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10K run supports veterans

By NICOLE MICHELS
News Writer

Notre Dame's runners can look forward to another chance to test their fitness this Saturday at the ROTC-sponsored Warrior Run.

Previously named the Race for the Heroes, the third annual 10K run will support of the Wounded Warrior Project, an initiative that aids wounded veterans and their families. This event, sponsored by the service organizations of Notre Dame's Navy, Army and Air Force ROTC battalions, calls on the community to band together to raise money in support of these heroes.

Patrick Kelly, Navy ROTC's public affairs officer, said the idea behind this event was to solicit campus-wide support for the heroes who have given so much for their country.

"It's a great organization in general, and when the

see WARRIOR/page 5

Day honors community

Notre Dame, Saint Mary's celebrate event for fourth year in a row



ASHLEY DACY / The Observer

South Bend children return to the Robinson Center after Easter activities and balloon animals at Knott Hall at the 2011 CommUniversity Day.

By ADAM LLORENS
News Writer

The student governments of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's will celebrate the fourth annual CommUniversity Day tomorrow to honor the partnerships the schools have with the South Bend community.

Senior Erika Hansen, co-director of Community Relations for Notre Dame student government, said there are 40 projects with 700 student

volunteers. This year's theme, "Deepening Our Roots," directs many of the projects to work towards improving the environment, she said.

"The individuals we work with appreciate the student enthusiasm," Hansen said. "I'm most excited about events with student and community member interaction."

Hansen said the day demonstrates the enthusiasm students have for working with the community.

"What I think is really cool about it is the work and collaboration that goes on between those of us who work on the event from the student government side, and those in the community who are helping us plan the whole day," Hansen said.

One of two events new to CommUniversity Day will feature Psychology Club members playing games with residents

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Professor emeritus dies at 89

Observer Staff Report

Jaime Juan José Bellalta, professor emeritus of architecture at the University of Notre Dame, died March 20 at his home in Brookline, Mass. He was 89 years old.

A native of Santiago, Chile, Bellalta joined the architecture faculty at Notre Dame in 1976 after teaching architecture and urban design at his alma mater, the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, from 1968 to 1975. His wife, the late Esmée Bellalta, was also a member of the Notre Dame faculty.

Throughout his career as an architect, researcher and professor, Bellalta was especially focused on the design and development of affordable and low-income housing. His interest in this area of work stemmed from his commitments to Catholic faith and social justice, according to a University press release.

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Manager of network design launches third app

By DAN BROMBACH
News Writer

Fans of college basketball who compete with friends to pick winners during March Madness each year need only look to their iPhones for an easier bracket-sharing system.

Tom Klimek, manager of network design for the Office of Information Technology, launched the application "Men's Bracket 2012 College Basketball Tournament" earlier this month. The app is his third men's basketball March Madness bracket system for the iPad and iPhone.

Klimek said the application eliminates the hassle of manually

filling out, and tracking a March Madness bracket.

"Instead of everybody having to fill out paper copies of a bracket and then give it to somebody to keep track of, you can just download the app, create your own pool, invite your friends and all the scoring is done automatically," Klimek said.

Klimek said both the men's and women's bracket applications he developed with his business partner Peter Massey have been extremely successful, breaking the top 10 paid sports applications within 24 hours of their releases.

see APP/page 4

MENS BRACKET 2012 COLLEGE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT APP

1. DESIGNED BY TOM KLIMEK & PETER MASSEY, MANAGER OF NETWORK DESIGN FOR THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
2. HIS THIRD MEN'S BASKETBALL MARCH MADNESS BRACKET APP
3. HIS MEN'S AND WOMENS BRACKET APPS BROKE THE TOP-10 PAID SPORTS APPS WITHIN 24 HOURS OF THEIR RELEASE

MARINA KOZAK | Observer Graphic

SEE INSIDE FOR THE IRISH INSIDER ON WOMEN'S BASKETBALL'S FINAL FOUR APPEARANCE

HIGH
LOW

Student finds success on and off campus with DJ company

By ABI HOVERMAN
News Writer

With blasting beats and mashed-up mixes, senior Walker Anderson's High Velocity Professional DJ Services has become a major performer in South Bend at events ranging from dorm dances to weddings.

