

THE OBSERVER

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Students to rally for peace in Sudan

Student government, department of athletics organize tournament to raise awareness

By MEGAN DOYLE
News Writer

Notre Dame students will unite on campus for peace in Sudan on Saturday during a rally that will feature University President Emeritus Fr. Theodore Hesburgh following the Playing for Peace 3-on-3 basketball tournament.

Social concerns chair Pat McCormick said the rally will combine the visibility of Notre Dame athletics with the University's moral concern for social justice.

"We deeply believe that as the greatest Catholic university in the world we have not only the ability but the responsibility to harness all the means at our disposal, but particularly the Notre Dame athletic brand, for social change," McCormick said.

The 3-on-3 basketball tournament — sponsored by the men's basketball team, men's lacrosse team and student government — will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday in the Joyce Center, and the "Stand with Sudan" peace rally will begin at 12 p.m. in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse.

"From the student government perspective and from the athletic perspective, we really only think this could have been possible because of



DAN JACOBS/Observer Photo

University President Emeritus Fr. Theodore Hesburgh said peace will begin in Sudan when all people have equal access to resources and opportunities.

the strength of the student body and the level of engagement of our students," McCormick said.

The rally will include remarks from professional basketball players Ed Bona and Luol Deng, Notre Dame men's basketball coach Mike Brey, Notre Dame men's lacrosse coach Kevin

Corrigan, and a video message from a Notre Dame graduate student from Sudan.

"Think of two people in Sudan, the north and the south. Both of those really want peace. Peace is the overarching concern of everybody in Africa today because there has been so much unrest and so much war,"

Hesburgh said. "I think it is high time we started working very hard for peace throughout the continent, and I think it is possible."

Hesburgh visited Sudan more than 15 years ago and remembers driving deep into the country during his trip.

see SUDAN/page 5

City halts housing construction

By AMANDA GRAY
News Writer

Construction on the Legacy Square townhouse development at the corner of Notre Dame Avenue and Sorin Street has come to a halt over zoning issues.

Developer Robert Cimala, who was also one of the developers of off-campus student housing development Legacy Village, said his property was set to receive final permits from the South Bend Building Commission. But at the beginning of November, the Building Commission said his plans would have to go to a public hearing before the Area Plan Commission (APC) on Dec. 21 to determine if they are in accordance with PUD zoning provisions.

This process of review could derail the housing project.

Legacy Square is zoned as a planned unit development (PUD), composed of 32 condominiums in four buildings. The condominiums were developed as high-end housing geared toward single-family, owner-occupied living

see HOUSING/page 5

NDSP investigates assault

Observer Staff Report

Notre Dame Security Police (NDSP) is investigating a sexual assault that was reported Nov. 30.

The reported sexual assault was committed by an acquaintance in a dorm on campus on Sept. 25.

NDSP notified students in an e-mail to the student body Thursday.

Information about sexual assault prevention and resources for survivors can be found at ndsp.nd.edu and at the Office of Student Affairs website.

To report a crime in progress, suspicious activity or other emergencies, call 574-631-5555 or dial 9-1-1 from any campus telephone.

Carroll to ring in Christmas season

By EMILY SCHRANK
News Writer

The Christmas season unofficially kicks off tonight with the 13th annual Carroll Christmas, when many students will make the snowy trek to Carroll Hall for the dorm's signature event.

"If you only make it out to Carroll once, this is the night [to go]," said senior Rob Wilson, a Resident Assistant in Carroll.

The annual event, which drew more than 1,000 students last year, will feature a Christmas tree lighting, a cookie contest and an opportunity for pictures with Santa Claus.

"My favorite part of Carroll Christmas is Christmas Karaoke," Wilson said. "It's a really fun time to be able to just sing Christmas carols

with a bunch of your friends after a week of preparing for the event. I would say it's definitely most people's favorite part of the event too."

Wilson, who served as hall president last year, said more than 700 people have confirmed their attendance on the Facebook event page.

"It's great that we are able to get such a high number of people to participate, given that we are the smallest dorm on campus," he said.

The residence hall will also collect donations for Toys for Tots at the event.

"It's really nice to do something charitable during the Christmas season," he said.

The Student Activities Office (SAO) funds Carroll Christmas, Wilson said.

This year's event also marks the 10th Carroll Christmas for rector Fr.



Photo courtesy of Robert Wilson

Juniors Mike DeRusso, left, and John Sanders, right, pose with Santa, Mrs. Claus and elves at last year's Carroll Christmas.

James Lewis.

"Carroll Christmas has grown quite a bit over the years," Lewis said. "We started out with about 150 people in attendance and now have over 500."

Lewis said the residents of Carroll Hall are excited about planning the event each year.

"The dorm community

see CHRISTMAS/page 4

THE OBSERVER

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The news is reported as accurately and objectively as possible. Unsigned editorials represent the opinion of the majority of the Editor in Chief, Managing Editor, Assistant Managing Editors and department editors. Commentaries, letters and columns present the views of the authors and not necessarily those of The Observer.

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

Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor-in-Chief Matt Gamber

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CORRECTIONS

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS SONG?



Caroline Bernardi
*freshman
Lewis*

*“It’s Beginning
to Look a Lot
Like Christmas”*



David Correa
*senior
Duncan*

*“Have Yourself
a Merry Little
Christmas”*



Jackson Bangs
*senior
Stanford*

*“Chestnuts
Roasting over
an Open Fire
[The Christmas
Song]”*



Kim Dumais
*freshman
Pangborn*

*“Last
Christmas”*

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



Grant Tobin/The Observer

A student model shows off her gravity-defying hair Wednesday as part of the GreeND fashion show. All outfits showcased in the event were made from recycled and reused materials.

OFFBEAT

Mysterious Santa adorns highway with ornaments

LITTLE EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP, N.J. — An annual Christmas mystery is playing itself out again along a busy New Jersey highway.

A secret Santa is once again surreptitiously hanging ornaments from a large pine tree by the side of the Garden State Parkway in the dead of night.

A gold star was hanging from the boughs of the tree Tuesday morning.

It’s the fourth year in a row that the ornaments have shown up on the same tree in the south-bound lanes in a sparsely populated area of Little

Egg Harbor Township.

No one has come forward and acknowledged decorating the tree. The New Jersey Turnpike Authority, which maintains the road, has said it isn’t responsible.

The ornaments appear gradually, starting with one or two, and eventually growing to about a dozen by Christmas.

Woman accused of stealing library books

ANNISTON, Ala. — Librarians in Anniston, Ala., said they knew someone was stealing thousands of dollars worth of books, and now they believe they know who did it: A jobless woman who

likes to read.

Anniston police say 42-year-old Regina M. Smith was arrested Wednesday on a felony theft charge after officials at the local library reported that a woman was seen stealing two books.

Police said they determined Smith had taken 222 books valued at \$5,432 over the past couple of years — mainly crime novels, mysteries and vampire stories.

Investigator Kyle Price said Smith has a library card but sneaked books out and kept them rather than borrowing them legally, he said.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Badin Hall will sponsor A Conscious Christmas, Fair Trade Nepal Handicraft Sale today in Badin Hall from 12 to 5 p.m. All proceeds support the Hope for Nepal Foundation.

Archaeologist Dr. Alessandro Sebastiani will give a lecture, “Diana and Hadrian: Modeling South Coastal Tuscany in the Roman Period,” today at 4 p.m. The event will be held in 126 DeBartolo Hall.

Astrophysicist Grant Mathews will present “What and When Was the Christmas Star?” tonight at 7 p.m. in the Digital Visualization Theater of the Jordan Hall of Science.

The ND Chorale and Chamber Orchestra will present Handel’s Messiah tonight at 8 p.m. in the Leighton Concert Hall. Admission is \$3 for students and \$12 for the general public. Tickets can be purchased online or by phone.

Saint Mary’s College will host its first annual Winter Wonderland this Saturday from 12 to 3 p.m. The event will include holiday activities for children of all ages and is open to the public. It will take place in both the Student Center and Haggar College Center.

The Center for Social Concerns is hosting author Gary Rivlin Sunday at 7 p.m. in Room 101 of DeBartolo Hall. Rivlin will present his lecture, “From Charity to Justice: The Truth about Exploiting the Poor.”

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

LOCAL WEATHER	TODAY		TONIGHT		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
	HIGH	32	HIGH	28	HIGH	30	HIGH	31	HIGH	28	HIGH	28
	LOW	28	LOW	25	LOW	22	LOW	19	LOW	16	LOW	15

Bike theft creates concern

By ALICIA SMITH
Associate Saint Mary's Editor

Saint Mary's has experienced 12 bicycle thefts since August, David Gariepy, director of security said.

Gariepy notified students of the thefts via e-mail Nov. 22.

The e-mail, which stated thefts usually occurred near resident hall bicycle racks, encouraged students to report suspicious activity to campus security, especially "anyone near our bicycle racks, not fitting the description of a typical Saint Mary's College student (female, late teens to early 20's) should be viewed as suspicious."

Gariepy said more bicycles have been stolen than in pre-

vious years — "an unusually high number," he said.

Some of the thefts occurred to bicycles that were locked to the racks, Gariepy said.

"Some bicycles were locked to bicycle racks and the locks were cut, while some bikes were not locked and simply taken," he said. "Most were taken from or near bike racks located near our resident halls."

The e-mail said the bicycle locks, which were cut, were discarded where the bicycle was parked.

Gariepy said campus security currently has no leads to particular suspects, but has been carefully watching for suspicious activity to prevent further thefts.

"Officers are aware of the

thefts and are keeping a closer watch for suspicious activity near bicycle storage areas," he said.

According to Gariepy, one bicycle was stolen in August, three in September, four in October and four in November.

Gariepy encouraged students to make sure their bicycles were secured.

He said students could prevent theft by registering their bicycles with campus security and purchasing tamper-proof locks to secure the bicycle to the rack.

"Student may also take advantage of the indoor winter storage that security provides at no cost," he said.

Gariepy also reminded students to "be aware of suspicious persons or activity on campus and always report your observations to security."

To report suspicious activity at Saint Mary's College, call campus security at 574-284-5000.

Contact Alicia Smith at
asmith01@saintmarys.edu

Free Store encourages college sustainability

By ASHLEY CHARNLEY
Saint Mary's Editor

The free store that allows Saint Mary's students to donate unwanted items so that other students may use them is now open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Items in the store, which is sponsored by Saint Mary's Environmental Action Coalition (SMEAC), include furniture, table, chairs and other items that would be found in a dorm room.

Senior Ashley Cook, co-president of SMEAC, said the change in store hours has increased use, but also increased the need for donations. The store, located in the basement of Le Mans Hall, is open to all students.

"Students expressed interest in having the free store open more often so that they come whenever convenient for them," Cook said. "We now have the free store open 24 hours so that students can either donate or pick up used items at any time."

Although the change has resulted in an increase in use of the store, but Cook said SMEAC now needs more donations in order to keep the store full.

"Because of this change we have noticed the free store becoming [emptier]," Cook said. "This is great because it shows students are using the free store even more. However, we are hoping for an increased amount of donations to keep the free store open and stocked with many useful items."

Cook said students should drop by the store before they go out and purchase items

they need. She said the store aligns with SMEAC's mission to improve the environment.

"We encourage all students to donate whenever they do not use an item and to stop by the free store before buying an item they need," Cook said. "This is our way of reducing, reusing and recycling because it is keeping so many objects out of the trash."

The idea for the store came to the group when a visiting speaker came to campus and suggested the idea.

"There was a guest speaker invited by SMEAC named Dr. Weber from Warren Wilson College who spoke to our campus about how to become more sustainable," Cook said. "She had mentioned that Warren Wilson College had a free store."

The store relies completely on donation. Cook said a lot of students and even faculty have already given supplies.

"We are no longer keeping

a log of donations since the free store is open 24 hours, meaning there isn't a volunteer working the free store and keeping records," Cook said. "However, I do know we received numerous donations from students and faculty this year. We have all of these people to thank for keeping our free store up and running."

As long as donations continue to come in, Cook said she would like to keep it a part of the "Saint Mary's culture."

"Since we are keeping so many items out of the trash and making them available for reuse we feel like it is a great way of giving back, by reducing the college's amount of waste," she said.

Ashley Cook
co-president
SMEAC

Contact Ashley Charnley at
acharn01@saintmarys.edu

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Library to launch redesigned website

By NICOLE TOCZAUER
News Writer

After a decade of being online, library.nd.edu and its online interface are being updated. The new website design will launch right before the beginning of the Spring 2011 semester, said Mark Dehmlow, head of the Library Web Department.

Dehmlow said preparations should be completed by Jan. 13, but test versions of the website and catalog were available online a month ago.

"The old system served us well and provides some great features, but we had been getting to the point where we were becoming constrained in what we could do with it," he said. "The goal for us was to acquire a platform that could enhance the research experience at Notre Dame and bring a contemporary web experience to the catalog."

The new website will feature a set of online tools that includes a cleaner organization of frequently used student resources.

Dehmlow said this will allow users to focus their energies on applying information to their work, rather than dealing with difficulties in finding it.

"The new site uses fly-out menus at the top to provide deep access to a lot of content. We also took the most heavily used resources and services and placed them in the highly visible 'Quicklinks' section," Dehmlow said. "We kept our tabbed search box in the most prominent location and decided to give a more prominent space to library news."

CatalogPlus, the revamped version of the library's current online catalog, will provide a comprehensive search of the Hesburgh Library, Kresge Law Library, Saint Mary's College Library, Holy Cross College Library and Bethel College Library, Dehmlow said.

"Our users might not be aware of it, but they are actually able to check out items at those other libraries using their Notre Dame ID," he said.

In addition to expanding

the access to materials, the new catalog is based on technology similar to that used by Google. Using an optimal search program, Dehmlow said a true relevance ranking will provide better results without using complex search strategies.

"The new system features a 'Filter' column, which allows users to easily drill down into the collection by bringing information from the records up to the surface for the interface such as authors, topics and date ranges," he said. "It really takes a lot of guesswork out of the search process."

Eliminating guesswork from the system is the reason for the major digital renovation, Dehmlow said. After hearing

reports of students finding the library's current website difficult to navigate, Dehmlow and a team of IT staff worked to develop a better online presence for the library. He said the team placed importance on user feedback.

"We solicit feedback through focus groups, surveys, usability testing and feedback gathered from the library staff

who interact with users," Dehmlow said. "Usage statistics and industry trends help us focus on areas in which we can make the most impact."

Dehmlow said the launch of CatalogPlus is the first step in content expansion for the website.

"Our long-term goal is to take any unnecessary complexity out of the search process for our users and new technologies and standards are helping us do just that," Dehmlow said. "Our success is measured in how well we are able to facilitate access to information."

The Hesburgh Library staff welcomes user feedback. View the test site and catalogue interface at <http://www.test.library.nd.edu> and <http://ndcatalogplus.library.nd.edu>.

By providing an e-mail address on the feedback form, students qualify for prizes in a drawing.

Contact Nicole Toczauer at ntoczauer@nd.edu

'Lecture' shows Lannon's enthusiasm

By ANNA BOARINI
News Writer

Professor of Physics Kevin Lannon decided to both entertain and educate when delivering his contribution to the Last Lecture series on Thursday night in the Mendoza College of Business.

The Last Lecture Series, sponsored by student government, provides University professors the opportunity to share their life-lessons for students in a non-classroom setting.

When presented with the opportunity to give his last lecture, Lannon focused on what he was living his life for.

