the Buckeyes out of a spot or two for the NCAA Championships.

"We are fighting for the spots — it's already the national championships," Bednarski said.

Note

◆ Fencers who don't finish in the top spots of their weapon can gain entry to the national competition through one of two NCAA at-large berths.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

"We are fighting for the spots — it's already the national championships."

Janusz Bednarski
Irish coach

Canisius

continued from page 20

tive goals to build a 4-1 lead.

The Irish never surrendered that advantage, trading goals to take a 6-3 lead into halftime. Cornell played a more competitive second half, but Notre Dame protected its lead down the stretch to preserve the victory.

The Irish victory over the ranked opponent was even more impressive considering the team's lack of preparation before the game. Due to weather conditions, Notre Dame did not arrive at Cornell until midnight on game day and had little practice before the match.

The Irish were led by junior Caitlin McKinney, who contributed three goals and three assists. Sophomore Jillian Byers and senior Lena Zentgraf also netted three goals apiece in the effort.

Sophomore Erin Goodman had a brilliant performance in goal for the Irish, with a career-best 14 saves. Goodman recorded 11 saves in the first half, allowing Notre Dame to take a 6-3 advantage.

After strong performances

against Northwestern and Cornell last week, Jillian Byers was named Big East offensive player of the week. She had eight points on six goals and two assists.

Byers became the second Irish player to be honored as offensive player of the week this season. McKinney won the honor in the only other week the award was given this season.

"Jillian has really gotten a lot of attention from opposing defenses," Irish coach Tracy Coyne said. "How she's been able to broaden her game and still score is a tribute to her talent and hard work."

Last year the Irish easily dispatched the Canisius at home, defeating the Griffins 18-2. Canisius has improved this year, winning three of its last four games.

Despite Notre Dame's past dominance of the Griffins, Coyne said the team is not looking past Canisius.

"We've been as focused in practice this week as before we played [No. 1] Northwestern," she said. "I'm confident we'll be able to focus, go in there and get the job done."

Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu

MEN'S TENNIS

Irish head to annual tourney



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Senior Stephen Bass runs down a volley at No. 1 singles in Notre Dame's 5-2 victory over Michigan Feb. 23. The Irish head to Montgomery, Ala. for the Blue/Gray National Tennis Classic.

By DEIRDRE KRASULA
Sports Writer

The Blue/Gray National Tennis Classic in Montgomery, Ala. feels a little like home for Notre Dame.

The Irish have participated in the tournament for the past 17 years with continued recent success — Notre Dame advanced to the finals last year before losing to Virginia Commonwealth. The players are also well acquainted with their host families, as the team stays in the same houses every year.

"We feel like we're almost going home when we go down there," Notre Dame coach Bobby Bayliss said.

Even though the Irish are familiar with the territory, the team still has its challenges ahead. Notre Dame will have to make the adjustment to playing outdoors after playing nearly all of their previous matches

inside.

The Irish will also have to make sure they are physically capable of enduring the heat and weather conditions. Bayliss said that in past years he has had some players suffer from dehydration, and he does not want to see that happen again.

To make the transition to the heat smoother, Notre Dame will begin practicing in Montgomery several days before tournament play begins on March 15.

And then there's the wind. "When you haven't played in the wind you get used to being comfortable without having to move your feet as much and then you go outside its more difficult to make that adjustment," Bayliss said.

Besides the physical factors of the tournament, the team will face formidable competitors in the 16-team format. No. 25 Virginia Commonwealth and No. 22 Tulsa will be present. But

despite facing tough competition, No. 7 Notre Dame enters the tournament as the highest national ranking.

The No. 2 player in the country, Tulsa's Arnau Bragues — last year's tournament most valuable player — will likely challenge Notre Dame senior Stephen Bass.

In doubles play, the Irish are likely to see Middle Tennessee State's Andreas Siljestorm and Marco Born. The No. 4 doubles team in the country is the tallest duo in NCAA history with both standing at nearly 7-feet.

Beyond getting a chance to compete against some of the nation's top teams and players, Bayliss said the team is just looking forward to get a chance to play.

"We are excited to be going," he said. "It's a great event for us and we're excited about going."

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ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Team to play outside on San Diego courts

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Writer

Over the past few weeks, No. 2 Notre Dame has settled into a groove. Playing most of their dual matches at home, the Irish have collected wins over multiple top-25 opponents on their way to a 12-1 record.

This weekend, however, the Irish will leave the friendly confines of the Eck Tennis Pavilion and hit the road. First, the Irish travel to Provo, Utah, to battle No. 29 Brigham Young before heading to San Diego to play in their first set of outdoor matches

— against No. 21 Duke and No. 16 Tennessee, March 15 and 16.

"Outdoors, you've got a lot of things to contend with," Irish coach Jay Louderback said. "You've got the sun [and] wind. Balls don't travel as fast."

"Indoors you just don't have any of that. ... It's just a lot different to go outside. Plus, if it's a little cooler, the balls don't travel as fast, points last a lot longer and you can't get as much speed on the ball."

Louderback is not concerned that the switch from indoor to outdoor play will negatively affect his team.

"We're definitely a better outdoor team," he said. "We have one or two [players] who are better indoors, but everyone else is better outside. It'll take us a match or two to get

used to outdoors, then we'll be fine."

The Irish still have BYU before they head to sunny California. The Cougars are 8-4 but have struggled against top-tier competition, losing to No. 25 Baylor and No. 8 Clemson.

"They've played better lately. They struggled earlier in the year. They didn't have a real good tournament at the [ITA

National Indoor]," Louderback said. "They play better every match, though. It's a hard place to play because you have to play in the altitude."

The Blue Devils (4-2) have posted wins over No. 18 Arizona State and No. 41 Indiana.

"Duke started slowly, losing their first match at Northwestern 6-1," Louderback said. "They just played awful. But they've played much better as they year went on. They just started slow."

The Volunteers defeated No. 31 Michigan but lost to Wake Forest and North Carolina — two opponents Notre Dame defeated earlier in the season.

"They're scrappy. They fight really hard," Louderback said. "They play very emotional and yell really loud. They're always up the whole time. They're a tough team to play."

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

"We are definitely a better outdoor team."

Jay Louderback
Irish coach

"It'll take us a match or two to get used to outdoors, then we'll be fine."

Jay Louderback
Irish coach



Irish guards Russell Carter, left, and Colin Falls defend against Orange guard Josh Wright during Notre Dame's 89-83 win Thursday.

ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Big East

continued from page 20

off balance.

Irish coach Mike Brey said he wasn't concerned that Notre Dame — which shot 13-of-34 from 3-point land as a team — took so many jump shots against the Syracuse 2-3 zone defense.

"You've got to let your guys shoot," he said. "To beat that system ... you have to make some shots. That's the thing that sets the table."

Inside the 3-point arc, freshman Luke Harangody battled for 20 points on 7-of-14 shooting from the floor and 6-of-6 from the free throw line.

"[Freshman point guard] Tory Jackson got inside the zone and [sophomore forward] Zach Hillesland and [junior forward] Rob Kurz on the high post got me some good lucks and I just tried to make the best of it," Harangody said.

Notre Dame was deadly from the free throw line, hitting 22-of-26 from the charity stripe, including 12-of-14 in the last two minutes of the game.