Anderson said he began the service three years ago based on experience jockeying in high school. The student-owned business now averages two shows each weekend, he said.

"Once I got to college, I went to a few dances and I was like hey, I could do this," he said.

Anderson said he made detailed business plans the summer after his freshman year, and started the com-

pany in the fall of 2009.

"I had to do the research on things like taxes, business law, client interaction, how to sell things, marketing strategy, everything associated with running a business," he said. "It's largely been self-taught."

The company became profitable just months after its opening and earned back Anderson's investments in legal fees and other start-up costs, he said.

"It was probably halfway through the first semester that ... it's paid for itself over and over again," Anderson said. "The numbers speak for themselves in terms of growth and our potential."

Anderson hired a manager and three DJs after High Velocity gained more momentum, he said. The company is composed of all Notre Dame

students and now does multiple shows every week.

"At first it was me, and then once I got going I was able to acquire more equipment, which meant I could send out more than one crew at one time," he said.

The role of student employees servicing their peers' needs is key, Anderson said.

"My business model is for students, by students," he said. "My three goals are to be more affordable, more professional and more personal"

Anderson said he offers clients shows with top-quality equipment at a low cost. He also offers special rates for charity events.

"I've gone out and done price comparisons with what's available in the area and then cut it," he said. "It's our way of giving back to the community that's let us grow"

Notre Dame's tight-knit community offers Anderson's company an advantage in marketing, he said.

"We have a client focus because at the end of the day, the best advertising is word of mouth," Anderson said. "It's easy to grow fast at Notre Dame."

The aerospace engineering major is able to balance his business and academic responsibilities, since the nature of his business does not conflict with his class schedule.

"It's tightened my schedule at some points because I do like to meet with my clients beforehand, especially with wedding clients," he said. "Other than that ... the work is limited largely to the



Photo Courtesy of Walker Anderson

Senior Walker Anderson chooses music on his laptop as he DJs at a party with his company High Velocity Professional DJ Services.



Photo Courtesy of Walker Anderson

Senior Walker Anderson incorporates music and lights into his gigs, which range to dorm formals to weddings.

weekends, so it impacts more of my social life than academic life."

Anderson said for those considering a start-up of their own, careful planning helps turn ideas into successful businesses.

"Reach out to people who know about this stuff and don't be afraid to ask questions," he said. "You just have to break it down into steps."

Anderson said his experience with High Velocity helped him secure a job in technical consulting in Atlanta after graduation.

"This experience has helped me get my job and it's going to help my manager and DJ's build their portfolios," he said. "Not only do they get to showcase their talent, but they get to learn about client interaction."

Anderson said he plans to continue running the company from Atlanta, with the help of members of his staff remaining on campus.

"The reason I didn't sell it is because I knew no student could afford buying the company up front, and I didn't want to sell it to a non-student who didn't have that connection with Notre Dame," he said.

Anderson said he is thankful for the chance to run his business at Notre Dame.

"It's been an awesome ride. It started off as an idea and it's been a very rewarding experience," he said. "We have the Notre Dame, Saint Mary's, and Holy Cross to thank for continued support."

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SMC honors Earth Hour

By SARAH SWIDERSKI
News Writer

For one hour, the entire earth will be dark.

Tomorrow, the Sisters of the Holy Cross will participate in Earth Hour with millions of people worldwide by turning off their lights.

From 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., the Sisters encourage members of the Saint Mary's and Notre Dame communities to turn off their lights and other electrical devices in an effort to promote ecological sustainability.

Sr. Veronique Wiedower, vice president of the Division for Mission, said Earth Hour has an important humanitarian element tied into its focus on sustainability.

"The idea is that we are a global village, and the same is going to be true about water as with oil in that there are not endless amounts," she said. "We need to know what it means to be responsible for those resources, or responsible in our use of those resources."

The Sisters' participation in Earth Hour stems from their mission of standing

in solidarity with the less fortunate of the world, Wiedower said. She said one community can have a significant impact when united with other communities across the globe.

"It is important to be in solidarity with poor who do not have access to these resources everyday," Wiedower said.

By shutting off lights this Saturday, the Sisters hope the conservation of resources will spark further efforts to share with those who need them desperately, she said.