"What are the things that are a part of my life that make me jump out of bed in the morning?" Lannon said. "Basically, the questions are related to elementary particle physics. One big question is what the universe is made of."

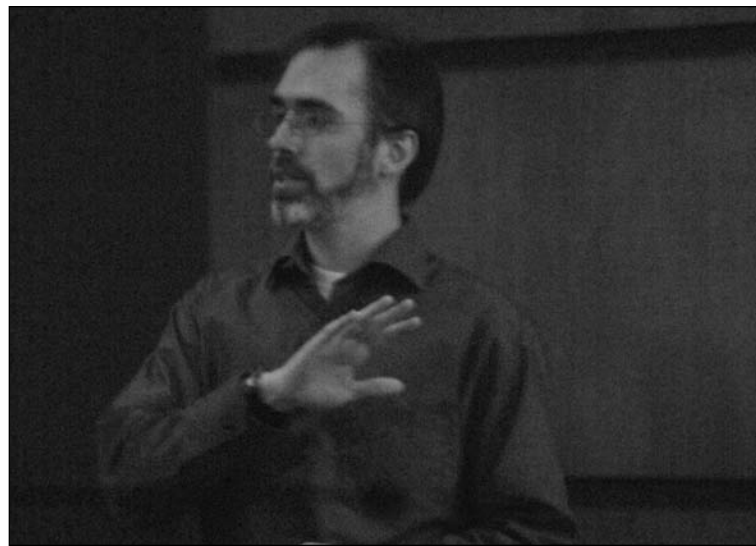
Lannon said his job description was every young boy's dream.

"I get to smash things together and someone says good job, now smash it harder," Lannon said.

Lannon said part of his job is figuring out what makes up the universe. So far, he and other physicists have only discovered four percent of what makes up the universe. The other 96 percent is made up of both dark matter and energy, forces that science really does not understand, Lannon said.

Lannon has had the opportunity to work with the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), located in Geneva, Switzerland.

He described the LHC as the



SUZANNA PRATT/Observer Photo

Professor of Physics Kevin Lannon said his job description was every young boy's dream.

most impressive scientific apparatus constructed by human beings. The LHC is a 27 kilometers in size and bends energy into beams through the use of superconducting magnets.

Lannon expressed his enthusiasm for the device and his work, Lannon said he was

n't always passionate about physics. While in graduate school he was afraid he wasn't cut out for this work after a meeting with his advisor.

"He drove to come and see me, and when he got here, he was talking about how he was thinking about my analysis and all these ideas he came up with while driving," Lannon said.

While still in school, Lannon wanted to ask questions beyond the realm of science. He said he wanted to know why bad things happened to good people and why cures hadn't been found for fatal diseases.

He said in the years since, he

"What are the things that are a part of my life that make me jump out of bed in the morning? Basically the questions are related to elementary particle physics. One big question is what the universe is made of."

Kevin Lannon
department of physics

Christmas

continued from page 1

threw Carroll Christmas into high gear about five years ago by increasing the decorations, food and drink, and adding the opportunity to have pictures taken with Santa," Lewis said. "More recently, we added Mrs. Claus and Santa's elves to the mix."

Lewis said the cookie contest became a big part of Carroll Christmas.

"It's very competitive," he said. "Yes, the guys will bake cookies, and no, they

never win."

Wilson said Carroll Christmas is a great bonding event for the residents of Carroll Hall.

"We had tremendous help from our entire dorm, especially our freshmen," he said. "Everyone has really embraced the event."

Contact Emily Schrank at eschrank@nd.edu

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Sudan

continued from page 1

“I got a feeling for the place, and it is like most of Africa. Every country in Africa seems to have a problem,” Hesburgh said. “[Sudan’s] problem is are they going to join north or south, or are they going to develop separately ... The conflict always boils down to the same thing, and that is access to resources.”

The northern and southern parts of Sudan have been torn by civil war for more than 50 years. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) formally ended civil war in 2005 and scheduled a referendum for Jan. 9, 2011. The Sudanese will then vote on whether Southern Sudan will secede.

The peace agreement called for six years of democratic reforms and national elections leading up to the referendum. The vote was intended to be a peaceful process, but both sides began to stockpile weapons as the referendum approached.

On Oct. 5, a delegation from the Sudanese Conference of Catholic bishops visited cam-

pus to ask Notre Dame, as a Catholic university, to raise awareness about potential for mass violence in Sudan.

“[The bishops’] appeal was to the Catholic community and asked Catholics in the United States to remember the referendum and do whatever we can to call for international attention to Sudan,” McCormick said.

Shortly after the bishops’ visit, Notre Dame’s Student Senate unanimously passed a resolution pledging support for the people of Sudan. The Student Senate also sponsored an online petition to be sent to President Obama closer to the referendum.

“What is so exciting about the petition is that it gives students the opportunity to lead, to show that they understand the moral dimensions of this

issue and to call the world’s attention to it,” McCormick said.

The petition asked policy makers to make preventing violence in Sudan a priority as January draws closer, McCormick said.

Director of men’s lacrosse operations Kevin Dugan said the basketball and lacrosse teams got involved because they wanted to do more for campus than ask students to show up at games.

“The two most powerful things at Notre Dame, the two things people are most passionate about, are athletics and Catholic social thought,” Dugan said. “When you

bring the two of those things together, you can capture the spirit of Notre Dame in a special way.”

The department of athletics harnessed the Notre Dame brand to advertise the event.

“The two most powerful things at Notre Dame, the two things people are most passionate about, are athletics and Catholic social thought. When you bring the two of those things together, you can capture the spirit of Notre Dame in a special way.”

Kevin Dugan
director of operations
men’s lacrosse

The Playing for Peace logo, a peace sign embedded in a shamrock, appeared on 2,000 t-shirts to be sold for \$5 on Saturday and 2,000 buttons to be distributed for free, Dugan said.

“We just want to see a sense of urgency. This peace accord is going to expire in January, and we will ask if we let apathy overwhelm us when we have the opportunity to do something,” Dugan said. “All these different groups are coming together for what is unquestionably the most pressing social concerns need of the Church in this year.”

Men’s lacrosse coach Kevin Corrigan said he was excited to see the collaboration between the department of athletics and the student body on an issue of international importance.

“While student activism is a great part of this, the focus now needs to be on the events unfolding in Sudan and how our voices can contribute to the call for a peaceful and just solution to the problems that may arise with the expiration of the peace accord there,” Corrigan said.

Hesburgh said averting this conflict would pave the way for development in Sudan.

“Economic development will make good education a top priority, and with good education will come

good jobs, and with good jobs will come good salaries,” Hesburgh said. “That is the only way we are going to get equality, by equality of opportunity.”

Fr. Theodore Hesburgh
University president
emeritus

Contact Megan Doyle at
mdoyle11@nd.edu

Housing

continued from page 1

situations, as opposed to rentals.

PUD zoning allows for flexibility in building, and they normally contain private residences and common areas. Cimala said that because of the slow economy and a bad housing market, he has decided to rent some of the condominiums to students until he can sell them.

“I’m not doing anything that anyone else isn’t doing,” Cimala said. “This is a very nice development, and all I’m doing is what I’m allowed to do under the law.”

Attorney Dick Nesbaum said provisions in South Bend zoning codes prohibit more than two unrelated occupants in one home unless the unit is zoned for such occupancy. Legacy Square is zoned to allow no more than two unre-

lated occupants per condominium.

Nesbaum is the attorney for the Northeast Neighborhood Revitalization Organization (NNRO), a non-profit corporation created for “planning, discussing and coordinating the social, physical and economic revitalization of the Northeast Neighborhood,” according to the Northeast Neighborhood website. The Legacy Square development falls in the Northeast Neighborhood.

“The NNRO is interested in this because they don’t believe the plan does conform [to PUD zoning],” Nesbaum said. “The intent of the law is to encourage owner-occupied, single family residences. This is not an anti-student situation.”

Bill Stenz, president of the Northeast Neighborhood Council and resident of the Northeast Neighborhood, said he doesn’t generally mind students living in the neigh-

borhoods close to campus. But when pockets of student housing develop problems tend to arise, he said.

“Historically, we didn’t have this high of a concentration of students [in the Northeast Neighborhood],” he said. “Students lived throughout the city. Ten to 15 years ago, landlords bought single family house pockets.”

Stenz said when pockets of student houses spring up, they can bring down the value of neighboring non-student houses.

Cimala said the object of controversy related to Legacy Square is the local prejudice against Notre Dame students.

“Notre Dame students have been given a bad rap by a lot of people,” he said.

He said there is nothing in the South Bend zoning law preventing students from living anywhere in town.

“They’re trying to stop me from exercising my legal right to rent each condo to two students until I sell them,” he said.

Cimala said plans for the Legacy Square development

began in July 2007. That month, Cimala went to the APC and requested PUD zoning for his property on Notre Dame Ave. and Sorin St. to build 36 units. The APC asked him to reduce the number of units to 32 to be split between two buildings. The APC later asked him to split the two buildings into four. Cimala agreed.

Cimala said he had to delay the plans until this year because of the general financial downturn.

“This year, I was able to obtain construction financing, so I could go on with the project,” he said.

Cimala said he had a local architect create the final architecture plan and a civil engineer create the final site plan, which he brought to the Building Commission.

“We showed them our plans,” he said. “We don’t want to go forward

with the project with these plans unless they fit the zoning codes.”

He said he worked with Chuck Bulot, the building commissioner for the City of

“They’re trying to stop me from exercising my legal right to rent each condo to two students until I sell them.”

Robert Cimala
developer

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INSIDE COLUMN

'Tis the season to give

It's now time for ugly sweaters and our favorite animated Christmas films. In just a little under three weeks, most of us will be home. We'll trim the tree and drink hot cocoa with our parents. We'll get to sleep — what a concept! I'll hopefully be spending the first Saturday back waking up in the wee hours of the morning to help at my high school's annual food drive. Mishawaka High School has hosted the Food Drive around Christmas for more than 25 years, and I was actually sorting soup cans at the Food Drive in 2007 when I got my Notre Dame acceptance letter (a friend went to my mailbox at home and brought it to me).

Amanda Gray

Assistant
News Editor

I want to take this time to ask everyone lucky enough to have a Christmas this year to give something to those who won't. When you look at your Christmas tree and the pretty wrapped presents, take a moment and think of the families who don't have the luxury to buy their children gifts, let alone put food on the table at regular intervals.

Here are some great local and national charities that are currently accepting donations of food, gifts and money:

◆ The Food Bank of Northern Indiana: In operation since 1993, the Food Bank helps families in the area meeting food needs. It always takes donations of non-perishable food items, as well as monetary donations through its website, feedindiana.org

◆ The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation: I don't know about you, but there was always a Toys for Tots drive in my elementary school, and I still like to donate. The organization collects new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December to give to families who can't afford to buy their children presents. In my opinion, every child needs a brightly wrapped present to open Christmas morning. There are donation spots nation-wide, and you can find where to go or donate money at toysfortots.org

◆ The Center for the Homeless: Located at 813 S. Michigan St., South Bend's Center for the Homeless isn't new to Notre Dame. Many students volunteer there, and there's even a class on homelessness that spends time there weekly. If you've never helped before, I urge you to consider donating something here. The Center has a list of critically needed items on its website, cfh.net, and it also takes monetary donations.

As Notre Dame students, we're lucky to get the education we're receiving. We're lucky we get to pick through South Dining Hall's million dinner options — even though we all complain there's nothing to eat. We have warm classrooms. We have friendships. We have a warm place to sleep (unless we're pulling an all-nighter and don't have the luxury of sleep). I know time is precious right now with finals and flights home. Take a minute and think of those in need. 'Tis the season to give, friends.

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

Contact Amanda Gray at agray3@nd.edu

Cheering until the end

So here we are, at what has become our favorite weekend of the year. Football season is over, and we can finally relax, decompress from a season of disappointment and spend our Saturdays doing something productive, like this ever-increasing pile of homework.

Wait, we're not?

This hasn't happened before. We aren't disheartened at all. We're — dare we say it? — excited.

For the first time since nearly all current Notre Dame students have been here, the football season did not come to a screeching halt, nor did it limp to the finish. It won, and won again, and won again.

Not only that, but the rest of Irish athletics are winning, too, and our enthusiasm is carrying over.

So much for getting that theology paper done this weekend.

Instead, we'll be watching our women's soccer team face Ohio State today in the College Cup semifinals and hopefully again on Sunday to try for the championship that has eluded them for the past four years.

We'll be attending or at least watching as our No. 16 women's basketball team takes on Purdue Sunday afternoon on national television, a 10-year anniversary of the season that the two programs battled for (and Notre Dame won) a national title.

As we move into the last week of classes and study days, we still won't find the sweet relief of athletic department depression. We're just going to get even more distracted.

Will we be doing a group project Wednesday night? No, we'll be eating buffalo wings and watching as our No. 25 men's basketball team, who at 8-0 have won more Div. 1 games than any team in the country, as they play Kentucky at Freedom Hall.

Then comes the weekend, when the No. 10 hockey team plays two games at home against Northern Michigan. We'll be there.

Saturday night, the perfect time to bunker down with all of these organic chemistry textbooks, will see the men's basketball team taking on Gonzaga at home. Who would miss that?

Notre Dame games aren't everything we have to look forward to for a study break, though.

Tomorrow, we'll be playing basketball and hanging out with the men's basketball and lacrosse teams at the Stand for Sudan rally — because maybe Notre Dame athletics are becoming relevant again, in more than just rankings.

Then comes Sunday, when we find out whether the football team will be playing in Orlando, El Paso, San Diego or some other warm, post-Christmas destination come bowl season.

Do you think students can afford airplane tickets to get to that game, athletic department? Of course not. But they'll find a way — one that probably involves more time working at Sbarro and less time working on problem sets during finals week.

Our grades may suffer as we cheer for the Irish or spend massive amounts of time staring at a picture of last Saturday's 20-16 Coliseum scoreboard.

But it's all good. We're happy about what's going on.

It's all about priorities, and, for once, we've got them right.

THE OBSERVER Editorial

EDITORIAL CARTOON



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Winter is on my head, but eternal spring is in my heart."

Victor Hugo
French dramatist, novelist and poet

Submit a Letter
to the Editor at

www.ndsmcobserver.com

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Life has taught us that love does not consist in gazing at each other, but in looking outward together in the same direction."

Antoine de Saint-Exupery
French writer and explorer

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No need to exaggerate

Dear Mac Hendrickson,

Reading your review of Kanye West’s album (“No exaggeration necessary for Kanye West’s new masterpiece,” Dec. 1) it’s clear that you have no knowledge of Hip-Hop music. I tried my best to respect your opinions, but I must express my anger with your ignorance of the topic. You are quick to compare Kanye’s work to that of Nas, Jay-Z and the Beastie Boys (whose inclusion alone shows your lack of knowledge), but I honestly wonder whether you’ve even heard most of their work anyway. Kanye West is certainly a unique artist that has created his own lane and doesn’t deserve to be compared to other greats, but quickly after stating this you go on to make embarrassing comparisons.

You’ve taken it upon yourself to proclaim that “Fantasy” is the greatest Hip-Hop album of all time. Even if this is how you feel right now, a week is not long enough to decide whether an album deserves “classic” status, let alone crown it the greatest of ALL TIME. I would hope that the greatest album of all time would be one that has proven it will remain as valuable forever, similar to albums like “Illmatic” and “Ready to Die.”