The Orange, on the other hand, struggled at the line, making just 16-of-29 attempts. Forward Terrence Roberts had an especially bad afternoon, going 0-for-6.

Roberts made up for his poor free throw shooting in other areas of his play. He scored 10 points and dragged down 20 rebounds.

The teams traded baskets for most of the early going, with six lead changes in the first six minutes. With 14 minutes left in the first half, however, Orange guard Paul Harris took over, scoring seven straight points to give his team a 20-14 lead. His teammates continued the run from there, extending the lead to 26-16 with 7:52 left in the half.

But the Irish would not go quietly. Aided by three Syracuse turnovers, Notre Dame went on a 13-2 run of its own, capped by a 3-pointer from Falls, to take a 29-28 lead with 4:54 before the break.

The Orange bounced back with six straight points of their own, but another three by Falls with 10 seconds before the break cut Syracuse's advantage to 34-32 at halftime.

The Irish exploded offensively after the half. They scored 11 of the first 16 points after the break, jumping out to a 43-39 lead with 16:08 left, then extended the lead to 51-42 on threes by Falls and Jackson.

The Orange climbed back into it with a 9-2 run on the backs of 3-pointers by forward Demetris Nichols and guard Eric Devendorf to pull within two, but the Irish responded with yet another burst — this time 12-4 — to go back up by 10, at 65-55, with 10 minutes left.

Notre Dame kept the lead around 10 for the next seven minutes, but the Orange switched to a full court press and appeared poised to mount a comeback until Falls abruptly ended their momentum with his three with two minutes left.

The Irish closed out the game with free throws down the stretch.

Notes

◆Notre Dame moves on to play the top seed in the Big East tournament, No. 9 Georgetown, tonight at 7 p.m. in the semifinals. The Hoyas beat Villanova Thursday 62-57 and defeated the Irish 66-48 in Washington, D.C. Jan. 6.

"Last time, they whipped us," Carter said of the teams' previous game. "It's a tough challenge, but we're going to be up to it."

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

Shot

continued from page 20

But Notre Dame's shooting in the second half would not have been enough for the team to prevail had Syracuse not shot 55 percent (on 29 attempts) from the free-throw line for the game.

During an eight-minute stretch in the second half, beginning with 11 minutes remaining, Syracuse had four chances to cut into the Irish lead at the foul line. The first time, Orange forward Terrance Roberts missed both attempts. Irish forward Zach Hillesland came down and hit a jumper to make the score 61-53 Irish.

Roberts, who finished 0-of-6 from the charity stripe, returned to the line at 7:24 with the score 65-59 Notre Dame and missed the front end of a 1-and-1. Syracuse had missed an opportunity to put pressure on the Irish as Notre Dame failed to score on its next possession.

At 6:07, Syracuse forward Paul Harris hit one of two free throws, but then Notre Dame responded as guard Russell Carter connected for one of his four 3-pointers, giving the Irish a 70-62 lead.

But the most important set of misses came with 3:05 remaining. With the Orange down seven, Harris missed a pair from the line. Notre Dame came right down the floor and forward Rob Kurz buried a three — inducing a big fist pump from Irish coach

Mike Brey — from the corner to put the Irish up 10.

This five-point swing all but ended Syracuse's hopes of a comeback and ensured Notre Dame a spot in the Big East semifinals.

Harris and Roberts killed the Irish on the boards, combining for a whopping 35 rebounds, but could not hit key free throws down the stretch. If they had connected from the line during this stretch, the outcome may have been different.

Notre Dame, despite its first half struggles, took advantage of Syracuse's missed opportunities and hit key shots when it mattered. The Irish were 22-of-26 from the line and kept an Orange comeback at bay during the final minutes.

Still, Notre Dame had its problems.

The Irish relied too much on the three. Luke Harangody did finish with 20 points, but half of Notre Dame's field goal attempts came from beyond the arc. All off guard Colin Falls' 17 field goal attempts were threes. It may not be a problem now, but the day will come in the near future when those shots will not fall.

The Irish can take steps to correct this problem. Carter has shown the ability to get to the hole and draw contact, even against Syracuse. If he decides to drive more often, Carter will not only gain high percentage shots but also get other teams' post players in foul trouble.

Falls is among the nation's best at using screens effectively to find an open shot.

Opposing teams know Notre Dame is going to set double screens to get him open, but Falls usually manages to get open — with a few exceptions. Against Marquette Feb. 24, Falls had trouble shaking Dominic James. James was able to beat Falls to the screens and fight over the top of them, rendering him ineffective in these possessions.

Most of Falls' points came from kick-outs off of rebounds or moments when James did not guard him. When the Irish run into another athletic team, such as Georgetown tonight with solid defenders like Marquette's James, Falls will find it difficult to get open looks. Running Falls through some back door screens can keep an aggressive defender from blanketing Falls as James did.

Lastly, Notre Dame allowed 26 offensive rebounds and 27 second-chance points against the Orange. Notre Dame's rebounding has been solid all season, but any dreams of a trip to San Antonio in a few weeks will die quickly if the Irish can't improve upon their interior play.

With a little help from Syracuse, the Irish won their sixth contest in a row. If they hope to extend that streak, however, they still need to do some work, starting tonight against the Hoyas.

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

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Florida

continued from page 20

sus Cleveland State on March 20 will not be played.

Sacred Heart (2-2) will most likely send senior right-hander Chris Howard to the mound in Notre Dame's first contest. Howard threw seven shutout innings and got the win against Pittsburgh in a 7-0 Pioneers victory Monday. Schrage said his team is concerned with its approach but will not try to adjust its game plan in anticipation of facing Howard.

"Right now I am more concerned with how we're playing than who we're playing," Schrage said. "We need to keep hitting the ball like we did last Sunday and improve our defense and keep getting better."

Junior left-hander Wade Korpi will try to set the tone for the week as he takes the hill Saturday. Korpi will also look to find his own rhythm against Sacred Heart.

"Korpi needs to get a little bit more consistent with his release point and get the ball down more, he's pitching to high in the zone right now," Schrage said.

Irish sophomore David Phelps hopes to retain his form that earned him wins against both TCU and Nebraska, not to mention a spot on the Big East honor roll two weeks ago. Saturday morning against Duquesne.

"Phelps has been outstanding — he's pitched three really solid ball games for us," Schrage said.

Senior right-hander Dan Kapala will get the start against Harvard Sunday afternoon. Kapala missed all of the 2006 season with a torn labrum but has looked good so far this year, Schrage said. Sophomore right-hander Brett Gaffy will take the mound for Notre Dame Monday in the team's second game

against the Crimson.

After the four games in Clearwater, the Irish will head to Fort Myers to take on Dayton in the Florida Gulf Coast University Invitational. Sophomore Sam Elam is slated to start against the Flyers. Notre Dame will also face New York Tech, Florida Gulf Coast and Harvard in the event. The squad's probable rotation for those contests is yet to be announced.

Including the eight contests next week, the Irish have just 10 games remaining before they begin their Big East season against South Florida March 24 at Frank Eck Stadium. Schrage knows that his squad must find its form on this trip to Florida.

"When we get back the Big East season will be upon us," he said. "This is a really crucial time for our team as far as development goes."