You applaud that Hip-Hop was “snatched from the hands of thugs and placed back where it belongs.” You proudly use a horrible and insulting stereotype, disrespecting some of the greatest artists of all time. Just last year, 2Pac, a “thug,” had his song “Changes” honored by being placed on the Vatican’s playlist, which must have been because of its “moral repugnance.” Nas’s “Illmatic” was released before his 21st birthday while he was living in the violent Queensbridge projects, but to you it must all seem mindless because you can’t put yourself in someone else’s shoes. The “ghetto-ness” of many rap songs comes because the artists are telling stories of life in the ghetto. From a dorm room at a \$50,000 a year college you refuse to find art in the stories of violence, drugs and struggle Biggie experienced. Songs like 2Pac’s “Keep Ya Head Up,” Ghostface’s “All That I Got Is You,” and N.W.A’s “Express Yourself” serve as inspiration for struggling people, which is certainly more mindless than West’s consistent promotion of Louis Vuitton and his own greatness, right?

“Fantasy” is not even Kanye West’s best album. Actually, it’s not even second best.

Jake Robinson
alumnus
class of 2010
Dec. 1

Consider this for the list

Courtney Cox,

While I fully appreciate your thorough research and analysis of the Sky Mall magazine (“SkyMall Top 10,” Dec. 2) I think you were fairly foolish in your omission of the greatest item to ever appear in SkyMall, or the Air Dancer (more commonly known as the wacky waving inflatable arm tube man).

Please reconsider this list. Thank you.

James Schwarber
senior
off campus
Dec. 2

Real Hip-Hop

Mac Hendrickson,

Your review of Kanye West’s album (“No exaggeration necessary for Kanye West’s new masterpiece,” Dec. 1) made me legitimately angry. It didn’t bother me how you absolutely gushed over the album (by saying “Nobody is claiming the album is perfect” but then using the word “perfect” three times in the article), or how you broke down your descriptions of the songs. It was how you easily dismissed all-time-great rappers and producers without mentioning the albums or songs that made them legends. Have some respect for the game and specify the albums you think don’t even compare to “Fantasy.”

The other thing that bothered me was that you separated rap fans into two groups: thugs and non-thugs. What constitutes a thug-rapper or a ghetto song? Let’s take away any rapper that committed a crime or talks about the ghetto. There goes Biggie, Pac, Jay-Z, N.W.A, Eminem, 50 Cent, Big L, Big Pun, Wu-Tang (including RZA), Mobb Deep and the Clipse. Wait. Wasn’t Pusha T part of the Clipse, the Hip-Hop duo who became famous for rapping about the drug cartel they ran? Is that the same guy who is featured on “Runaway,” which, according to you, is the greatest Hip-Hop track of the last 30 years? Is he a thug or non-thug? Those of us who like the “harder” stuff from the 1990s need to know.

Whether he is one of your thugs or not, those who rapped about the ghetto produced some of the greatest albums of all time. I’d stack “Illmatic,” “Reasonable Doubt,” “Ready to Die” and “All Eyez on Me” against Kanye’s latest any day. Hip-Hop exists today because of the guys from whom you want to snatch it.

One last thing: maybe you didn’t hear Kanye say this on Hot 97 a couple weeks ago: “No one is ever gonna be bigger than Eminem. He’s the No. 1 greatest rapper of all time.” Too bad you’ll never give him a chance because he raps about the “morally-repugnant” subject of drugs. You can have your non-thug rappers, but keep your hands off my music. Get back to me about Pusha T though.

Michael Turner
junior
Morrissey Hall
Dec. 1

Don’t waste paper.

Submit a Letter to the Editor at

www.ndsmcobserver.com

UWIRE

Reusable bags aren’t as green as they seem

The decision between paper and plastic has recently began to include the choice of reusable, a one dollar option many people are willing to take in order to reduce their impact on the environment.

But reusable grocery bags, made to be used multiple times for shopping, may not be as healthy or environmentally friendly as people once thought.

The Tampa Tribune recently investigated and tested reusable grocery bags sold at Wal-Mart, Target and East Coast grocery chains. This investigation spurred the Food and Drug Administration to launch its own investigation into reusable bags. The testers found unsafe levels of lead in reusable grocery bags that were manufactured in China and sold at Wal-Mart, Target and the East Coast grocery chains Winn-Dixie, Publix and Sweetbay. Lead is found in laminated reusable bags with large print or images to make colors more vibrant.

Lead is a toxic metal that can cause serious health problems in children younger than six years old and adults who are regularly exposed to high levels of lead. Lead poisoning in children can cause behavioral problems, damage to the brain and nervous system, hearing problems, headaches and slowed growth. Lead poisoning in adults can cause reproductive

Sarah Walters
Oregon Daily Emerald

problems, high blood pressure, hypertension, nerve disorders, memory problems, and muscle and joint pain.

While the recent study did not show any indication of an immediate health threat to the public, lead in reusable bags could possibly contaminate the food products kept inside them and leach into landfills once a consumer disposes of the bag. The researchers found that in the long-term, the lead from reusable grocery bags could seep into groundwater after disposal and, over time, paint from the bag could flake off and come into contact with food.

Wal-Mart and Target have not recalled their reusable bags and recently released statements to dispel any health concerns.

Wal-Mart tested its bags did not find levels as high as the Tribune’s test and the company plans on selling more basic and plain versions of its bag. Target also remained confident in its testing methods. In response to the Tribune’s story, Safeway re-tested all its reusable bags and found them to be lead-free. Reusable grocery bags are a popular alternative to using plastic and paper bags, and some cities are considering outright banning one-use bags. While the City of Eugene is not considering a ban on plastic bags, the City of Portland is. Meanwhile, in Washington, D.C., and other U.S. cities, consumers who use plastic bags are charged extra when they

don’t bring their reusable grocery bags.

This would be a good option instead of banning plastic bags entirely, University junior Yufei Chen said.

“I think it’s a good idea to pay for it,” she said. U. Oregon junior Elizabeth Shepard said she uses plastic bags at home as garbage bags.

“You can use those bags at home for other things,” she said. “Banning them isn’t a good idea.” Other U. Oregon students said they had a hard time remembering to bring their reusable bags with them when grocery shopping.

“I never have them with me to use them,” senior Sarah Kanthack said.

Consumers should also focus on bacteria, which can form on the bottom of reusable grocery bags, when considering their health. Health experts recommend that consumers regularly wash their reusable grocery bags to prevent the formation of bacteria and E. coli. However, the catch is that washing reusable grocery bags uses energy and water, making them less environmentally friendly than their original purpose.

This column first appeared in the Nov. 30 edition of the Oregon Daily Emerald, the publication serving the University of Oregon.

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

winter CALE

Notre Dame women's soccer College Cup semifinal vs. Ohio State

Where: Watch on ESPN2 or ESPNU
When: Friday, 4 p.m.

The Irish make their school-record fifth consecutive trip to the College Cup

A Carroll Christmas

Where: Far Quad
When: Friday, 6 p.m.

A great way to kick off Christmas on campus as well as an excuse to make the trek out to Far Quad. Events include a Christmas tree lighting, a performance by the Notre Dame Glee Club, a Christmas carol karaoke session, pictures with Santa, and a Christmas cookie contest at 8. Numerous Christmas refreshments will be available. Guests are encouraged to bring a toy that will be donated to Toys for Tots.

Tig Notaro comedy act

Where: Legends Nightclub
When: Friday, 10 p.m.
How much: Free to all ND/SMC/HCC students

An alum of both Last Comic Standing and The Sarah Silverman Program, the Mississippi-native Tig Notaro brings Southern humor — with a twist — to Legends.

Blue and Gold Track Meet

Where: Loftus Sports Center
When: Friday, 6 p.m.
How much: Free for all ND/SMC/HCC students

Notre Dame's Track and Field team starts off the winter indoor season against Marquette University, DePaul University and the University of Detroit Mercy. This track meet is also a food drive, so bring canned goods and non-perishable items!

Ice Skating

Where: JACC rink
When: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays when there is no home hockey game from 12 to 1 p.m.
How much: Free admission, skate rentals for \$3

Bring your own skates or rent some for an alternative to lunch break

Playing for Peace: Peace Rally

Where: Joyce Center
When: Saturday, games start at 9 a.m.; rally at 11 a.m.
How much: Attendance and participation

Join the tournament or attend the rally to raise money for the Peace Corps. The rally will include: coaches Mike Brey from men's basketball and Ed Bona, a Sudanese native who was the first African American to play for Notre Dame, a Cameroon native and former captain of the national team, and University President Emeritus Theodore Healy.

"The Best Christmas Pageant"

Where: Washington Hall Lab Theatre
When: Saturday, 4 and 7 p.m. Sunday, 2 p.m.
How much: Free

Based on the book by Barbara Robinson, "The Best Christmas Pageant" follows the story of a couple who cast the pageant. Hilarity and Christmas cheer.

Times New Viking

Where: Legends Nightclub
When: Saturday, 10 p.m.
How much: Free to all ND/SMC/HCC students

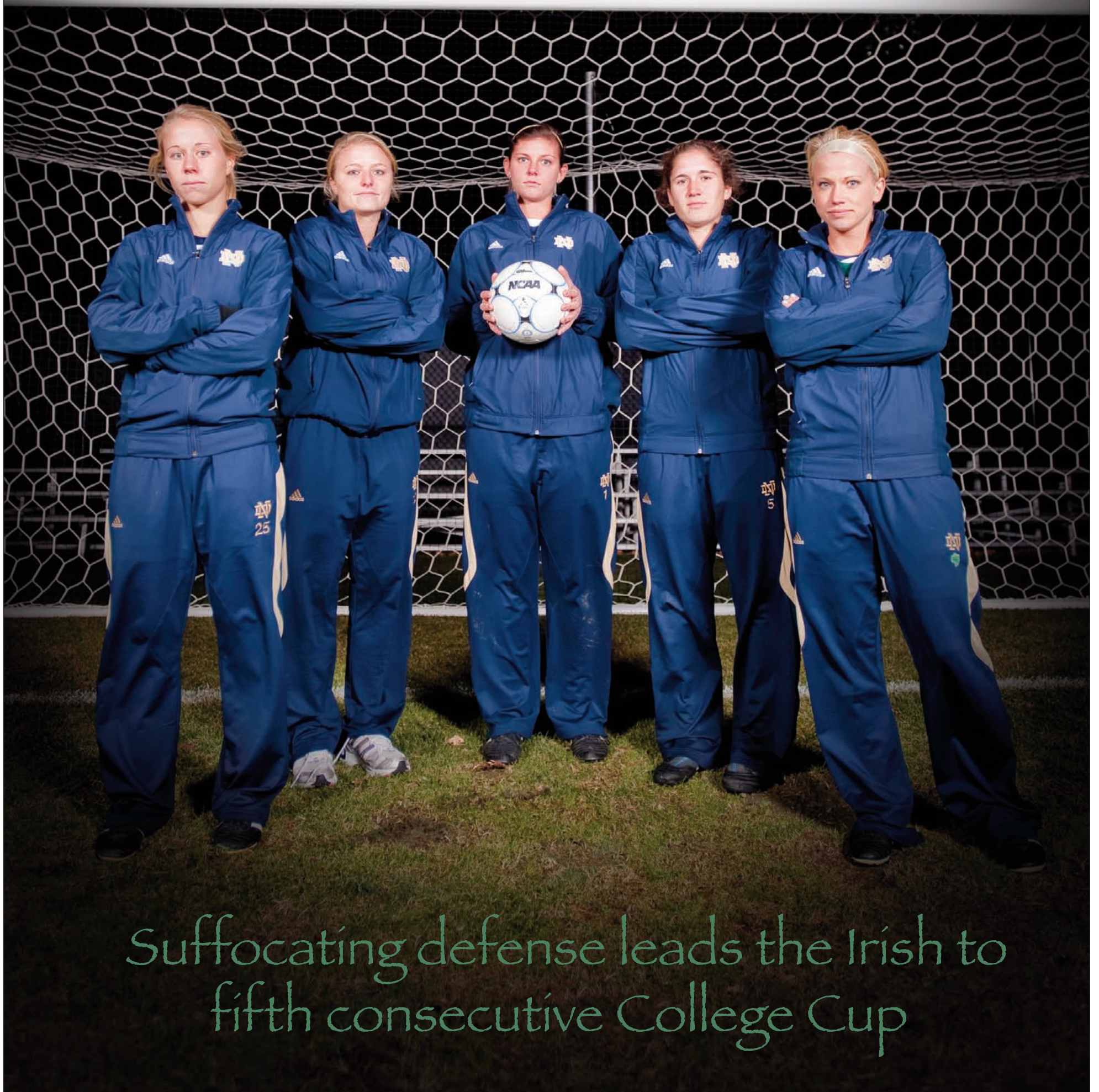
This indie-rock band hails from Chicago and was formed at Pitchfork Music Festival.

IRISH INSIDER

Friday, December 3, 2010

THE
OBSERVER

Defending Her Glory



*Suffocating defense leads the Irish to
fifth consecutive College Cup*

Photo Illustration by Pat Coveney and Jaclyn Espinoza

Road-tested ND faces Ohio St. in semifinals

By MIKE GOTIMER
Sports Writer

No. 7 Notre Dame will head to its fifth consecutive College Cup this weekend in Cary, N.C., where it will face No. 17 Ohio State in the national semifinal. Although the Irish (19-2-2) were highly ranked and had a reputation as one of college soccer's elite programs, a 2-0 loss to Connecticut in the quarterfinals of the Big East championships resulted in a drop to a fourth seed in the NCAA

Tournament. The lower seed gave the Irish a daunting road to the College Cup in which they played three ranked teams and traveled nearly 4,000 miles. "I think when the bids came out, all the girls didn't publicly come out and say anything and we didn't either, and I think we all felt like we got a little bit of a shaft on that," Irish coach Randy Waldrum said. "I think we were expecting a two seed, and to get a four [seed], we were all disappointed in that. So I think they had a little bit of a point to prove, so that's proba-

bly served as a little motivation." Since that loss, the Irish have dominated their opponents on both ends of the field, outscoring opponents 13-1 thus far in the tournament. Waldrum said he believes this team has played as well as any other team he has coached during his tenure at Notre Dame. "I think this team is really well prepared, and I think it's got all the ingredients," Waldrum said. "It could win it. You know now we [have to] still go out and perform on the day, but I think it's as good right now as any team

that we've had coming through at this point in the year." While Notre Dame has been to the College Cup 12 times in its history, Ohio State (17-4-2) is making its first appearance on college soccer's biggest stage. Although the Irish have a clear advantage in experience, Waldrum isn't ready to say this team will have an easy road to Sunday night's final. "I think it is [Ohio State's] first time there, and that can be a dangerous thing," Waldrum said. "You know, it can be one of those Cinderella runs like USC did a few years ago — the first time they were in they won the whole thing — and so I think Ohio State certainly has a good enough team to do that." The Buckeyes will present challenges for the Irish on both sides of the ball, but their defense has been especially sound, allowing just 0.61 goals per game. "They don't give up many goals. They look to be a team that's really organized, so I think it's [going to] be a great game," Waldrum said. "I think it should be a really good matchup, and you know when you get to the final four teams, you're playing somebody good." Should the Irish get past Ohio State on Friday, they will face the winner of the other semifinal contest between No. 1 Stanford and No. 18 Boston College. Like the 2008 Notre Dame squad, which entered the College Cup unbeaten and ranked No. 1 in the country, the Cardinal (22-0-2) enter this year's College Cup looking to wrap up an undefeated season with a national championship. Waldrum said he believes Stanford will face some pressure to win a storybook national title,

but he doesn't think it will derail them. "Well there's some pressure with it — I can tell you that from us doing it," Waldrum said. "You know, every game that you get deeper, whether you consciously think about it or subconsciously think about it, you go, 'Well there's only now two games left and if we win it we go undefeated, now there's only one more game.' I don't think the pressure of them carrying that undefeated season is [going to] burden them enough that it's [going to] cause them to collapse or anything." Like Ohio State, Boston College (17-6-1) is also making its first trip to the College Cup. The Eagles were one of the nation's hottest teams at the beginning of the season, but cooled off towards the end before stepping their game up again in the tournament. "I think Boston College has had an exceptional year," Waldrum said. "They started out really hot — they beat [North] Carolina early in the year, and they tied Stanford early in the year ... they seemed like they've turned it back around again late in the year." Notre Dame will begin the final stage of its chase for the program's third national title Friday against Ohio State at 4 p.m. at WakeMed Soccer Park in Cary, N.C. The winner of that game will square off with the winner of the Stanford vs. Boston College match at noon Sunday for the national title. The semifinal games will be broadcast on ESPN2 and ESPNU, while Sunday's match will air on ESPN2.