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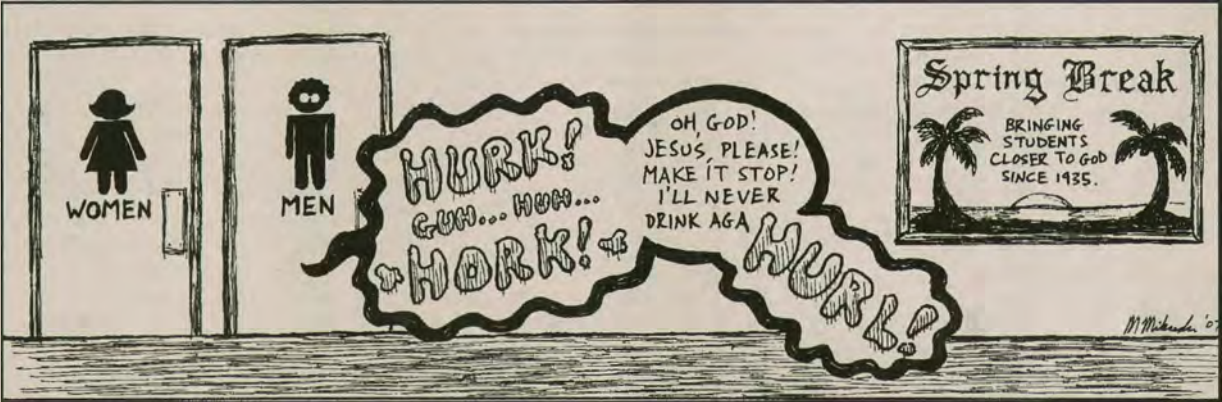


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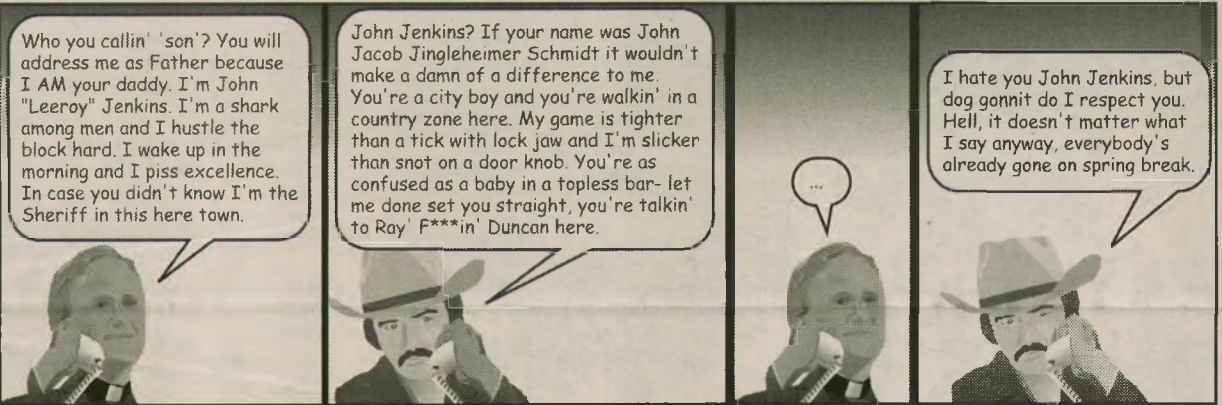
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19 Band's lineup

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26 Response to an impatient person

27 Dating service datum

28 Broadcaster from 1995 to 2006

29 Hardly windy

30 Ships

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37 River of Troyes

38 "Phooey!"

39 Through

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46 Old boom makers

47 Choice for the indecisive

48 What "-" may signify

49 A sigh
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3 Like people in the front row of a group photo, often

4 Get further Details?

5 Company

6 Suit request

7 Stop or touch follower

8 Rocher of cosmetics

9 Cannonball Adderley's specialty

10 See 43-Across

11 "Eraserhead" star Jack

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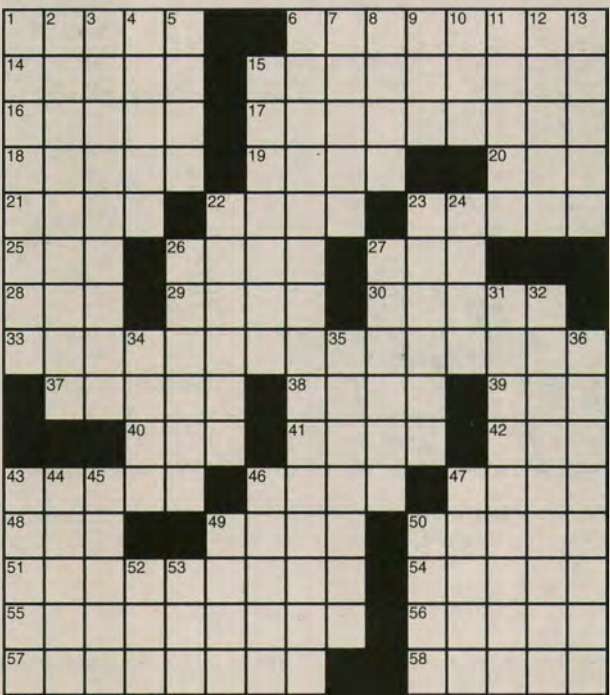
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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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Puzzle by Mike Nothnagel

- 23 Receivers of cuts

24 It helps one keep one's place

26 Trailer makeup

27 Indians, e.g.

31 Behind someone's back

32 His self-titled book has 24 chapters

34 Cookout fare

35 In heat?

36 Some problems to solve

43 Infomercial cutter

44 Winds

45 Period of douze mois

46 Cut

47 Bottom

49 Geometric figure

50 You can get a charge out of it

52 Landing site

53 Boxer's org.

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JUMBLE

JUMBLE

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

NIHKT

TUSEG

GLEMIN

CUGHAT

Ans: " " " "

Yesterday's Jumbles: SIXTY AZURE WEEVIL EYELID

Answer: The sharp dresser got the job at the men's store because he was — WELL—"SUITED"

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HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



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

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HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: James Van Der Beek, 29; Freddie Prinze Jr., 30; Aidan Quinn, 47; Lynn Redgrave, 63

Happy Birthday: You can put an end to some of the problems that have taken their toll in the past. Letting go will clear your mind so you can proceed with what you do best. A chance to make some money through a property investment is looking positive. Your numbers are 2, 17, 27, 31, 36, 49

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't look back -- focus on the present and the future. Avoid the people who drag you down. Money matters can be cleared up and an investment will pay off. Discipline will be what counts today. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You can expect to experience some worries or added responsibilities due to an older friend or relative. Do what must be done without complaining. Letting the little things get to you will only make matters worse. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can get the help you need if you are willing to ask for it. Passion and pleasure should be on your mind and penciled in if at all possible. Take time out to enjoy the things you like to do and the people you like to spend time with. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Positive thought will lead to bigger and better things. You can make some personal changes that will make you feel better about your own self-image. Don't let your health suffer due to poor habits. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Just when you think you have everything under control you'll be faced with another small but annoying situation. Book a trip or spend the day at a spa where you can avoid life's little worries. If you can't be found it will be difficult for others to dump responsibilities in your lap.***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Keep things out in the open or you may be accused of doing something underhanded. Partnerships will suffer if you are smug or continually criticizing. Start making the personal changes necessary to make your life better. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Expect the unexpected and don't count on things falling into place. Adaptability will be required if you want to accomplish anything at all. Work is where your focus should be so don't let your emotions come into the picture. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take the plunge and do all the things you've been putting off. Don't hesitate to ask for favors or promote your talent. Travel both short and long distances will lead to interesting information and clarification. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Life is simple -- it's you who is making it complex today. The more time you spend taking care of business and the less time blaming others or complaining, the better you will do. Don't get sucked into an argument that can be avoided. **

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can make headway if you concentrate on the job you've been assigned. A partnership will form if you are willing to give and take. An opportunity may lead you in a new direction. Don't be afraid to try something totally different. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can stabilize a partnership if you are willing to make a few concessions. You must not let someone dictate what you can and can't do. Money owed can be collected but it might put stress on the relationship.***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A creative idea will lead to some serious cash. You will find out something interesting about someone you once knew. Consider starting over on a project you are passionate about. *****

Birthday Baby: You have a good imagination and a good heart. You stick to your beliefs and are not likely to reverse a decision once you've made it. You are inventive and gravitate to the unusual.