Contact Mike Gotimer at mgotimer@nd.edu



PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Junior forward Melissa Henderson dribbles the ball during Notre Dame's 2-0 loss to Connecticut on Oct. 31. Henderson leads the team with 17 goals.

Quarterfinals loss in conference tournament sparks Irish

By ALLAN JOSEPH
Sports Writer

A real eye-opener. A wake-up call. A reality check. A slap in the face. These were just some of the terms the Irish players used to describe their shocking 2-0 upset by Connecticut in the quarterfinals of the Big East tournament on Halloween. Coming into the game at 15-1-2 without a loss to a conference opponent since 2005 and without a home loss to a league foe since 1995, Notre Dame took the pitch flat, giving up a pair of second-half goals to suffer a shocking exit from the conference tournament. "It's one thing if we played well and lost, but we didn't even play well on that day," Irish coach Randy Waldrum said. "We were really flat. It was late, [the players] were taking things for granted — that we were good, and we just had to show up." Freshman defender Kecia Morway agreed with her coach. "We went into that game kind of uninterested and unexcited because it was just another game," she said. "It kind of re-motivated us because we realized that we actually have to work for our wins." There were no inspiring speeches after the loss. There was no emotional tirade. No tears were shed. There wasn't even a players-only meeting to set the team straight. Rather, the Irish forged a steely resolve after they

realized what was at stake. "We just looked at each other and kind of knew," junior forward Melissa Henderson said. "Everybody said what they needed to say, 'Hey, we've got to pick it up. Now it's not all fun and games. It's serious now. You lose and you're out.'" After Notre Dame slept off the sting from the loss, the team went back to business and worked to grow from the experience. "I remember we had to go in the morning after and watch film at 5:30 in the morning, and I remember going to breakfast after that with a couple girls on the team," junior defender Molly Campbell said. "We were just talking about how either the team would just implode or we would just kind of really respond. Obviously we responded the best way we could have." It wasn't just a change in mentality that sparked the NCAA run, however. The loss prompted Waldrum to make a lineup change that would eventually pay huge dividends. Waldrum moved senior Lauren Fowlkes from the back line to the attack and put Campbell in her place. Waldrum was rewarded with a three-goal, two-assist effort from Fowlkes on the opening weekend of the tournament. "The big question was whether [Campbell] could step in late in the season with not a lot of practice in that position and show some consistency, especially at a crucial time with the NCAAs, and she's been fantastic there,"



PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Freshman midfielder Elizabeth Tucker, 8, fights for the ball during Notre Dame's 2-0 loss to Connecticut on Oct. 31. Tucker has netted nine goals during her first season in an Irish uniform.

Waldrum said. "She's been really the key — we knew Lauren could do that because we had her doing last year." Fowlkes' offensive dynamism translated to the rest of the Notre Dame attack, as a formerly struggling offense found its stride in the most crucial games of the year. "I think it really helped with our offense, obviously," Henderson said. "Lauren's really strong and a good player to play off of, so it gave us a little diversity up front." Before the loss, the team had been struggling through the latter stages of its conference slate, and

Waldrum said that the defeat forced him to finally make the change he had been contemplating for some time. "We'd still not lost a game in a while so I was a little reluctant to make the change," he said. "I think that loss, as a coach, forced me to do what we needed to do to make those changes. I don't know that I would have done that had we won that game." Despite all of the positives that came from the loss, the Irish still maintain they would have preferred to win the game with Connecticut. "It's hard to say that it's a

good thing that we lost," Henderson said. Her coach agreed. "You never want to lose," Waldrum said. "I would rather have won, and won the Big East tournament, don't get me wrong." After the first weekend of the NCAA Tournament, Waldrum used one more phrase to describe the Connecticut game — this one more positive than the one his players used. "A blessing in disguise," he said.

Contact Allan Joseph
ajoseph2@nd.edu

Weiss grip

Stalwart defense quietly drives team to College Cup; late-season switch pays dividends

By CHRIS MASOUD
Sports Writer

At a glance, Notre Dame's convincing victories on the road to its College Cup appearance this weekend can be a bit misleading. Postseason success that included a 4-0 dismantling of Southern California and a 4-1 rout of North Carolina on the road will raise questions about the team's ease of schedule.

But in the eyes of Irish coach Randy Waldrum, Notre Dame's road to the Cup has nothing to do with luck of the draw.

"Probably what was one of the hardest draws we've had in the four years I've been here," Waldrum said. "We've played some teams that are real capable of scoring a lot of goals on you. The defense has carried us and that's what you need carrying you at this time of the year."

Posting three shutouts in its four tournament matches, the Irish defense has stifled high-powered offenses in the friendly confines of Alumni Stadium and before sell-out crowds on the road. Well aware of the stakes at hand, the backline has risen to the intensity of each contest.

"Our tournament games have really been the best games we've played all year long," senior goalkeeper Nikki Weiss said. "Since we get here in August for [the] preseason, winning a national championship is always our goal, so once it actually comes time to make that dream come true we get really excited."

But turning up the intensity in the postseason takes more than flicking a switch. Notre Dame's defensive dominance in the tournament has been an extension of the team's regular season success rather than a

sudden improvement.

Heading into the postseason, the squad had only allowed 10 goals in 18 games, while posting 10 shutouts.

"I think a lot of it really has to do with keeping the ball away from us," Weiss said. "I think our offense does a good job of that. We just work really well together. We always try to stay really close and tight, and move around the field so we don't leave a lot of gaps in between."

Much of that coordination can be attributed to taking the field each game with the same personnel. Senior defender and four-year starter Julie Scheidler said

the back line has developed an uncanny chemistry the stems from the players' familiarity with each other.

"It's just a different feeling being friends with someone and then playing on the field next to them — you just know what their moves are going to be and exactly what they're going to do," Scheidler said. "It's like we don't even have to talk anymore, it's just kind of a look.

We just know each other so well that it just comes."

So when Waldrum decided to move senior Lauren Fowlkes from the back to the midfield position following a 2-0 loss in the quarterfinals of the Big East

championships, that chemistry was put to the test. But Fowlkes' replacement, junior Molly Campbell, has proven to be an excellent fit as she continues her transition from the

midfield.

"Moving Molly back wasn't a real hard thing to do because she had three really solid people around her that could kind of help put her at ease when we made that change," Waldrum said. "She stepped in and has been fantastic for us in the back. I can't say enough."

In addition to being a capable defender, Campbell brings an offensive mentality to a group of seasoned defenders. Rather than detracting from the back line's unity, Campbell's teammates said they come to appreciate her nuances and aggressive tendencies.

"It was obviously a good decision," Weiss said.

"Molly's a very solid player. She's not a natural-born defender, but sometimes it's helpful that she has that attacking mindset. She's come in and really handled her job well."

While Campbell's addition to the defense came towards the end of the season, the Irish came into the year with a number of talented underclassmen with limited or no experience to the back line vying for a starting spot. Freshman Kecia Morway and sophomore Jazmin Hall emerged as the leading candidates, and the two have split time on the pitch all season.

Waldrum credits their energy and ability to transition smoothly to the collegiate level for their immediate success.

"First I came in obviously really nervous because I didn't know the people playing around me," Morway said. "Throughout the season, with all of everyone's support in the back line, I've kind of bonded with them and learned how they played. It enabled me to adjust to the system and do my job better."

Joining a defense that features a lone senior and two juniors, Morway and Hall have made their contributions felt while still learning the ropes from an experienced line. The two have not only complemented each other well, but have added youth to the dynamic group.

"Kecia and Jazz are doing really well for us," Weiss said. "They're very interchangeable, which is good. They both have different strengths, which is really beneficial against different teams. The combination of the upperclassmen with the underclassmen is really cohesive."

But talent and chemistry can only take a team so far. Regardless of a team's experience level, leadership and passion are an essential part of the championship equation.

The defensive unit has both traits in second-year captain Jessica Schuveiller. More so than the raw talent she brings



NICOLE TOCZAUER/The Observer

Irish senior Nikki Weiss rises above Connecticut attackers to make a save during Notre Dame's 2-0 loss on Oct. 31.

to the table, the seasoned junior adds direction and composure to the back line and to the squad as a whole, Waldrum said.

"By leadership for us, it's not only on the field," Waldrum said. "In the last few weeks, Jess has been really good, especially since we moved Lauren out of the back. Lauren was usually the more vocal player, and now Jess has really stepped up and organized things on the field and has really taken charge on the field with her leadership."

Quick to deflect praise, Schuveiller said the team's success can be attributed in large part to Weiss, who has been a mainstay in the Irish goal all season.

"[Nikki] is amazing," Schuveiller said. "Playing in front of her is really easy because she is so confident. She does a great job communicating and it helps out a lot. It really helps that we're all friends on and off the field, so the chemistry is there."

With the Big East's lowest goals against average (.53) and highest save percentage (.867) during the regular season, Weiss has enjoyed tremendous success during her final season in an Irish uniform. But it wasn't always that way.

Weiss struggled to earn the

job as the starting net-minder during her first two seasons at Notre Dame, a result of inconsistency and transitioning to collegiate play.

"When you come in to Notre Dame, you're not sure how high the level actually is," Weiss said. "For me, it just took a lot longer to adjust. Once I

kind of relaxed and started having fun, things starting falling into place."

Waldrum said the turning point in Weiss' career came during a 2-0 shutout over Florida State in the quarterfinals of the NCAA Championships last season. Weiss made five

saves and grabbed a number of crosses, leading the Irish in a victory that sent them to the College Cup.

"Last year when she stepped in, she did a great job," Waldrum said. "She played great for us in the Final Four [in 2009]. Nikki's played great for us all year and kept us in a lot of the games early when we were trying to find our way with the back."

As the Irish travel to Cary, N.C., to take on third-seeded Ohio State Friday in the semifinals of the College Cup, Weiss and the back line bolster a Notre Dame squad that has been lifted by its defense all season.

"We know we're not going to be the ones up on the scoreboard getting the goals or anything," Scheidler said, "but when you get a good hard tackle in or you really get something good, it sets the tone for the game. You can see it boosts the whole rest of the team."

Contact Chris Masoud at
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PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Junior defender Jessica Schuveiller clears the ball during Notre Dame's 2-0 loss to Connecticut on Oct. 31.

"It's like we don't even talk anymore, it's just kind of a look. We know each other so well that it just comes."

Julie Scheidler
Senior defender

"The defense has carried us and that's what you need carrying you at this time of the year."

Randy Waldrum
Irish coach

"Nikki's played great for us all year and kept us in a lot of the games early when we were trying to find our way with the back."

Randy Waldrum
Irish coach

"I've kind of bonded with them and learned how they played. It enabled me to adjust to the system and do my job better"

Kecia Morway
Freshman defender



vs. Boston University 2-1
vs. Hofstra 3-1
vs. No. 3 West Virginia 4-0
vs. Washington 1-0



vs. St. Francis (PA) 1-0
vs. Dayton 0-0 (4-2 PK)
@ No. 2 Virginia 3-2
vs. Georgetown 2-0

No. 2 BOSTON COLLEGE

No. 3 OHIO STATE

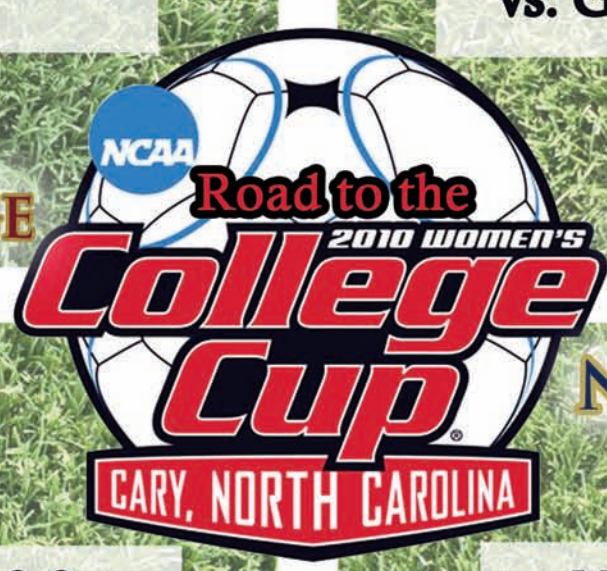
No. 1 STANFORD

No. 4 NOTRE DAME



vs. Sacramento State 3-0
vs. Santa Clara 2-1
vs. UCLA 3-0
vs. No. 2 Florida State 5-0

vs. New Mexico 3-0
vs. USC 4-0
@ No. 1 North Carolina 4-1
@ No. 3 Oklahoma St. 2-0



2010 WOMEN'S College Cup
CARY, NORTH CAROLINA

“I’ve seen Notre Dame soccer up close and personal. I know Randy fairly well. I know he has a team that year-in and year-out will compete for a national championship. Beating North Carolina was a huge step for that potentially happening on Sunday. I know that they’re ready to battle whatever comes their way.”

BRANDI CHASTAIN



Predicting the College Cup



Mike Gotimer
Sports Writer

In a year where the NCAA Tournament has been filled with upsets, Notre Dame has remained the only constant, as the Irish head to the College Cup for the fifth straight season. With two teams making their first appearance in the Final Four and another seeking perfection, Notre Dame finds itself in an ideal situation with the fewest distractions of the four remaining teams. While the Irish have dominated on both ends of the field throughout the tournament, their experience will reign supreme in this year’s College Cup.

FINAL RESULT:
Notre Dame 1, Stanford 0
Irish win national championship



Allan Joseph
Sports Writer

It’s an interesting foursome in the College Cup. With traditional powers Notre Dame and Stanford matching up against Final Four newcomers Boston College and Ohio State, there’s a unique dynamic awaiting in North Carolina. The Cardinal and Irish absolutely dominated their regions, while the Eagles and Buckeyes struggled somewhat. I fully expect comfortable semifinal wins to set up a marquee Stanford-Notre Dame national championship. Both of those teams are loaded with talent, and while it’ll be about as nerve-wracking a final as possible, the experienced, even-keeled and tested Irish will prevail.

FINAL RESULT:
Notre Dame 3, Stanford 2 (OT)
Irish win national championship



Chris Masoud
Sports Writer

I’m not quite sure how the Buckeyes made it this far with four losses to their name, but I’ll take it. Notre Dame should blow past Ohio State by a wide margin to make it back to the title game. Although the Irish defense no longer features All-American Carrie Dew, it has lifted this team to the College Cup unlike previous years. That should be the difference that pushes this team to a national title. But Stanford will be Notre Dame’s toughest opponent yet, and even if Melissa Henderson plays like Melissa Henderson (which I think she will), the Irish may not get much.

FINAL RESULT:
Notre Dame 0, Stanford 0 (5-4 PKs)
Irish win national championship

events in Dar

Notre Dame women's basketball vs. Purdue

Where: Purcell Pavillion at the JACC

When: Sunday, 2 p.m.

How much: Free for students

Intrastate match-up between the No. 16 Irish and the Boilers. Notre Dame beat Purdue to win the NCAA championship ten years ago — is the grudge still on?

A Kodachrome Christmas

Where: Decio Theatre in DPAC

When: Dec 9-10, 7 p.m.; Dec 11, 7:30 p.m.; Dec 12, 2 p.m.

How much: \$15 for students

This scripted comedy show follows performer Earlene Hoople as she attempts to host a Christmas show for access cable in front of a live audience.

Div. I and 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament

Starts at 12 p.m.
Admission is free, t-shirts will be \$5

to raise awareness of the conflict in Sudan. Speakers include basketball player Kevin Corrigan from men's lacrosse; the first African to play Div. I basketball; Joe Touomou, a member of Georgetown's basketball team — and possibly even a member of the Pittsburgh Steelers.

The Undertones Christmas Concert

Where: Washington Hall Main Stage

When: Dec. 10, 8 p.m.

How much: \$5, available at LaFortune Box Office

Kick off study days (and study day nights) with Christmas crooning

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever"

Starts at 4 p.m.

on, "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" follows the most awful kids in town in their Christmas pageant. The result? A riotous and hilarious pageant ensue!

Notre Dame men's basketball vs. Gonzaga

Where: Purcell Pavilion at Joyce Center

When: Dec. 11, 8:30 p.m.

How much: \$15 - \$40, individual tickets available at (574)-631-7356 or <http://und.com/tickets/nd-tickets-m-baskbl.html>

Support our basketball team next Saturday in their game against Gonzaga. Take a break from studying, go with a group of friends, and cheer for the Fighting Irish in what promises to be a great game!

SMC/HCC students

from Columbus, Ohio, and has performed at the Columbus Festival.

Notre Dame hockey vs. Northern Michigan

Where: JACC rink

When: Dec. 11, 7:05 p.m.; Dec. 12, 4:05 p.m.

How much: Limited tickets, free to all ND/SMC/HCC students

Watch the Irish take the ice on Saturday and Sunday next weekend against the Northern Michigan. Cheer them on as they try to make another run to the Frozen Four.

NHL

Gaborik and Avery combine in 6-5 victory



Rangers forward Sean Avery celebrates a goal in the Rangers' 6-5 win over the New York Islanders on Thursday.

Associated Press

UNIONDALE, N.Y. — Marian Gaborik had three goals and an assist in his first game with Sean Avery as a linemate, and Henrik Lundqvist made nine saves in relief of backup Martin Biron to lift the New York Rangers to a 6-5 victory over the New York Islanders on Thursday night.

The Islanders, playing for the first time since snapping a 14-game losing streak (0-11-3) on Friday, couldn't make it two in a row in the opener of a home-and-home series with their biggest rival. The Islanders erased two two-goal leads — including one in the third period — but still lost.

It was Gaborik's second hat trick of the season and 12th in the NHL. His third goal of the night gave the Rangers a 6-5 lead with 5:25 remaining after Michael Grabner and Blake Comeau scored 1:41 apart to get the Islanders even.

Erik Christensen, the third member of the Rangers' top line, had a goal and assist, and Ryan Callahan and Brandon Prust also scored as the Rangers won for the fifth time in seven games. Avery had three assists after replacing Alex Frolov, who was dropped to the fourth line.

Gaborik has four goals in two games following a bout with the flu, and Callahan has three goals in four games. Gaborik gave the Rangers a 4-3 lead with a power-play goal with 3:36 left in the second and stretched the advantage to 5-3 at 3:31 of the third off a backhanded pass from Avery.

Grabner made it 5-4 with 7:31 left.

Lundqvist's night off didn't last long as he was called upon to bail out Biron when

the Islanders grabbed a 3-2 lead with 7:30 left in the second period on Schremp's goal. The Rangers' No. 1 netminder had little to do the rest of the frame. His teammates scored twice 1:30 apart to go back in front, and Lundqvist faced only one shot — a drive in the final 30 seconds of the period.

The Islanders began their first comeback when Konopka snapped his long scoring drought with a broken-play goal with 48.6 seconds remaining in the first. It was Konopka's first goal in 57 games, dating to Jan. 2 when he was with Tampa Bay.

The Islanders killed off the Rangers' early power play in the second and withstood a high-energy shift by Callahan, in which the small forward landed several hits in the offensive zone.

The Islanders got the puck up ice, and John Tavares made a crisp, behind-the-back backhanded pass from the left wing boards to Moulson, near the right post. With Biron out of position, Moulson calmly lifted a shot past him to make it 2-2 at 9:18.

The onslaught continued just over 3 minutes later when Schremp put the Islanders ahead and ended Biron's night. Biron, who played last season with the Islanders, allowed three goals on 21 shots.

Avery played a strong over-all game. He had a prime chance off a pass from Gaborik less than 2 minutes in, but DiPietro smothered his one-timed shot — leaving Avery shaking his arms in frustration.

The noted agitator got onto the score sheet with 8:11 left in the first period, assisting on Christensen's goal.

NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Terrapins top Boilermakers

Associated Press

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Lynetta Kizer scored 20 points to help No. 22 Maryland rally past Purdue 56-55 on Thursday night in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge.

Alyssa Thomas and Diandra Tchatchouang each scored 12 points for the Terrapins (6-1), who trailed by 11 with 5:24 remaining. Maryland outrebounded Purdue 40-27 and scored 20 points off offensive rebounds.

Courtney Moses led Purdue with 12 points and five assists, but she also had seven turnovers and missed what could have been a game-winning shot in the closing seconds.

It was Purdue's first game since Nov. 21. The Boilermakers were scheduled to participate in the Caribbean

Challenge at Playa del Carmen, Mexico, but the trip was canceled when forward Drey Mingo was diagnosed with bacterial meningitis. She has been released from the hospital, but she missed Thursday's game against the school she transferred from last year and is out indefinitely.

Purdue led 21-15 after two free throws by Brittany Rayburn, but Maryland rallied with a 6-0 run. Moses made a 3-pointer with 1:10 left in the first half to give the Boilermakers a 25-23 lead. Maryland tied the game with a pair of free throws in the final minute, then Alex Guyton banked in a shot on an assist from Moses as time expired in the first half to give Purdue a 27-25 lead at the break.

Maryland led 37-34 before Purdue went on a 10-0 run. A three-point play and a 3-point-

er by Moses helped Purdue take a 44-37 lead with 8 minutes remaining. A layup by Rayburn, on another assist from Moses, pushed the advantage to 51-42 and brought the crowd to its feet.

A 6-0 run by Maryland cut Purdue's lead to 53-48. Moses, who had left the game because she had four fouls, came back in and almost immediately had an assist to Guyton to push the lead back to seven with 4:10 to play and temporarily slow Maryland's momentum.

The Terrapins surged again. Two baskets by Tchatchouang cut Purdue's lead to 55-54 with 1:27 remaining.

Purdue's Antionette Howard missed a jumper, and Maryland moved quickly downcourt. Thomas' layup with 52 seconds left gave Maryland a 56-55 lead with 52 seconds to play.

MLB

Jeter closes in on new contract

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The New York Yankees increased their contract offer to Derek Jeter.

The team informed Jeter's side of the new offer during a telephone conversation early Thursday, a person familiar with the negotiations said. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because no announcement was made.

"The ball's in Derek's court now, and his agent," Yankees co-chairman Hank Steinbrenner said later Thursday in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. "It's up to them."

Jeter's agent, Casey Close, declined comment. But since negotiations resumed Tuesday, talks have appeared to gain a little momentum.

"We don't know how happy they are. We'll see," Steinbrenner said. "There's no possible way anybody could criticize us for what we've offered."

New York opened with a \$45 million, three-year proposal last month, then awaited a formal counteroffer from its captain. It was not known whether the new offer improved the value, contract length or both.

Before the sides met this week, their first session since Nov. 8, Close had suggested a



Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter stands on first after a single in a game against the Tampa Bay Rays on Sept. 9, 2009.

contract averaging about \$23 million for four or five seasons.

Steinbrenner thinks talks are progressing well to re-sign closer Mariano Rivera, who like Jeter is a free agent.

"I think you can be pretty confident in Mo," he said. "We're looking good."

While negotiating with its own players who became free

agents, the Yankees are anticipating talks will intensify at next week's winter meetings with Cliff Lee. Among other team's free agents, the 32-year-old left-hander is New York's No. 1 priority.

"It's no secret we want Cliff, and we will do what we can to get him," Steinbrenner said. "That's the bottom line."

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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PERSONALS

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http://pregnancysupport@nd.edu.

If you or someone you care about has been sexually assaulted, we can help. For more information, visit Notre Dame's website:
http://csap.nd.edu.

In honor of Carroll Christmas (6-10 tonight. Be there.), quotes from Elf:

Buddy: It's just like Santa's workshop! Except it smells like mushrooms... and everyone looks like they wanna hurt me...

Buddy: The yellow ones don't stop!

Buddy: [phone rings, Buddy picks it up] Buddy the Elf, what's your favorite color?

Buddy: We elves try to stick to the four main food groups: candy, candy canes, candy corns and syrup.

Puffin: Hey Buddy wanna pick some snowberries?
Buddy: Not now Arctic Puffin!

Buddy: I'm a cotton-headed ninny-muggins.

Gimbel's Manager: Why are you smiling like that?
Buddy: I just like to smile, smiling's my favorite

Buddy: You sit on a throne of lies.

Buddy: You smell like beef and cheese, you don't smell like Santa.

Walter: [whispering] I think we should call security.
Deb: [whispering] Good idea.
Buddy: [whispering] I like to whisper too!

Buddy: [thinking Miles is an elf] Did you have to borrow a reindeer to get down here?
Miles Finch: Hey, jackweed, I get more action in a week than you've had in your entire life. I've got houses in L.A., Paris and Vail. In each one, a 70 inch plasma screen. So I suggest you wipe that stupid smile off your face before I come over there and SMACK it off! You feeling strong, my friend? Call me elf one more time.
Buddy: [after a pause] He's an angry elf.

NBA

James silences Cleveland crowd in Heat victory

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — First the Cleveland fans had their say, then LeBron James answered.

James led a 16-0 first-quarter surge that quieted the boos and abuse of fans who used to call him King, scoring 38 points to lead the Miami Heat to a 118-90 victory over the Cavaliers on Thursday night.

It was James' first game back in the city where he played for seven years before leaving via free agency, angering disbelieving fans who considered him one of their own.

Dwyane Wade added 22 points, James Jones 18 and Chris Bosh 15 for the Heat, a star-studded team which has seldom played like one in going 12-8 so far.

Daniel Gibson scored 21 for the Cavaliers, who have lost six of eight and now play seven of their next eight on the road.

James had 10 more points than Cleveland's starting lineup.

Ahead by 19 at the half, the Heat poured it on by shooting 73 percent from the field in the third quarter, with James going 10 of 12 and Wade hitting all four of his attempts to stretch the lead to 30 points.

James sat on the bench for all of the fourth quarter, with

dozens of security guards and police lining the team's entrance to the court and guarding against objects thrown at him. After the final seconds sifted away, he left without incident.

Until then, James frequently bantered with his former coaches with the Cavaliers and even talked to fans at courtside. The native of nearby Akron smiled while shooting free throws, in spite of what seemed like the entire arena chanting, "Akron hates you!"

The early spurt left a crowd of 20,562 with nothing left to cheer except James' occasional missed shot. He didn't miss many, finishing 15 of 25 from the field, to go with eight assists and five rebounds.

James, of course, left the Cavaliers this summer to take his act to sunny Miami. Before the game, fans peppered him with obscene chants and booed every time he appeared on the giant monitors over midcourt.

Fans held up signs that read, "Quitness" and "Play Like It's Game Five" — a reference to his Nike marketing campaign and also last season's pivotal game in the playoff series with Boston, when many felt James had quit on the Cavaliers. There were five guys wearing a single letter each on their white T-shirts

that spelled out: LeBum.

Cleveland native and game show host Drew Carey, Browns icon Bernie Kosar, Indians slugger Travis Hafner and most of the current Browns were cheered wildly when, just before the start, they slowly made their way to courtside seats. Cincinnati Bengals receiver Terrell Owens even was in attendance.

By far, the loudest cheers were saved for Cavs owner Dan Gilbert, who had ripped James after his decision, saying he quit on the Cavaliers during their season-ending playoff series with the Celtics last spring.

It didn't take long for the Heat to end the suspense once the game began.

Cleveland led 17-12 early, but James led the 16-0 surge that all but put the game on ice. He scored on a reverse layup in traffic to put the Heat up 19-17 at the 3:10 mark and they never looked back.

With the Cavaliers falling farther and farther behind, the fans had to content themselves with cheering each time James had a shot blocked or was called for a foul.

When he was barely bumped with 4:28 left in the first quarter by Cleveland's Joey Graham 20 feet from the



AP
LeBron James looks to pass during the 118-90 Heat victory Thursday night. James had 38 points in his first game back in Cleveland.

basket, he flopped onto the floor. The crowd went crazy when the replay showed the former Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary High School star hit the deck, with lusty boos following when it appeared he might have embellished the contact.

During warmups, they

booed whenever James touched the ball and cheered whenever his shots clanged out.

He hit a mid-range jumper at the 10:41 mark for his first points — and the crowd responded angrily.

By the end, though, they were quiet.

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MLB

White Sox sign Adam Dunn

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Slugging first baseman Adam Dunn has agreed to join the Chicago White Sox for a four-year, \$56 million contract, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press on Thursday.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal has not been officially announced. If Dunn passes a physical, he could be introduced Friday at a news conference.

Dunn hit 38 home runs with 103 RBIs for Washington last season. He hit .260 and is the big, left-handed bat the White Sox were seeking.

Even after adding Dunn, the White Sox are still hoping to resign Paul Konerko, who is a free agent after turning down Chicago's arbitration offer.

The 31-year-old Dunn has a career batting average of .250, with 354 homers and 880 RBIs in 10 major league seasons with the Reds, Diamondbacks and Nationals. He is also prolific with strikeouts and had 199 last season, but would potentially put up big offensive numbers in homer-friendly U.S. Cellular Field.

The Nationals listened to trade offers for Dunn at the July deadline but decided not to make a deal. Reports say the White Sox were one of those teams interested at the time.

"We think it is important we continue to try to add a few more significant pieces to the mix."

Ken Williams
White Sox GM

Dunn will give the White Sox the power lefty they have been missing since Jim Thome was shipped to the Dodgers at the end of the 2009 season. And when the White Sox decided not to reacquire Thome in 2010, he signed with the AL Central rival Twins.

During a conference call Thursday, White Sox general manager Ken Williams declined to directly address Dunn's deal with Chicago, saying questions could be answered during a news conference Friday at 2 p.m. at the ballpark.

Williams said he definitely hopes to bring Konerko back and have his right-handed bat in the same lineup with Dunn. They would likely alternate at first and DH.

"Not only is there room for it, it would be the ideal fit from our perspective," Williams said. "We can't get too far ahead of ourselves."

Williams said he's trying to be patient and respect Konerko's right to explore the free agent market. Konerko finished fifth in the AL MVP balloting last season when he batted .312 with 39 homers and 111 RBIs.