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

THE OBSERVER

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BASEBALL

Irish to test southern weather in tournaments

By FRAN TOLAN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame coach Dave Schrage said his team will welcome the opportunity next week in Florida to play eight games outside after traveling back and forth between southern states and frigid Indiana for the first

four weeks of the season.

"The main thing that excites me is that we are going to get some continuity outside and be able to stay outside for eight to 10 days, which is something that this team needs right now," Schrage said.

The Irish have yet to find their rhythm this season, defeating then-No. 12 TCU and No. 7

Nebraska while posting a 3-6 overall record.

Schrage noted the team's need for consistency. He said Notre Dame's 16-1 win over Nebraska last Sunday might give the Irish confidence heading into this prolonged southern swing.

"We played probably the best game that we have [against Nebraska], and you just hope as

a coach that that carries over — the momentum carries over — and we go down there and start winning some games and get on a little bit of a winning streak," Schrage said. "We are trying to build up our self esteem a little bit and build off that success."

This weekend in the Clearwater Invitational in Jack Russell Stadium, the Irish will

face Sacred Heart on Saturday before playing a doubleheader against Duquesne and Harvard Sunday. The squad will wrap up its stay in Clearwater Monday with a rematch against Harvard, which was added to the official schedule because there's a possibility that the home opener ver-

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Off their backs

Irish reverse Big East fortunes with victory

By CHRIS KHOREY
Associate Sports Editor

NEW YORK — The situation was tense.

No. 16/22 Notre Dame had been leading for most of the second half of Thursday's contest with Syracuse, but the Orange had just switched to a full court press and were threatening to come back, down just 76-70 with two minutes remaining.

It was then that Irish senior captain Colin Falls calmly spotted up and knocked down his seventh three of the afternoon to put Notre Dame up by nine. The Irish hit their free throws down the stretch and came away with an 89-83 win — after scoring 57 second-half points — in the Big East quarterfinals at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

Falls scored 23 points for the Irish (24-6 overall, 12-5 Big East) on 7-of-17 shooting, with all of those shots coming from beyond the arc. The 17 three-point attempts set a Big East tournament record.

"I just think, spacing wise, I got a lot of clean looks," Falls said.

Senior guard Russell Carter also lit it up from outside, hitting four threes and scoring 24 points to help keep Syracuse (22-10, 11-7)

see BIG EAST/page 18



Irish guard Colin Falls, right, drives past Orange forward Paul Harris in Notre Dame's 89-83 win over Syracuse in the Big East quarterfinals Thursday. The Irish take on Georgetown tonight at 7.

Notre Dame's Orange nemesis deserves loss

Teams that can't hit their free throws don't deserve to win games, and never was that more apparent than Thursday afternoon at Madison Square Garden.

Notre Dame did not shoot the ball as well against Syracuse as it has in recent games, but luckily for the Irish, their average afternoon shooting was not as bad as Syracuse's horrid free throw shooting.

The Irish shot 27-of-67 from the field (40 percent), with 34 of those attempts coming from 3-point range. After starting out slow in the first half, shooting 36 percent, the Irish picked up the slack in the second half and hit timely 3-pointers to keep the Orange from overtaking the lead.

The Irish converted 7-of-15 attempts from the beyond the arc in the second half — a significant improvement from 6-of-19 in the first half.



Chris Hine

Sports Writer

see SHOT/page 18

FENCING

Bouts for title start Saturday

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

The NCAA Championships are two weeks away, but the quest for the title starts Saturday as Notre Dame hosts the Midwest Regional at the Joyce Center Fieldhouse Saturday, beginning at 8 a.m.

The top five men and women in each weapon — except for men's foil — will earn automatic berths into the national competition at Drew University in

Madison, N.J., March 22-25. Four men's foilists will earn automatic bids.

Four fencers in each gender and weapon per team can compete at the Regional competition, but only two in each discipline can advance to the NCAA Championships. A season ago, the Irish qualified their full allotment of 12 fencers.

"Usually we oscillate between 10 and 12," Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said of the team's expectations. "Everybody [is] working hard. I don't think we

have people who are slowing down."

Notre Dame enters the competition a week after hosting the Midwest Fencing Conference Championships, an event with a nearly identical field at the same location.

"To me, it's the exact same tournament," Irish senior sabreist Valerie Providenza said. "There's the same people, the same seedings."

Providenza, a three-time All-

see REGIONAL/page 17

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Team travels to NY for break in schedule

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Sports Writer

No. 5 Notre Dame will continue its stretch of away games in the Northeast Saturday, facing off against Canisius in Buffalo, N.Y.

After starting out the season with four games against ranked opponents, the Irish will travel to face a weaker

Griffins team. The match will be the first time Canisius has ever hosted a ranked team.