Williams said he presented two scenarios to owner Jerry Reinsdorf for approaching the

season — one to go with younger players and move out veterans and the second to add to the current mix.

It's obvious, that with the acquisition of Dunn, they went with the latter.

"We just didn't want to be in the middle," Williams said. "So the decision was if we're going all in, we're going all in. It's been a difficult challenge to find the revenue to support the payroll and we're out there on a limb a little bit obviously, but we think it is important we continue to try to add a few more significant pieces to the mix."

It was a busy day for the White Sox. They declined to tender a contract to closer Bobby Jenks, who is second in club history with 173 saves. Jenks missed the final 27 games last season with ulnar neuritis in his right forearm.

Williams said he hasn't closed the door on bringing back Jenks at a lesser salary. He made \$7.5 million last year. Williams said he'd also had conversations with free agent catcher A.J. Pierzynski, who was not offered arbitration by the White Sox.

"I got to be careful at this point," Williams said. "I'll be completely honest, the next thing I would really like to put on the table or put back in uniform is Paul Konerko."

Earlier Thursday the White Sox exercised a club option on shortstop Alexei Ramirez. He will earn a base salary of \$2.75 million. He had opted out of the final year of the deal he signed on Jan. 22, 2008.

NCAA FOOTBALL

NCAA responds to Cam Newton scandal



Auburn's Newton celebrates during a 49-31 win over Georgia Nov. 13. Newton is under scrutiny for his father's pay-for-play scheme.

Associated Press

NCAA President Mark Emmert responded Thursday to the backlash that the governing body is allowing Cam Newton to play in the SEC championship game even though his father sought payment for his services.

"We recognize that many people are outraged at the notion that a parent or anyone else could 'shop around' a student-athlete and there would possibly not be repercussions on the student-athlete's eligibility," Emmert said in a statement on the NCAA's web site.

Emmert added that he's committed to "further clarifying and strengthening our recruiting and amateurism rules so they promote appropriate behavior by students, parents, coaches and third parties." He also said the NCAA will "work aggressively with our members to amend our bylaws so that this type of behavior is not a part of intercollegiate athletics."

The NCAA ruled Wednesday that the Heisman favorite was unaware of the pay-for-play scheme concocted by his father, Cecil, and the owner of a scouting service. The NCAA declared Newton eligible to play for second-ranked Auburn Saturday against No. 18 South Carolina.

Cecil Newton and Kenny Rogers — the former Mississippi State player who worked for an agent — sought money for the quarterback to play for the Bulldogs.

George Lawson, the Newton family attorney, said Thursday that Cecil Newton cooperated with the NCAA.

"Cam's father participated in the investigation truthfully and honestly in terms of what he knew and what he didn't know, regardless of the consequences," Lawson told WSB-TV in Atlanta.

As to whether any money changed hands, the attorney said: "Absolutely not."

Lawson added that he "would hope" the investigation is over.

"But if it is not at an end, Cam and his family will continue to participate," he said.

Within the span of two days, the NCAA notified Auburn of violations of amateurism rules, the school declared Newton ineligible, and then the governing body reinstated him, clearing Newton to compete without conditions.

The NCAA noted that reinstatement decisions are separate from the enforcement process and

usually are "likely to conclude prior to the close of an investigation."

On its web site Thursday NCAA vice president of enforcement Julie Roe Lach said her staff investigates all types of rules violations.

"Some of these investigations affect student-athlete eligibility and others do not," Lach explained. "The investigation does not stop with a student-athlete eligibility issue, but school officials must address it as soon as they are aware of the violations."

The NCAA also took issue with comparisons made to the case involving Reggie Bush at Southern California, which was heavily punished for extra benefits received by the Heisman Trophy winner from two aspiring sports marketers.

The NCAA said "If a student-athlete does not receive tangible benefits, that is a different situation from a student-athlete or family member who receives cash, housing or other benefits or knowingly competes and is compensated as a professional athlete."

Mark Jones, an Indianapolis attorney who works with NCAA-related cases, said the reinstatement committee generally relies on the school's self-report in making decisions involving eligibility issues and doesn't investigate.

He said the swift movement on reinstatement is common during an athlete's season.

"The student-athlete reinstatement staff's job is to evaluate things from the student-athlete's perspective," said Jones, the chair of collegiate sports practice for Ice Miller. "That's very important in analyzing what they're going to do in terms of whether any sanctions might be necessary for the student-athlete."

Kevin Lennon, NCAA vice president of academic and membership affairs, said on the web site that when the reinstatement staff reviews eligibility cases they review each case based on its own merits and specific facts.

"During the decision, we must examine a number of factors, including guidelines established by our membership for what conditions should be applied based on the nature and scope of the violation," Lennon said. "We also carefully consider any mitigating factors presented by the university to determine if relief from the guidelines should be provided."

NCAA BASKETBALL

Dunn lifts No. 11 Baylor over ASU

Associated Press

WACO, Texas — LaceDarius Dunn had 24 points with six 3-pointers and sparked the tie-breaking run after halftime as No. 11 Baylor stretched its home winning streak to 11 games with a 68-54 victory over Arizona State on Thursday night.

Dunn made all of his 3-pointers before bruising his left forearm when he fell hard to the court going for an offensive rebound with 6:43 left. He was on the court writhing in pain, then went to the bench, where he kept rubbing his arm and grimacing before returning 2 minutes later. He was still hurting when he got back in the game.

It was only Dunn's third game this season for Baylor (6-0).

Rihards Kuksiks hit consecutive 3-pointers for Arizona State (3-3) in the opening minute of the second half to tie the game at 33. Dunn responded with a 3-pointer, the first of his two in a quick 7-2 run that gave Baylor the lead for good.

Dunn, the leading scorer last season when Baylor made it to an NCAA regional final and had a school-record 28 wins, was suspended for the first three games of the season after a domestic dispute charge earlier this fall.

In his three games since returning, Dunn has averaged 22.7 points a game and made 16 3-pointers. He was already Baylor's career leader for 3-pointers, and now has 315 — with at least one in 20 consecutive games.



Arizona State's Trent Lockett pulls down a rebound over Baylor's Perry Jones III during Baylor's win Thursday.

secutive games.

Kuksiks led Arizona State with 13 points, while Ty Abbott had 12 on four 3-pointers and Kyle Cain scored 10 points.

A.J. Walton had 13 points, four steals, three assists and five rebounds for Baylor. Freshman Perry Jones had 12 points.

Baylor was up 59-45 when Dunn got hurt, a play on which he was called for a foul. When he was sitting at the scorers table waiting to return, and even when he got back on the court, he was rubbing and shaking his arm.

Soon after getting back in the game, he dived on the court for a loose ball — reaching out with his left arm that was hit by a defender. He stayed in the game, and only made two free throws after that.

Baylor hadn't trailed at all its previous three games, and coach Scott Drew called a timeout after Arizona State had a 5-0 lead only 83 seconds into the game. The Bears responded with a 16-3 run, when the only ASU basket was Abbott's 3-pointer.

After Abbott's 3 put the Sun Devils up 8-7, they had four turnovers and got off one shot over the next 4½ minutes. Jones had a dunk and another inside basket, Dunn hit a 3 and Walton had a fadeaway jumper for a 16-8 Baylor lead.

The Bears stretched the lead to 20-18 when J'mison Morgan gathered in the ball underneath the basket and made a reverse layup with just under 7 minutes left until halftime, when they still led 33-27.

NHL

Sharks shut out Senators in Heatley's return

Associated Press

OTTAWA — Dany Heatley's return to Ottawa gave the NHL a hostile homecoming of its own.

Logan Couture scored twice and Heatley had an assist in his first game in Ottawa since forcing the trade that sent him to San Jose, leading the Sharks to a 4-0 victory over the Senators on Thursday night.

Antti Niemi made 28 saves for his first shutout of the season — and San Jose's first, too.

Patrick Marleau and Justin Braun scored power-play goals on the Sharks' first two chances.

Heatley, who drew both Ottawa hooking penalties that led to San Jose's first two goals, was booed constantly as he played his first game at Scotiabank Place since leaving the team before last season.

"It definitely gets the adrenaline going a little bit more, not only for me but I thought for both teams out there, especially early," Heatley said. "It was kind of a playoff atmosphere in there and I thought the pace was really good to start the game."

Couture scored the Sharks' third and fourth goals in the first half of the third.

Pascal Leclaire stopped 29 shots for Ottawa, which has lost seven of nine, including a 4-3 loss to Edmonton on Monday night.

On the same night that NBA superstar LeBron James was enduring the vitriol of his former fans in his return to Cleveland, Heatley was subjected to the scorn of his one-time admirers in the Canadian capital.

A two-time 50-goal scorer with the Senators, Heatley was booed loudly throughout his shifts in the first period, prompting chants of "Traitor! Traitor!"

"He was a rallying point for our team tonight," Sharks coach Todd McLellan said. "Players elevated their play for him and they wanted to get it done, and that's a real good sign for us."

A Heatley No. 15 Senators jersey was tossed onto the ice during a stop in play early in the game but the Ottawa fans' wrath later dwindled to jeering their former star only when he touched the puck.

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NHL

Crosby, Penguins beat Atlanta

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Sidney Crosby scored all three Pittsburgh goals for the first natural hat trick of his six-season career and the Penguins won a matchup of teams on long winning streaks, beating the Atlanta Thrashers 3-2 on Thursday night.

With Crosby becoming the first Penguins player in nearly 10 years to score three goals in successive home games, Pittsburgh ran its winning streak to eight games. Atlanta's franchise record-tying six-game streak ended.

The Penguins, 10-0-1 in their last 11, are on their longest winning streak since they also won eight in a row from Dec. 23, 2007-Jan. 10, 2008. They have won their last eight at home against Atlanta, which had outscored opponents 22-5 during its winning streak.

Marc-Andre Fleury allowed Nik Antropov's goal that made it 3-2 late in the second period, but made 20 saves while improving to 9-0-1 in his last 10 starts.

It took the NHL's hottest scorer to beat one of the league's hottest teams. Crosby has scored six goals in his last two home games — he had three Saturday against Calgary — and has 15 goals and 14 assists for 29 points in 14 games.

Crosby, the league's leading scorer with 21 goals and 23 assists for 44 points in 27 games, tied Tampa Bay's Steven Stamkos for the goal-scoring lead. They tied for the goals title last season with 51 apiece.



Sidney Crosby talks with coach Dan Bylsma after his third goal in the Penguins' 3-2 victory over Atlanta Thursday night.

Crosby did not score three consecutive goals during any of his six previous hat tricks, but he did so against Atlanta goalie Ondrej Pavelec, who had an 0.83 goals-against average during Atlanta's winning streak.

Bryan Little scored off a rebound 6:21 into the game, the first goal allowed by Pittsburgh's league-leading penalty-killing unit in its opponents' last 33 power plays. Pittsburgh had gone nine games without giving up a man-advantage goal.

Crosby needed only 1 minute, 11 seconds to tie it, settling down a bouncing pass from Chris Kunitz at the side of the net and beating Pavelec.

Crosby reached the 20-goal mark early in the second period, surprising teammate Arron Asham as Asham gathered the puck deep in his own zone and

saw Crosby 50 feet behind any defender at the far blue line. Crosby broke in on Pavelec one-on-one and beaten him cleanly with a backhand.

Crosby completed his hat trick at 10:18 of the second, deftly deflecting Brooks Orpik's slap shot from the blue line. No Penguins player had scored hat tricks in successive home games since Alex Kovalev on Feb. 7 & 10, 2001.

There was an audible stir after that any time Crosby had the puck on his stick near the net, but he couldn't score again. Crosby has never had an NHL four-goal game.

Pavelec has been nearly unbeatable in net for two weeks, giving up five goals in six games while stopping 183 of 188 shots, but he is 0-6 against Pittsburgh while allowing an average of nearly five goals per game.

NFL

Vick throws for 302 yards in Eagles victory

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Michael Vick shook off all the hard hits, continued to get up off the ground and kept making plays.

Vick threw for 302 yards and accounted for three touchdowns, rallying the Philadelphia Eagles to a 34-24 victory over the Houston Texans on Thursday night.

Vick was hurried, harassed and battered throughout the game. But he never stayed down despite taking a bunch of jarring hits, and scored the go-ahead touchdown on a 2-yard run.

"He got knocked around a little bit," coach Andy Reid said. "He got back up and kept going. I loved his energy in the second half. Both sides of the ball, he was firing them up."

It was the first time Vick led the Eagles (8-4) back from a fourth-quarter deficit. They led 14-3 in the first half before falling behind 24-20.

"We did a great job battling back," Vick said.

Matt Schaub had 337 yards passing and two scores for the Texans (5-7). Andre Johnson had 149 yards receiving — four days after his hockey-like fight with Tennessee's Cortland Finnegan.

The NFC East-leading Eagles were coming off their first loss in a game that Vick started and finished. He was 5-0 before a 31-26 loss at Chicago.

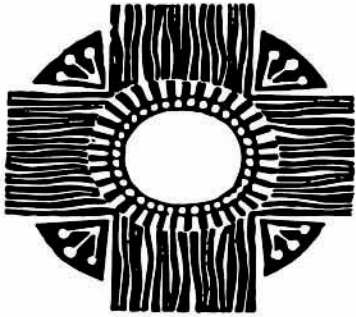
Vick continued his remarkable comeback story with another outstanding performance. He completed 22 of 33 passes for two touchdowns, and had his third 300-yard game. Vick, a three-time Pro Bowl pick in six seasons with Atlanta, only had two 300-yard games coming into this year. He also ran for 48 yards and a score.

"This young man is playing as good as anybody I've seen play in the NFL and I've been doing it for a while," Texans coach Gary Kubiak said of Vick. "He's special and we just tried to contain him, but obviously he still had a big night. He's been doing it against a lot of people so. ... We had a couple of chances for turnovers. He gave us a couple of opportunities that we just didn't take advantage of."

After the Texans took their first lead in the third quarter, the Eagles quickly answered. Vick sneaked in from the 2 to put Philadelphia ahead 27-24 early in the fourth. Vick's 33-yard pass to DeSean Jackson to the Texans 11 set up the score.

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Jackson

continued from page 16

the top. Miami is one of them,” Jackson said. “It’s a lot easier to develop those rivalries when you’re playing a team four times a year, which we will this year with Miami.”

The young Irish team enjoyed a nice week off the ice, as sophomore center Riley Sheahan was invited to the Canada World Junior Championship selection try-out and freshman center T.J. Tynan was named the CCHA Rookie of the Month for November. The young core that includes Tynan and Sheahan has Jackson optimistic that his team will be able to compete with the balance of the nation’s top programs.

“[Miami is] a great program to emulate. Similar to Boston College and some of the other top programs, they build the team through real solid recruiting, nice balance of

skill guys and gritty guys,” Jackson said. “That’s where we’re trying to get to. They have good balance up and down their lineup. They’re probably as good a team as we just played. North Dakota and Miami, to me, on paper, should be two of the best teams in the country.”

The Redhawks are led by a strong trio of forwards that includes seniors Carter Camper and Andy Miele and sophomore Reilly Smith. Camper leads Miami with 32 points on the season.

“They’ve got three of the best forwards, and they’re much deeper than that,” Jackson said. “Camper is a character guy. Smith’s really come into his own this year. They’re deeper than that even.”

The puck will drop on the first game of the series at Steve Cady Arena at 7:35 p.m. on Friday, and the teams will play again at 7:05 p.m. Saturday.