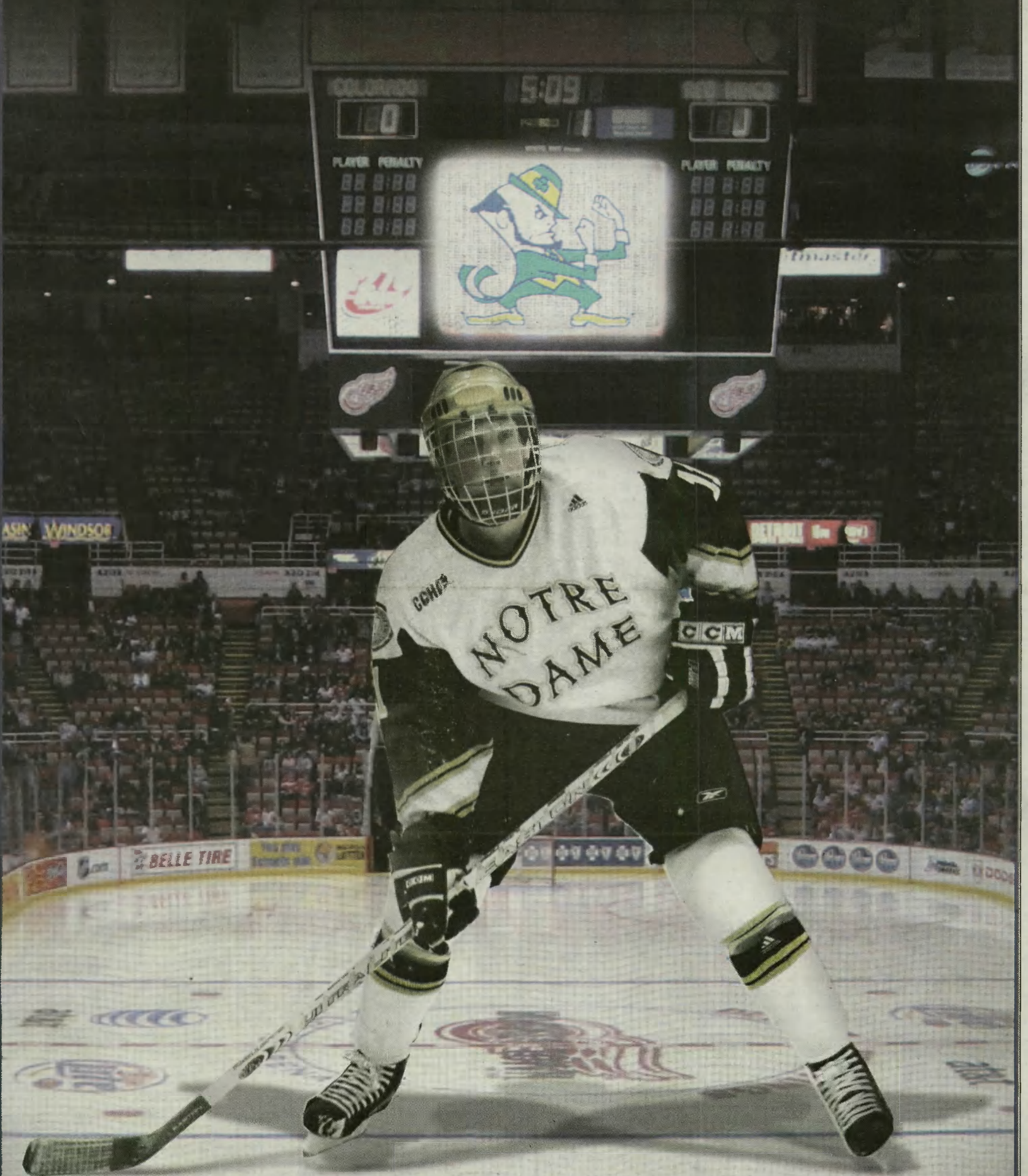
The Irish started their stretch of away matches on a positive note Sunday, defeating No. 16 Cornell 13-9. Playing in snowy conditions in Ithaca, N.Y., Notre Dame responded to an opening goal by the Big Red with a streak of four consecu-

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IRISH INSIDER

Friday, March 9, 2007

THE
OBSERVER



ONE STRIDE AT A TIME

Alaska is the first step in Notre Dame's journey
toward Joe Louis Arena and beyond

Brown named to All-Conference first team

Senior alternate captain Jason Paige also recognized as Notre Dame's team scholar-athlete award winner

By KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writer

Notre Dame goalie Dave Brown had a little surprise waiting for him when he got off the ice after practice Wednesday — the news that only minutes before he had been named to the CCHA all-conference first-team.

The senior Hobey Baker candidate became only the second Irish player in history to be named to the all-conference first team — defenseman Benoit Cotnoir was awarded the honor in 1998-99.

"It's a great honor, and I'm very excited and very proud to be honored," Brown said. "I wouldn't be able to be on an all-conference team without my great guys on my team, especially my defensemen who are battling for me every night."

Irish sophomore right wing Erik Condra and senior defenseman Noah Babin were also named to the honorable mention squad. Seven Notre Dame players have been awarded second-team all-conference status in Irish history.

Three Michigan players — forward T.J. Hensick and defensemen Jack Johnson and Matt Hunwick — joined Brown on the first team. Northern Michigan forward Mike Santorelli and Nebraska-Omaha forward Scott Parse rounded out the all-conference first team.

Notre Dame coach Jeff Jackson said he was a little disappointed that several players did not earn recognition — or enough of it. He noted that Condra had one of the highest plus/minus ratios in the league, while junior center Mark Van Guilder and the entire defensive corps have been enormous contributors this season.

"There's a reason why we have the best penalty killing unit in the country this year, and those defensemen get overlooked for doing that," Jackson said. "To me, it's about the total package."

Brown has a 25-5-3 record

with a 1.77 goals-against average in 1,997 minutes of play this season. The senior has five shutouts this season while making 708 saves.

"[Van Guilder and Condra are] so consistent, they've just been the heart and soul of this offense," Brown said. "It would have been nice to get a couple more guys on it, for sure."

Sciba returns

Irish forward Josh Sciba will play at least one game this weekend for the first time since the senior was lost to an arm injury over five weeks ago, Jackson said.

Sciba and Jackson both said that he is healthy enough to play against Alaska, but the Irish coach is reluctant to remove players from the lineup that have played well in Sciba's absence.

"[We've] got some kids that are playing really well right now, so just making the decision to take them out of the lineup isn't necessarily the right thing to do," Jackson said. "[Sciba has] worked extremely hard to get himself ready to play this weekend."

Sophomore Justin White proved to be a capable replacement for Sciba, scoring a game-tying goal late in the third period in a Feb. 9 win against Nebraska-Omaha. White joined with freshman Dan Kissel and junior Evan Rankin during several games to create Notre Dame's fastest line.

Junior defenseman Dan VeNard was faced with a situation similar to Sciba's when he returned from a leg injury several weeks ago. In his place, freshman Brett Blatchford had become a key component of the Irish blue line while paired up with fellow freshman Kyle Lawson. VeNard saw time in Saturday's season closing win against Ferris State.

"When you get injured right now on our team — like Danny VeNard found out — it's not easy to get back in because somebody was playing so well," Jackson said. "It's the same thing with Sciba."

Sciba was the leading goal scorer for the Irish last season and has seven goals and 10 assists in 27 games this year.

"I've talked to coach a little bit, and he said basically go out there and earn your spot back in the lineup," Sciba said. "He always likes to put those points in your mind to challenge you a little bit."

Jackson learns from mistake

The 1990-91 Lake Superior State team coached by Jackson had a 29-game win streak, league regular season and playoff titles and a No. 1 ranking — and then they hit a bye week.

That Lakers team — the best team Jackson has said he ever coached — fell at home in the quarterfinals of the NCAA Tournament to No. 12 Clarkson in a three-game series. And now Jackson's Irish are faced with a similar situation after the team sat at home last weekend while the first round of the CCHA playoffs was played out.

Jackson said his Lakers team lost because he failed to prepare them for the game. The Lakers were given too much time off, lacked discipline and did not take Clarkson seriously, he said.

This time, however, Jackson has refused to make the same mistake twice. The Irish held an intra-squad scrimmage Saturday night in the normal game-time slot and have held hour and a half on-ice practices each day this week.

"I've prepared differently, all you can do as a coach is learn," Jackson said. "You live and you learn. And I didn't prepare a team to be ready at the end of that bye [in 1991]."

Pearce ready in backup role

In the third and deciding game of last year's playoff series against Alaska, Brown was taken out by a Nanooks player diving to make a play at the puck at the top of the wing circle and the Irish goalie was forced to leave the game with an ankle injury.

Then-freshman backup goalie Jordan Pearce stepped into the



QUENTIN STENGER/The Observer

Irish goaltender Dave Brown prepares for a shot in a 4-2 win over Nebraska-Omaha Feb. 9. Brown had 14 saves in the game.

void and did not allow any more goals, but Alaska advanced in the playoffs with a 1-0 victory anyway.

This year, Pearce has worked extensively with Jackson to prepare for another scenario in which the sophomore would have to backstop the Irish at a moment's notice.

Jackson spent extra time alone on the ice with Pearce in the past two weeks to physically prepare the goaltender.

"He's much better prepared right now," Jackson said. "It's up to him to be ready emotionally to do it. It's just a matter of him being mentally prepared to play — ready for the challenge."

Paige named scholar-athlete

Irish alternate captain Jason Paige was named Tuesday as the team's scholar-athlete of the year — the second straight year in which the senior finance major has earned the

honor.

Paige, who has been selected to the Dean's List two times, will now be up for the CCHA's scholar athlete of the year award to be announced March 15 at the Awards Banquet in Detroit. Paige was given the Notre Dame Rockne Student-Athlete Award in 2006 and has a 3.612 cumulative grade-point average.

"It's something that is definitely important to me," Paige said. "I want to excel in the classroom because as far as my future, I want to have all the options I can. One thing I will say, over half the guys on this team are definitely deserving of that award."

After his hockey career is finished, Paige said he might like to pursue a career in private wealth management or real estate.

Contact Kyle Cassily at kcassily@nd.edu

Irish predictions



Dan Murphy
Sports Writer

Both teams will come out of the gates hard in game one, with each side having something to prove. However, Notre Dame will use its advantage in team speed to grab the early edge. The Nanooks have struggled to come from behind all year, Dave Brown and the Irish defense will have no problem holding them off. Alaska will start game two with a bit more desperation but once again the more talented, more disciplined Irish club will outlast the Nanooks and advance to the semifinal round.

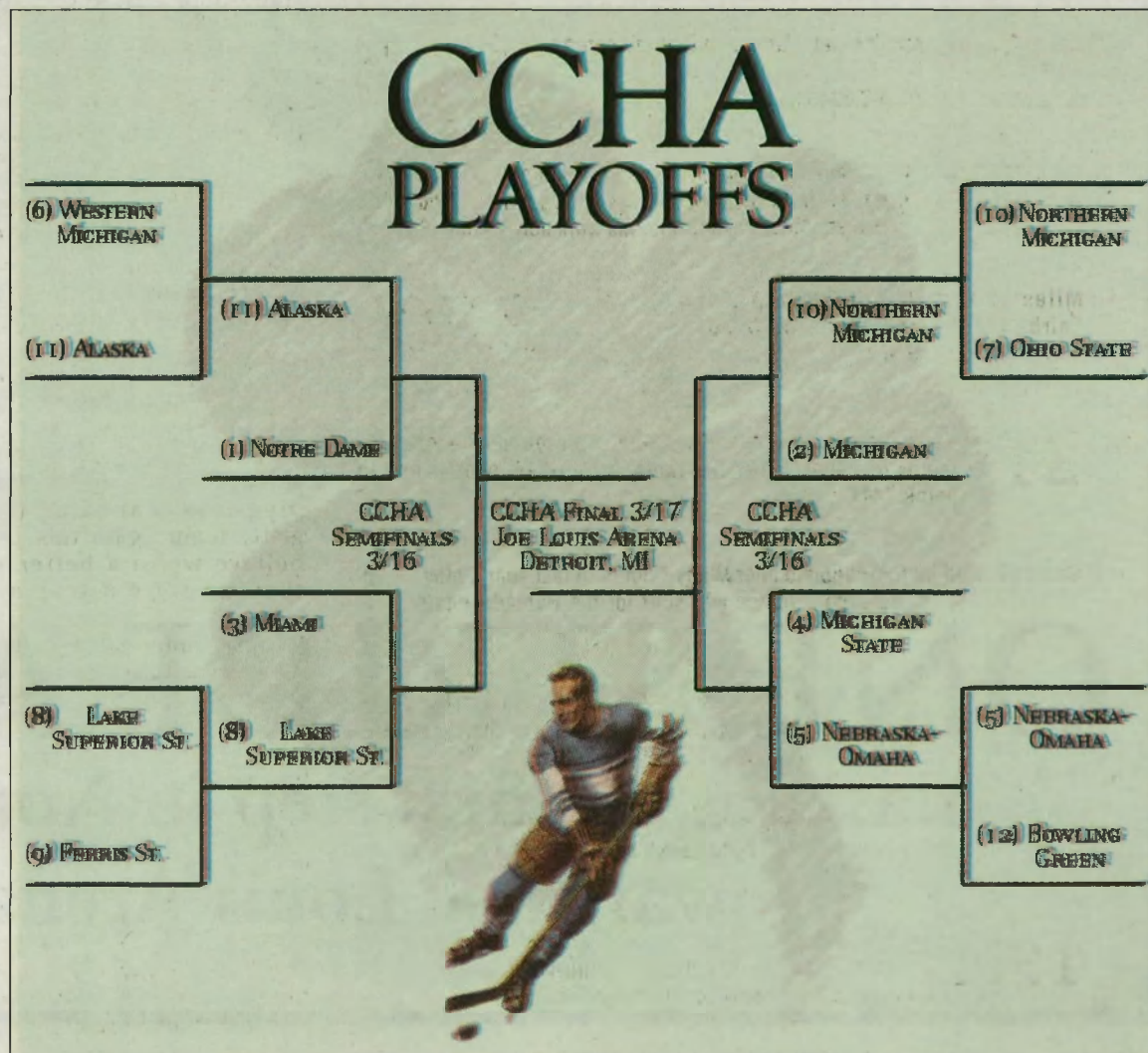
FINAL SCORE: ND 4, Alaska 1
ND 3, Alaska 2

If this series goes three games and the Irish are forced to play a steamrolling Nanooks team in a dead, half-empty Joyce Center on Sunday — they're done. But it won't happen. The Irish have been lurking too long at the top to drop the first chance they have to prove their playoff worth. The team is healthy again for the first time since December and Alaska flopped all year long up until last weekend. It's on to the Motor City.

FINAL SCORE: ND 4, Alaska 1
ND 2, Alaska 1 (OT)



Kyle Cassily
Sports Writer



Balance of experience and youth is key to Irish victory

No. 1 Notre Dame needs to stay focused on task at hand in order to beat Alaska and advance to Joe Louis Arena

Over two-thirds of their roster has never won a postseason game. Just over a year ago, they were easily swept by the same club, in the same building. Their opponent is coming off of a momentum-building upset on the road while they collected rust during a week off. They are swamped with enough distractions to throw off a bomb specialist on Ritalin and yet, the Irish should be able to cruise past Alaska this weekend on their final stop before reaching Joe Louis Arena for the CCHA finals.



Dan Murphy

Sports Writer

There is no doubt that the heavily favored, No. 1 Irish will be the more talented team on the ice this weekend. Notre Dame took all four games in

the season series with Alaska, outscoring them by a total of 13-5. The Nanooks (11-20-6) have struggled to win consistently all season. The last time they strung together back-to-back victories was Oct. 27-28 against Ferris State.

Playing in the Joyce Center should also be an advantage for the Irish, as they will be able to create favorable matchups among lines all night long.

On paper, the Irish defense should have no problem getting the job done this weekend. But the end of the year accolades, conference championship and an all but certain NCAA Tournament berth looming in the near future make it perfectly feasible for Notre Dame to overlook the most important game — the one at hand.