Contact Chris Allen at callen10@nd.edu

Welsh

continued from page 16

the Hawkeyes fell to No. 13 Minnesota in their last meet. The team, however, has had nearly a month to recover and train since that loss.

“We’d like to see how fast we can race against them,” Welsh said.

Welsh and his team have taken the recent Thanksgiving break to train hard and rest up for the meet. The team worked on strengthening its training base in the days before Thanksgiving and went “back to hard work, back to basics.”

“We want high speed stuff in practice that approaches race pace,” Welsh said.

“Traditionally, the weekend after Thanksgiving break is a good weekend for us to race. They are fresher and more energetic.”

The Irish go into the Iowa Invitational after defeating Utah, 184-116, Nov. 12. The Irish then head to San Juan, Puerto Rico, for winter training in late December. They begin 2011 by traveling first to Northwestern Jan. 12, Cleveland State Jan. 14 and Michigan State Jan. 21.

The Irish don’t return to the Rolfs Aquatic Center until the Shamrock Invitational at the end of January, their last meet before the Big East championships.

Contact Maija Gustin at mgustin@nd.edu

McGraw

continued from page 16

“Purdue is a team that’s getting votes in the top-25 poll, and they’re a fairly young team, similar to us,” McGraw said.

After playing four games in six days at a relatively busy time of the academic year, the Irish (5-3) are excited about the time off to practice.

“You don’t get time to practice when you play a lot of times. Now we have time to practice,” McGraw said.

“We’re looking forward to getting back in the gym.”

The loss against No. 2 Baylor gave the Irish good insight as to what they will need to work on to ensure they can send the Boilermakers back to their

bus with their second loss of the season.

“I think there are quite a few fundamentals we need to improve on. The guards need to take better care of the ball, we had too many turnovers. We’re going to work on defense, too,” McGraw said.

Though the Irish have their work cut out for them,

the Baylor game showed strong areas that the Irish will be bringing to the court against Purdue.

“We played well in spurts and we shot the ball well, too,” McGraw said. “I feel

like we have the pieces, but we’re struggling to putting it together for 40 minutes. I’m really confident that we’re going to.”

Notre Dame boasts a competitive relationship with the Boilermakers as the two

met 10 years ago in the national championship game, which the Irish won, 68-66.

The Boilers lost to Maryland Thursday for their first loss of the season, a 56-55 defeat that shattered their six-game win streak.

Though a 4-1 record gives Purdue a good confidence boost heading into the game at Notre Dame, its season has not been particularly easy. Boilermaker Drey Mingo was hospitalized for bacterial meningitis, which caused Purdue’s athletic director to cancel the team’s trip to Cancun. They missed out on an appreciable portion of their season due to Mingo’s illness.

“It’s going to be a big game, and we’re all hoping for a good crowd,” McGraw said.

Tip-off is scheduled for 2 p.m. Sunday. The game will be aired on ESPN2.

Contact Molly Sammon at msammon@nd.edu

“It’s going to be a big game, and we’re all hoping for a good crowd.”

Muffet McGraw
Irish coach

Daniel

continued from page 16

lence his team will be up against Saturday.

“Calvin was picked to finish second in our conference and they have been ranked in the Division III top-25 this year,” Daniel said. “Calvin is very well-coached and returns some

very good players.”

He said his team must execute at a high level and avoid any sloppy play, but he feels the opening stretch of their schedule has prepared his team well.

“We must play great pressure defense, control the boards, limit our turnovers and execute on offense to give ourselves the opportunity to be successful in our first home

game of the year,” Daniel said. “Being on the road in our first six games hopefully has prepared this team for conference play that I believe will very competitive this year. Playing Calvin will be a great test for us in our conference opener.”

Saturday’s game will begin at 3 p.m.

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Across

1 Boxes, as some highways

7 Chain the pants off

16 Missile that sank a British destroyer in the Falklands War

18 Words before many a foolish act

17 "The next listening ..."

18 April shower?

19 Home the classic way?

20 Causes of breakdances

22 Old Asian capital

23 Capital of Shensi province

26 Far from a sure thing

28 Lingerie shop specification

27 Ancient empire builders

29 Abbr. of politeness

30 Sit or wishful thinking

31 Company at the forefront of the dot-com boom

33 Home of Lewis-Clark State Coll.

34 Like brutal tactics

35 Not so tenuous

39 One with a small nest egg?

40 Make pun, as an engineer

41 Poisonous mushroom producer, briefly?

44 Club cousin

45 Star in the Seven constellation

46 Shield border

47 It's warm while driving

49 Tap: Prefix

50 "Slacker ____" (2002 top 10 hit)

51 Locals for an Olivier Award winner

53 One may suffer a blow

54 1980 Maxwell Smart film, with "The"

56 Extract

58 Cleaning

59 Really lit

60 "Hang in there!"

61 Copied a copy

Down

1 In a hammock, say

2 Many a patient

3 One with the motto "One for the road"?

4 Andean tuber

5 Strike

6 See 7-Down

7 With 6-Down, common sight outside a school building

8 Mingo player of 1980s TV

9 Sawyer's successor in Chicago

10 Longtime enemy of Wonder Woman

11 Discipline symbolized by a painted circle

12 Style associated with washboards

13 Snuff

14 It covers 2% of the earth's surface

21 Lighter option

24 The count's Suchwest Sulkam

26 Little alternative

28 Opposite of ample

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

MAG

ACH

BRIDGES

ASH

MOE

REINFORCE

WHATISA

ISOLATE

REORDER

MTV

BAT

ESTOP

ERATO

GHOSTS

FAVORITE

EELS

SERIO

EYE

DESSERT

MIX

GENIE

MINE

BOOBER

HYPTIE

AND

FANTA

SAVOY

INS

THE

KLEENEX

EDITION

IS

SCREAM

FITTING

TO

ME

AVE

STENGEL

ASP

TEN

Puzzle by Barry Bruner

30 Wasn't employed

41 Hang (with)

48 "How pallid, chill and ____!" Keats

32 Quick to get things

42 61-Across unit

51 Alternative to a carpet lift

33 Plasma bit

43 Uses shortening

52 Part of the Tuscan Archipelago

35 Join, as a table

44 State surrounded by Lower Saxony

53 Apnea diagnosed, briefly

36 Quint humiliator

45 State

57 They, in Celts

37 Pep up

46 Complete, informally

38 Responded to a crash, maybe

47 Complete, informally

40 No push hotel

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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Nelly, 36; David Schwimmer, 44; k.d. lang, 49; Stefanie Powers, 68

Happy Birthday: Your will power and stamina will see you through anything you face or want to pursue. Your passion and desire to balance your life in every area will allow you to do just that. This is a year to strive for the best of everything. The knowledge and experience you gain will allow you to help others in due time. Your numbers are 2, 9, 15, 24, 30, 39, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Look for any opportunity to get ahead professionally. Take care of any personal business immediately if it might cause a problem in the future. Someone will mislead you or offer you something that will not develop. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A chance to better yourself or your position is apparent. Consider an organization or institution over an individual when it comes to joining forces. Pour your heart and soul into your presentation. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't trust your emotions to lead you down the right path. Your priorities are out of whack and the time has come to reorganize your thoughts and plans for the future. Don't let anyone take advantage of your good nature. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): The more you mingle and interact with people in your industry, the better your chances will be to advance. Add to your skills by picking up a course offering a variety of information, services or products. Make sure that what you are getting into will be cost efficient. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will find it difficult to win, especially when it comes to affairs of the heart or anything to do with your personal life, family and home. You will be sold a bill of goods if you rely on someone else's expertise instead of your own common sense. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Taking refuge in places outside your home and away from family will be your best outlet for success. Problems at home will only lead to indecisiveness and accomplishing little. Expand your environment and gains can be made. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Letting others know too much about your past will work against you. Be a little mysterious. A memory will surface due to something or someone you encounter. Don't let it throw you off. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your ability to take care of your responsibilities will show how able you are. You will enhance your reputation enabling you to connect with individuals equally as strong and passionate about results. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't let your enthusiasm cause you to promise something you cannot deliver. It's serious, hard work that will get you the accolades you are so intent on receiving. Emotions will be hard to control and could lead to an irreversible situation. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You've got everything figured out, so stop analyzing and start doing. Your ideas are sound and the approach you take will enable you to capture important attention as well as support. A better financial situation will allow you freedom to expand. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be honest with yourself and with the people who care about you. Deception, overindulgence and getting involved for the wrong reason will all lead to trouble. Hard work, strength, and positive action will bring better results. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Be honest and double check what anyone tells you. Manipulation will be in full force from both your side and someone else's. Your reputation will be at stake, so be true to your word. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are helpful, strong-willed and competitive. You leave nothing to chance and have vision, insight and a heart of gold.

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I wonder what they're tweeting...

#1Prof

Berated a student so much today that I made him cry. Made my day!! lolz
1 hour ago via web

Sarah Palin's article on Quantitative Easing: Totes blew my mind.
3 hours ago via web

Jersey Shore watch party at my place tonight. Dress in costume :)
7 hours ago via web

THE OBSERVER

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

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HOCKEY

On the road again

No. 12 ND will face No. 6 Miami (OH)

By CHRIS ALLEN
Sports Writer

Fresh off a difficult trip to North Dakota, where the young No. 12 Irish lost Friday and fought back to salvage a tie Saturday, Notre Dame will continue its "Murderer's Row" schedule with a weekend series against No. 6 Miami (Ohio) in Oxford.

"It's going to be very similar circumstances. We have to be better Friday," Irish head coach Jeff Jackson said. "That's the key. We weren't as good as we should have been Friday night. I think our team was, to some degree, awestruck by the facilities and just the overall environment of that building."

"Hopefully going into this weekend, Friday night, we'll be better prepared to do well. On the road, when you're playing two games on the road, Friday night is always the night that you have a better opportunity to be successful."

Notre Dame (9-4-2, 7-2-1-1) has gotten off to a strong start this season and trails Miami (9-4-3, 7-3-2-1) by one point in the CCHA standings.

After the loss to North



YUE WU/The Observer

Junior right wing Billy Maday carries the puck in the Irish's 4-2 win over Michigan State on Nov. 20. The win improved Notre Dame's home winning streak to six.

Dakota, the Irish are now 2-2 in their last four Friday night games.

"We've had a history in the past of being pretty good on Friday nights, but this year hasn't been as positive," Jackson said. "I'm hoping

that we will hopefully get better."

The Irish have lost six straight to Miami, including 1-0 and 4-0 defeats last season, but this year's team will attempt to break the streak in the increasingly energized

CCHA rivalry.

"They're a great team. If we're going to be a great program, we have to have natural rivalries with teams that are competing to be at

see JACKSON/page 14

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles look to stay hot in December

By JOE WIRTH
Sports Writer

After one of the most successful Novembers in school history, Saint Mary's is set to take on No. 23 Calvin Saturday in the Belles' home and conference opener.

The Belles (5-1) are led by junior forward Kelley Murphy, who leads the team in scoring and rebounding and is averaging nearly a double-double with 15.8 points per game and 9.7 rebounds per game. Saint Mary's is also receiving big contributions from junior guard Maggie Ronan, who is averaging 12.5 points per game.

The Knights opened their conference season with a 75-40 victory over Adrian, giving them a record of 4-2 overall and 1-0 in MIAA play. If the Belles are going to win they must find a way to contain preseason All-American Carissa Verkaik, who is averaging 22.4 points and 9.8 rebounds per game.

Belles interim coach Patrick Daniel said he knows what kind of chal-

see DANIEL/page 14

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Team set to take on rival Purdue

By MOLLY SAMMON
Sports Writer

With two days left to work out a few kinks before in-state rival Purdue comes to the Purcell Pavilion Sunday, the No. 16 Irish are hoping to build on Thursday's 76-65 loss to Baylor.

"We always have a good game against Purdue," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "It's a lot of Midwest kids that know each other really well. The Purdue game is always a big game on our schedule."

With a 4-1 record, Purdue has flirted with a national ranking but has not been able to break into the top-25 yet this season.

see MCGRAW/page 14



KIRBY MCKENNA/The Observer

Freshman forward Kayla McBride lays it up in Notre Dame's 99-48 win over New Hampshire on Nov. 12.

MEN'S SWIMMING

Irish prepare for tough Invitational

By MAIJA GUSTIN
Sports Writer

The Irish begin a string of four away meets this weekend when they travel to the Hawkeye Invitational at Iowa.

The three-day event, which will see the Irish (3-2) face host Iowa (3-1), Denver (3-1), South Dakota State (3-1), Green Bay (5-1) and Milwaukee (6-3), begins today with preliminary races at 10 a.m. The final races are set to begin at 4 p.m. Sunday. The Notre Dame divers will also compete against No. 8 Ohio State.

This will be Notre

Dame's first trip to the annual invitational, held in Iowa's brand new pool.

"There will be wonderful conditions," Irish coach Tim Welsh said. "We're eager to race in their new pool."

The Irish have not previously raced against many of the teams at the invitational, but Welsh said there will be a number of tight races.

"It's a very good field," Welsh said. "We want to be in a very good field so that we're challenged."

Iowa should be one of the team's toughest competitors despite the fact

see WELSH/page 14

For a live blog during the Women's College Cup

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IRISH INSIDER

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THE
OBSERVER

Defending Her Glory



*Suffocating defense leads the Irish to
fifth consecutive College Cup*

Road-tested ND faces Ohio St. in semifinals

By MIKE GOTIMER
Sports Writer

No. 7 Notre Dame will head to its fifth consecutive College Cup this weekend in Cary, N.C., where it will face No. 17 Ohio State in the national semifinal. Although the Irish (19-2-2) were highly ranked and had a reputation as one of college soccer's elite programs, a 2-0 loss to Connecticut in the quarterfinals of the Big East championships resulted in a drop to a fourth seed in the NCAA

Tournament. The lower seed gave the Irish a daunting road to the College Cup in which they played three ranked teams and traveled nearly 4,000 miles. "I think when the bids came out, all the girls didn't publicly come out and say anything and we didn't either, and I think we all felt like we got a little bit of a shaft on that," Irish coach Randy Waldrum said. "I think we were expecting a two seed, and to get a four [seed], we were all disappointed in that. So I think they had a little bit of a point to prove, so that's proba-

bly served as a little motivation." Since that loss, the Irish have dominated their opponents on both ends of the field, outscoring opponents 13-1 thus far in the tournament. Waldrum said he believes this team has played as well as any other team he has coached during his tenure at Notre Dame. "I think this team is really well prepared, and I think it's got all the ingredients," Waldrum said. "It could win it. You know now we [have to] still go out and perform on the day, but I think it's as good right now as any team

that we've had coming through at this point in the year." While Notre Dame has been to the College Cup 12 times in its history, Ohio State (17-4-2) is making its first appearance on college soccer's biggest stage. Although the Irish have a clear advantage in experience, Waldrum isn't ready to say this team will have an easy road to Sunday night's final. "I think it is [Ohio State's] first time there, and that can be a dangerous thing," Waldrum said. "You know, it can be one of those Cinderella runs like USC did a few years ago — the first time they were in they won the whole thing — and so I think Ohio State certainly has a good enough team to do that." The Buckeyes will present challenges for the Irish on both sides of the ball, but their defense has been especially sound, allowing just 0.61 goals per game. "They don't give up many goals. They look to be a team that's really organized, so I think it's [going to] be a great game," Waldrum said. "I think it should be a really good matchup, and you know when you get to the final four teams, you're playing somebody good." Should the Irish get past Ohio State on Friday, they will face the winner of the other semifinal contest between No. 1 Stanford and No. 18 Boston College. Like the 2008 Notre Dame squad, which entered the College Cup unbeaten and ranked No. 1 in the country, the Cardinal (22-0-2) enter this year's College Cup looking to wrap up an undefeated season with a national championship. Waldrum said he believes Stanford will face some pressure to win a storybook national title,

but he doesn't think it will derail them. "Well there's some pressure with it — I can tell you that from us doing it," Waldrum said. "You know, every game that you get deeper, whether you consciously think about it or subconsciously think about it, you go, 'Well there's only now two games left and if we win it we go undefeated, now there's only one more game.' I don't think the pressure of them carrying that undefeated season is [going to] burden them enough that it's [going to] cause them to collapse or anything." Like Ohio State, Boston College (17-6-1) is also making its first trip to the College Cup. The Eagles were one of the nation's hottest teams at the beginning of the season, but cooled off towards the end before stepping their game up again in the tournament. "I think Boston College has had an exceptional year," Waldrum said. "They started out really hot — they beat [North] Carolina early in the year, and they tied Stanford early in the year ... they seemed like they've turned it back around again late in the year." Notre Dame will begin the final stage of its chase for the program's third national title Friday against Ohio State at 4 p.m. at WakeMed Soccer Park in Cary, N.C. The winner of that game will square off with the winner of the Stanford vs. Boston College match at noon Sunday for the national title. The semifinal games will be broadcast on ESPN2 and ESPNU, while Sunday's match will air on ESPN2.