The Nanooks have already knocked off one team in their underdog role, defeating Western Michigan in a three-game series last weekend. Alaska is known for their physical, defensive-minded hockey. Their style is designed to keep

the game within striking distance and wear teams down, a strategy that worked perfectly last year at the Joyce Center in a two-game sweep during the opening round of the CCHA playoffs. It almost paid off again for the Nanooks earlier this season when Notre Dame needed a Dave Brown shutout and a Garrett Regan overtime goal to squeak out two wins in Fairbanks Feb. 16-17.

So why does Alaska still not have an Eskimo's chance in hell of pulling their second straight upset?

This series is far from just another day in the office, as it might be for No. 1 teams in the past. Not a single player on the team has played in the CCHA semifinals before, which gives them all the motivation they

They are swamped by enough distractions to throw off a bomb specialist on Ritalin, and yet the Irish should still be able to cruise past Alaska this weekend...

need to come out at full speed.

At the same time, the possible jitters and negative aspects of their inexperience are balanced by the experience and knowledge of head coach Jeff

Jackson. In his six years at Lake Superior State, Jackson dealt with the hype, he dealt with weeks off and he dealt with the distractions. His 12 All-American players, four CCHA titles, and two national championships show that he dealt with them pretty well.

The one hiccup on his resume came in 1991 when his No. 1 Lakers were upset by Clarkson in the NCAA quarterfinals after having a bye the previous weekend. Jackson has changed his approach slightly this time around, but he said there is only so much you can do in that situation — the play-

ers have to stay intense.

According to Jackson, they have been doing just that. The team looked sharp in an intrasquad scrimmage Saturday and has been skating hard in practice all week long. In a team meeting prior to their scrimmage the Irish redefined their goals for the rest of the season. They had only one thing they hoped to accomplish as of that Saturday — a trip to Detroit for the CCHA semifinal game.

And now for the first time in their 40-year history, the Irish have all the necessary tools to reach that goal and many more. They have the drive and the talent of some of the nation's top young players, and the veteran coach to guide them through it while focusing on one step at a time.

Alaska is step one.

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

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu

Nanooks lumber back into Joyce for playoff rematch

Irish start best-of-three series with physical Alaska team tonight

By KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writer

Alaska has always hit hard and hit often, but when it returns to the Joyce Center tonight, the rejuvenated Nanooks could bring a whole new world of pain to Notre Dame.

The Nanooks enter their second-round CCHA playoff series

with the Irish a weekend after they defeated sixth-seeded Western Michigan in the first round. The series victory was a major upset for 11th-seeded Alaska and put the first air under the Nanooks' wings since Notre Dame sent them into a prolonged tailspin back in early December.

"[Alaska is] playing a lot different than the last time they played in this building," Irish coach Jeff Jackson said. "They're playing a lot more aggressive on their forecheck, a lot more physical and the nature of that [type of] game just gets the juices going. It's

like everybody wants to bang everybody else."

The No. 1 Irish (27-6-3, 21-4-3 CCHA) and the Nanooks have played four times this season and Notre Dame has won all four games, including 3-1 and 6-2 victories Dec. 2-3 against then-No. 14 Alaska in South Bend. After that top-15 matchup, the Nanooks (11-20-6, 7-16-5 CCHA) dive-bombed to a 1-9 record in their next 10 games, plummeting to the bottom of the league standings — a place where they remained until last weekend's upset of the Broncos in Kalamazoo, Mich.

But that means little to Jackson and the rest of the Irish — they have seen Alaska far too many times to expect an easy walkover into the semifinals in Detroit.

"Everybody has to understand that they weren't losing games 8-0," Jackson said. "The difference between them losing is scoring a goal at the right time. It's the nature of this league, there are just too many teams that are too close to each other."

Notre Dame also will not forget Alaska bounced them from the first round of last year's league playoffs in two straight games — in front of their home crowd.

"Last year [when] we went through the playoffs, we had a decent second half but we ran into a tough, gritty team," Jackson said. "And we're running into that same tough, gritty team again this year. I believe we're a better team than we were a year ago at this time."

Notre Dame may owe part of its success this season to what the Nanooks did to them in that series. After being out-muscled in the corners and thrown around the ice in last year's playoffs, the Irish dedicated a large amount of their offseason workout to the weight room and subsequently added a serious amount of size up and down their lineup. That size has been a critical ingredient in Notre Dame's top-ranked defense, solid penalty

kill and aggressive forecheck this season.

When asked if the Irish seemed to hit a bit harder and a bit more against Alaska, Jackson said he had never noticed disrespect or nastiness between the two teams, but with the Nanooks it's hard not to make a few more checks.

"Only because they do," he added.

On paper, in every aspect of the game, the Irish own a statistical advantage to Alaska, but when it comes to the intangibles — from playoff intensity to experience — the Nanooks carry more weight than their second-to-last place finish suggests.

Last weekend's defeat of Western Michigan was the third-straight year in which Alaska traveled to a higher-ranked opponent's rink in the first round and moved on to the next round. The week after their playoff series with the Irish last season, the Nanooks took the first game in their set with eventual champion Michigan State, before succumbing to the Spartans in three games at Munn Ice Arena.

Notre Dame, on the other hand, has lost four straight CCHA playoff games dating back to a March 14, 2004 win over Western Michigan, including sweeps by Michigan and Alaska. But Jackson brings a CCHA pedigree to the Irish that was nearly flawless until last season. He held a 24-2 CCHA tournament record in six seasons as coach of Lake Superior State — both losses came in the finals.

"People can say what they want about our experience — we've been doing it all year long, just playing our game and doing our thing," Irish senior Josh Sciba said. "And hopefully that will be enough

to win our playoff series."

Another critical piece of the playoff pie with which Notre Dame will have to adjust, Jackson said, is the giant leap in intensity that the postseason brings. And that is something Alaska has already had a week to encounter, adjust and thrive under.

"Our guys are going to be prepared to play," Jackson said. "But are they going to be prepared to play at that level that Alaska is probably going to be at? I don't know that."

Irish goalie Dave Brown will be in net for the Irish from here to the end of the season and — with a two-week lay-over since his last game — he is more than rested, Jackson said.

Wylie Rogers will most likely suit up between the pipes for Alaska. Wylie sports a 9-3 career postseason record and is coming off a relatively strong second half of the season after he struggled and split time in the first half. Rogers stonewalled Notre Dame in last year's playoffs, shutting out the Irish in one game and allowing only one goal in the entire series.

A lot is at stake this weekend for the Irish, including a prime No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament and a shot at their first-ever CCHA playoff title. But Alaska is a large roadblock on the road to Detroit.

"I want these kids to get the chance to experience playing down at Joe Louis and hopefully have some success there," Jackson said. "But we got to worry about Friday night before that's possible."

The puck will drop Friday at 7:35 p.m., Saturday at 7:05 p.m. and Sunday at 7:05 p.m. (if necessary).

Contact Kyle Cassily at kcassily@nd.edu

adding up the numbers

Notre Dame players that have won a college playoff game. Seven with the Irish in 2004, and one, Tom Sawatske, with the Wisconsin Badgers in 2004 and 2005.