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PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Junior forward Melissa Henderson dribbles the ball during Notre Dame's 2-0 loss to Connecticut on Oct. 31. Henderson leads the team with 17 goals.

Quarterfinals loss in conference tournament sparks Irish

By ALLAN JOSEPH
Sports Writer

A real eye-opener. A wake-up call. A reality check. A slap in the face. These were just some of the terms the Irish players used to describe their shocking 2-0 upset by Connecticut in the quarterfinals of the Big East tournament on Halloween. Coming into the game at 15-1-2 without a loss to a conference opponent since 2005 and without a home loss to a league foe since 1995, Notre Dame took the pitch flat, giving up a pair of second-half goals to suffer a shocking exit from the conference tournament. "It's one thing if we played well and lost, but we didn't even play well on that day," Irish coach Randy Waldrum said. "We were really flat. It was late, [the players] were taking things for granted — that we were good, and we just had to show up." Freshman defender Kecia Morway agreed with her coach. "We went into that game kind of uninterested and unexcited because it was just another game," she said. "It kind of re-motivated us because we realized that we actually have to work for our wins." There were no inspiring speeches after the loss. There was no emotional tirade. No tears were shed. There wasn't even a players-only meeting to set the team straight. Rather, the Irish forged a steely resolve after they

realized what was at stake. "We just looked at each other and kind of knew," junior forward Melissa Henderson said. "Everybody said what they needed to say, 'Hey, we've got to pick it up. Now it's not all fun and games. It's serious now. You lose and you're out.'" After Notre Dame slept off the sting from the loss, the team went back to business and worked to grow from the experience. "I remember we had to go in the morning after and watch film at 5:30 in the morning, and I remember going to breakfast after that with a couple girls on the team," junior defender Molly Campbell said. "We were just talking about how either the team would just implode or we would just kind of really respond. Obviously we responded the best way we could have." It wasn't just a change in mentality that sparked the NCAA run, however. The loss prompted Waldrum to make a lineup change that would eventually pay huge dividends. Waldrum moved senior Lauren Fowlkes from the back line to the attack and put Campbell in her place. Waldrum was rewarded with a three-goal, two-assist effort from Fowlkes on the opening weekend of the tournament. "The big question was whether [Campbell] could step in late in the season with not a lot of practice in that position and show some consistency, especially at a crucial time with the NCAAs, and she's been fantastic there,"



PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Freshman midfielder Elizabeth Tucker, 8, fights for the ball during Notre Dame's 2-0 loss to Connecticut on Oct. 31. Tucker has netted nine goals during her first season in an Irish uniform.

Waldrum said. "She's been really the key — we knew Lauren could do that because we had her doing last year." Fowlkes' offensive dynamism translated to the rest of the Notre Dame attack, as a formerly struggling offense found its stride in the most crucial games of the year. "I think it really helped with our offense, obviously," Henderson said. "Lauren's really strong and a good player to play off of, so it gave us a little diversity up front." Before the loss, the team had been struggling through the latter stages of its conference slate, and

Waldrum said that the defeat forced him to finally make the change he had been contemplating for some time. "We'd still not lost a game in a while so I was a little reluctant to make the change," he said. "I think that loss, as a coach, forced me to do what we needed to do to make those changes. I don't know that I would have done that had we won that game." Despite all of the positives that came from the loss, the Irish still maintain they would have preferred to win the game with Connecticut. "It's hard to say that's it's a

good thing that we lost," Henderson said. Her coach agreed. "You never want to lose," Waldrum said. "I would rather have won, and won the Big East tournament, don't get me wrong." After the first weekend of the NCAA Tournament, Waldrum used one more phrase to describe the Connecticut game — this one more positive than the one his players used. "A blessing in disguise," he said.

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Weiss grip

Stalwart defense quietly drives team to College Cup; late-season switch pays dividends

By CHRIS MASOUD
Sports Writer

At a glance, Notre Dame's convincing victories on the road to its College Cup appearance this weekend can be a bit misleading. Postseason success that included a 4-0 dismantling of Southern California and a 4-1 rout of North Carolina on the road will raise questions about the team's ease of schedule.

But in the eyes of Irish coach Randy Waldrum, Notre Dame's road to the Cup has nothing to do with luck of the draw.

"Probably what was one of the hardest draws we've had in the four years I've been here," Waldrum said. "We've played some teams that are real capable of scoring a lot of goals on you. The defense has carried us and that's what you need carrying you at this time of the year."

Posting three shutouts in its four tournament matches, the Irish defense has stifled high-powered offenses in the friendly confines of Alumni Stadium and before sell-out crowds on the road. Well aware of the stakes at hand, the backline has risen to the intensity of each contest.

"Our tournament games have really been the best games we've played all year long," senior goalkeeper Nikki Weiss said. "Since we get here in August for [the] preseason, winning a national championship is always our goal, so once it actually comes time to make that dream come true we get really excited."

But turning up the intensity in the postseason takes more than flicking a switch. Notre Dame's defensive dominance in the tournament has been an extension of the team's regular season success rather than a

sudden improvement.

Heading into the postseason, the squad had only allowed 10 goals in 18 games, while posting 10 shutouts.

"I think a lot of it really has to do with keeping the ball away from us," Weiss said. "I think our offense does a good job of that. We just work really well together. We always try to stay really close and tight, and move around the field so we don't leave a lot of gaps in between."

Much of that coordination can be attributed to taking the field each game with the same personnel. Senior defender and four-year starter Julie Scheidler said

the back line has developed an uncanny chemistry the stems from the players' familiarity with each other.

"It's just a different feeling being friends with someone and then playing on the field next to them — you just know what their moves are going to be and exactly what they're going to do," Scheidler said. "It's like we don't even have to talk anymore, it's just kind of a look.

We just know each other so well that it just comes."

So when Waldrum decided to move senior Lauren Fowlkes from the back to the midfield position following a 2-0 loss in the quarterfinals of the Big East

championships, that chemistry was put to the test. But Fowlkes' replacement, junior Molly Campbell, has proven to be an excellent fit as she continues her transition from the

midfield.

"Moving Molly back wasn't a real hard thing to do because she had three really solid people around her that could kind of help put her at ease when we made that change," Waldrum said. "She stepped in and has been fantastic for us in the back. I can't say enough."

In addition to being a capable defender, Campbell brings an offensive mentality to a group of seasoned defenders. Rather than detracting from the back line's unity, Campbell's teammates said they come to appreciate her nuances and aggressive tendencies.

"It was obviously a good decision," Weiss said.

"Molly's a very solid player. She's not a natural-born defender, but sometimes it's helpful that she has that attacking mindset. She's come in and really handled her job well."

While Campbell's addition to the defense came towards the end of the season, the Irish came into the year with a number of talented underclassmen with limited or no experience to the back line vying for a starting spot. Freshman Kecia Morway and sophomore Jazmin Hall emerged as the leading candidates, and the two have split time on the pitch all season.

Waldrum credits their energy and ability to transition smoothly to the collegiate level for their immediate success.

"First I came in obviously really nervous because I didn't know the people playing around me," Morway said. "Throughout the season, with all of everyone's support in the back line, I've kind of bonded with them and learned how they played. It enabled me to adjust to the system and do my job better."

Joining a defense that features a lone senior and two juniors, Morway and Hall have made their contributions felt while still learning the ropes from an experienced line. The two have not only complemented each other well, but have added youth to the dynamic group.

"Kecia and Jazz are doing really well for us," Weiss said. "They're very interchangeable, which is good. They both have different strengths, which is really beneficial against different teams. The combination of the upperclassmen with the underclassmen is really cohesive."

But talent and chemistry can only take a team so far. Regardless of a team's experience level, leadership and passion are an essential part of the championship equation.

The defensive unit has both traits in second-year captain Jessica Schuveiller. More so than the raw talent she brings



NICOLE TOCZAUER/The Observer

Irish senior Nikki Weiss rises above Connecticut attackers to make a save during Notre Dame's 2-0 loss on Oct. 31.

to the table, the seasoned junior adds direction and composure to the back line and to the squad as a whole, Waldrum said.

"By leadership for us, it's not only on the field," Waldrum said. "In the last few weeks, Jess has been really good, especially since we moved Lauren out of the back. Lauren was usually the more vocal player, and now Jess has really stepped up and organized things on the field and has really taken charge on the field with her leadership."

Quick to deflect praise, Schuveiller said the team's success can be attributed in large part to Weiss, who has been a mainstay in the Irish goal all season.

"[Nikki] is amazing," Schuveiller said. "Playing in front of her is really easy because she is so confident. She does a great job communicating and it helps out a lot. It really helps that we're all friends on and off the field, so the chemistry is there."

With the Big East's lowest goals against average (.53) and highest save percentage (.867) during the regular season, Weiss has enjoyed tremendous success during her final season in an Irish uniform. But it wasn't always that way.

Weiss struggled to earn the

job as the starting net-minder during her first two seasons at Notre Dame, a result of inconsistency and transitioning to collegiate play.

"When you come in to Notre Dame, you're not sure how high the level actually is," Weiss said. "For me, it just took a lot longer to adjust. Once I

kind of relaxed and started having fun, things starting falling into place."

Waldrum said the turning point in Weiss' career came during a 2-0 shutout over Florida State in the quarterfinals of the NCAA Championships last season. Weiss made five

saves and grabbed a number of crosses, leading the Irish in a victory that sent them to the College Cup.

"Last year when she stepped in, she did a great job," Waldrum said. "She played great for us in the Final Four [in 2009]. Nikki's played great for us all year and kept us in a lot of the games early when we were trying to find our way with the back."

As the Irish travel to Cary, N.C., to take on third-seeded Ohio State Friday in the semifinals of the College Cup, Weiss and the back line bolster a Notre Dame squad that has been lifted by its defense all season.

"We know we're not going to be the ones up on the scoreboard getting the goals or anything," Scheidler said, "but when you get a good hard tackle in or you really get something good, it sets the tone for the game. You can see it boosts the whole rest of the team."

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PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Junior defender Jessica Schuveiller clears the ball during Notre Dame's 2-0 loss to Connecticut on Oct. 31.



vs. Boston University 2-1
vs. Hofstra 3-1
vs. No. 3 West Virginia 4-0
vs. Washington 1-0



vs. St. Francis (PA) 1-0
vs. Dayton 0-0 (4-2 PK)
@ No. 2 Virginia 3-2
vs. Georgetown 2-0

No. 2 BOSTON COLLEGE

No. 3 OHIO STATE

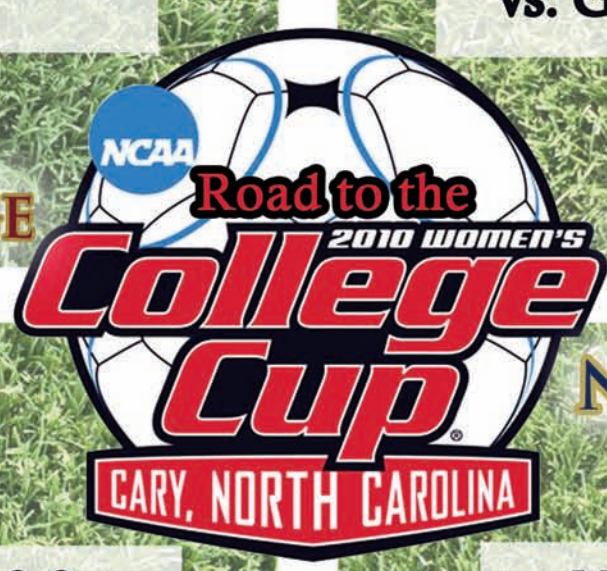
No. 1 STANFORD

No. 4 NOTRE DAME



vs. Sacramento State 3-0
vs. Santa Clara 2-1
vs. UCLA 3-0
vs. No. 2 Florida State 5-0

vs. New Mexico 3-0
vs. USC 4-0
@ No. 1 North Carolina 4-1
@ No. 3 Oklahoma St. 2-0



2010 WOMEN'S College Cup
CARY, NORTH CAROLINA

“I’ve seen Notre Dame soccer up close and personal. I know Randy fairly well. I know he has a team that year-in and year-out will compete for a national championship. Beating North Carolina was a huge step for that potentially happening on Sunday. I know that they’re ready to battle whatever comes their way.”

BRANDI CHASTAIN



Predicting the College Cup



Mike Gotimer
Sports Writer

In a year where the NCAA Tournament has been filled with upsets, Notre Dame has remained the only constant, as the Irish head to the College Cup for the fifth straight season. With two teams making their first appearance in the Final Four and another seeking perfection, Notre Dame finds itself in an ideal situation with the fewest distractions of the four remaining teams. While the Irish have dominated on both ends of the field throughout the tournament, their experience will reign supreme in this year’s College Cup.

FINAL RESULT:
Notre Dame 1, Stanford 0
Irish win national championship



Allan Joseph
Sports Writer

It’s an interesting foursome in the College Cup. With traditional powers Notre Dame and Stanford matching up against Final Four newcomers Boston College and Ohio State, there’s a unique dynamic awaiting in North Carolina. The Cardinal and Irish absolutely dominated their regions, while the Eagles and Buckeyes struggled somewhat. I fully expect comfortable semifinal wins to set up a marquee Stanford-Notre Dame national championship. Both of those teams are loaded with talent, and while it’ll be about as nerve-wracking a final as possible, the experienced, even-keeled and tested Irish will prevail.

FINAL RESULT:
Notre Dame 3, Stanford 2 (OT)
Irish win national championship



Chris Masoud
Sports Writer

I’m not quite sure how the Buckeyes made it this far with four losses to their name, but I’ll take it. Notre Dame should blow past Ohio State by a wide margin to make it back to the title game. Although the Irish defense no longer features All-American Carrie Dew, it has lifted this team to the College Cup unlike previous years. That should be the difference that pushes this team to a national title. But Stanford will be Notre Dame’s toughest opponent yet, and even if Melissa Henderson plays like Melissa Henderson (which I think she will), the Irish may not get much.

FINAL RESULT:
Notre Dame 0, Stanford 0 (5-4 PKs)
Irish win national championship