8

1.77 Goals-against average of senior netminder Dave Brown, the best in the NCAA. Brown was recently named CCHA first-team All-conference for his work between the pipes.

Miles between South Bend, Ind. and Fairbanks, Alaska, where the Nanooks play their home games.

2,800

21 Goals scored by Alaska's Kyle Greentree on the season. The junior left wing leads the Nanooks in goals scored and in points (41).

Goals allowed by Alaska goaltender Wiley Rogers in last year's playoff series against the Irish. Rogers will start for the Nanooks again this year.

1

24 - 4 Irish coach Jeff Jackson's record in the CCHA tournament. Jackson won four championships while coaching LSSU in the early '90s.

Combined penalty minutes between Alaska and Notre Dame during last year's two-game, first-round playoff series.

72

1:41 Minutes into overtime that Irish sophomore Garrett Regan scored the game-winning goal Feb. 17, the last time these two teams met.

Big brothers help freshmen adjust to college

Deeth, Thang, Lawson headline first-year players by claiming three of six spots on the CCHA All-rookie team

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Writer

There was never a doubt that the Irish hockey class of 2010 were a talented bunch. They key for Irish coach Jeff Jackson was providing them with a smooth transition into college — for both hockey and life.

So Jackson designated a senior to act as big brother for each of the freshman. The senior brother was responsible for making sure his freshman was as comfortable as possible in his first year at Notre Dame.

"I've always tried to have an upperclassmen make sure our young guys get a feel for the campus, get a feel for the community," Jackson said. "Also, I want them to become a part of the family, that is a big part of building the team."

Jackson's methods have gone a long way in building what has become the No. 1 team in the country. A lot of that has to do with the major contributions freshmen have made in almost every aspect of the game this season.

"My guy was [senior forward Josh Scibal]," Irish forward Kevin Deeth said. "If I had any

questions or needed any advice, it was nice to be able to go to him."

Deeth was recently named to the CCHA All-rookie team along with linemate Ryan Thang and defenseman Kyle Lawson. Notre Dame becomes only the seventh team to place three or more players on the

All-rookie team in CCHA history. Michigan State was the first team to register a trifecta in 1990, and the Wolverines have achieved the honor five times since then — including the 1993-94 season when they had

four freshmen on the team.

"I think it's special, and it is a good sign for where the program is going and shows all the possible outcomes we could have in the future," Thang said.

Out of those six teams with several star rookies, four have gone on to win the conference championship and three have made it to the Frozen Four. Those squads have set a good precedent for what the No. 1 Irish hope to accomplish over the next month with help from their diaper dandies.

Deeth and Thang are joined by 2006 All-rookie selection Erik Condra to create a lethal



QUENTIN STENGER/The Observer

Notre Dame's Kevin Deeth (21) looks on as fellow freshman forward Ryan Thang dives for a loose puck in front of the net during the 4-2 Irish win Feb. 9 over Nebraska-Omaha. Deeth had two goals.

scoring trio known by teammates as "the little-guy line." The little guys have put up some big numbers all year for the Irish with a combined 46 goals on the season.

"We all like to create stuff offensively, and we all think the game very well," Deeth said. "It's been nice to have guys like that to play with."

The two freshmen forwards were friends for a few years before college and decided together that Notre Dame was a good opportunity for both of them. The pair was almost immediately matched up with a like-minded playmaker in

Condra. Since then, they have formed a chemistry that is evident both on and off the ice.

While Deeth and Thang have given the Irish forwards a spark, Lawson has also made some serious contributions from the point, leading all defensemen with three goals on the season. The Michigan native has played in 32 of the team's 36 games this year and has been solid defensively in all of them.

Lawson joined the Irish after spending a year with the USHL's Tri-City Storm and has flourished under the tutelage of his "big brother," senior

alternate captain Wes O'Neill.

"I don't know if I could have had a better one to be honest," Lawson said. "He's a great player, and he showed me the ropes, so it went really well."

This weekend the freshmen will once again turn to their senior brothers for advice as they enter uncharted waters. The seniors will try to repeat their performance from their own rookie season, when the team advanced to the CCHA Super Six in Detroit.

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu

HEAD TO HEAD

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SPECIAL TEAMS

INTANGIBLES

NOTRE DAME

There are barely a handful of coaches with the playoff pedigree of Jeff Jackson. His 24-4 CCHA playoff record is unmatched by any other coach in the conference. There is no equivalent.

First team All-conference selection Dave Brown leads the nation in wins and goals-against average. Brown has been solid in big games all year for the Irish and is no stranger to the spotlight he will find himself in this weekend.

It's hard to argue against the top-ranked Irish defense. The senior-laden unit has shut down the CCHA's top offenses all season and helped Brown gain the recognition he has this year.

The "little-guy line" has combined for 46 goals and has jump-started an Irish offense that is now ranked eighth in the NCAA in scoring. All four ND lines are threats to score and open up tight games.

The Irish penalty kill is the best in the country, having allowed only 17 goals this season. The power play has been hot and cold all season, but Jackson continues to tweak the unit in order to create some opportunities for his goal scorers.

No. 1 Notre Dame comes in heavily favored but with little to no playoff experience outside of its coaching staff. The spring break exodus will leave the Joyce Center quieter than usual if the series goes to Sunday.

ALASKA

MacMillan, in his third year at Fairbanks, has crafted a strong defensive team that only allowed 2.82 goals per game this season. His Nanooks have fought top teams like Michigan and Miami to a standstill all season.

Nanooks goalie Wylie Rogers stood on his head in last year's playoff series against the Irish. Rogers has since struggled to repeat his success from last season, but the junior is still a threat to become hot and steal the series.

Defense has led a big, physical Alaska team thus far in the tournament. Its neutral zone trap has slowed the Irish many times since Jackson's arrival and can keep the Nanooks in a position to steal a game with a few breaks.

Kyle Greentree and Curtis Fraser are both threats to hit hard and score often. The rest of the Nanooks, however, have failed to produce, especially down the stretch. Brown shut out Alaska in the teams' last meeting, Feb. 17.

Alaska special teams have been vanilla, ranked in the bottom half of the conference in both categories. The Nanooks take quite a few penalties and could find themselves in trouble if they spend too much time in the sin bin.

The Nanooks roll into South Bend fresh off their third consecutive first-round victory with wins over Western Michigan last weekend. The No. 11-seed is playing in glass slippers, and its recent success has it believing midnight may still be far away.

ANALYSIS

Despite Macmillan's success, Jackson's experience is decisive. Two national titles in three appearances with Lake Superior State don't lie. He has what it takes to lead the Irish to the national elite.

Rogers has been solid against the Irish all season as well as in the playoffs last year. But with a Hobey Baker candidate between the pipes, it would be tough to bet against the Irish in this category.

After being pushed around last season the Irish blueliners bulked up during the offseason and have reaped the benefits. Notre Dame will continue to dominate against a weak offensive team.

With Paige's line matching up with Greentree, expect to see Condra and Co. get loose against Alaska's No. 2 unit and wreak havoc for Wylie Rogers and the Nanook defense down low.

Once again, the Irish hold an edge over Alaska due to their defensive prowess. The power play could play a big role for Notre Dame if Alaska is successful with their trap at full strength.

Both teams have plenty to play for, but Alaska carries the edge in momentum over the Irish, who have been idle for the past week. The often-chippy matchup is sure to be filled with emotions.