"During this time of Lent, when we give up, we give an opportunity to give someone access to resources," she said. "What each person can do is important."

Sr. Wiedower encourages participation in any form.

"If you can't shut off everything, do a little bit. Each person makes a difference," she said. "You never know what the tipping point might be, and you might be that last person needed."

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A stylized bird logo, representing Twitter.

Kroc Institute hosts Peace Conference

By ANNA BOARINI
News Writer

Yesterday, the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies kicked off its annual Student Peace Conference and will continue the event this afternoon.

Seniors Erik Helgesen and Nhu Phan, the Peace Conference co-chairs, said this year's conference theme is "Strategies of Peace Transforming the Modern World."

"We decided on the theme because this is a field that is always transforming and during the events of the past year, especially with the events of the Arab Spring, we've seen new and interesting forms of peace building," Helgesen said.

Helgesen said the theme showcases the breadth of peace studies and its impact in transforming the modern world.

"We want to showcase more traditional methods of peace building with more modern ones like social media," Phan said.

Phan said they hope the conference can help showcase development and they ways it can make a difference in the world.

The conference features 270 representatives from approximately 50 schools from across the country, as well as students from Nepal, India, Poland and Turkey, she said.

The conference includes a variety of panels, a documentary, and several work-

shops.

Molly Kinder, a 2001 graduate and current director of special programs for Development Innovation Ventures in Washington D.C., will be this year's featured speaker.

"She has experience in the field and used the methods and strategies," Phan said. "She's a practitioner of both."

The peace conference partnered with the University of Maryland International Security School for a workshop and discussion about global security, Helgesen said.

"The workshop will focus on the two issues of global climate change and nuclear technology," he said. "20 to 30 people will really delve into the issues and I'm really excited for the workshop because I'm going to participate."

Another unique aspect of this year's conference is a panel on the role of the military in peace building.

"The panel will discuss if there is a place for the military in peace building and if so, in what capacity," Phan said.

Helgesen said this conference is a way to showcase the diversity of peace studies as a discipline.

"It is so cool to see ... everything from the environmental challenges to how sports and arts are used in peace building," he said.

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Volunteer

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at Portage Manor, a center for adults with developmental disabilities. For the other, members in Circle K will make Easter baskets with residents at Saint Mary's Convent.

"Something that's really exciting is when we will have senior citizens take a bus tour leaving from the Robinson [Community Learning] Center around campus," Hansen said. "We also have a children's fes-

tival on the Irish Green, so I think a lot of community members are excited to come to our campus to check it out."

Hansen said residence hall groups will also play a major role in the events planned for the day. The women of Bardin Hall will play bingo with residents at Healthwin Nursing Home, she said. The men of Knott Hall will bring children to campus to spend a day as a Notre Dame student during their "Angel for a Day" signature event.

"We hope to achieve some tangible goals ... and all those dif-

ferent tasks that different organizations have asked us to do," Hansen said. "We hope this day can deepen some of the partnerships we have created throughout this year and hopefully inspire some more students to get out more into the community."

Though registration for projects ended Wednesday, students can still join in celebrating CommUniversity Day at a picnic open to the public at the Robinson Community Learning Center at 3 p.m.

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App

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Klimek said he attributes the success of the applications to a process of constant dialogue with customers.

"I think the success is due to listening to our customers," Klimek said. "Also, we're basketball enthusiasts ourselves, so we try to put everything in the apps that we know we would want ourselves."

Klimek said he and Massey decided not to advertise this year's application since past promotions have shown little increase in sales.

"It seems that most of our apps are found by people who

are just searching for an app on their phone, instead of by people looking for a specific app after viewing an advertisement," Klimek said.

Klimek said numerous journals and consumer reports have reviewed their applications, and Microsoft even approached them to do business.

"They wanted to do a men's bracket app for the Windows 7 phone, which we felt we didn't have the time to do," Klimek said. "But it was still nice to be recognized by such a big company."

Klimek said this year's tournament has been a rough one though, with his championship pick of Syracuse failing to pan out.

"My 14-year-old daughter picked a much better bracket than mine," Klimek said. "She picked Kentucky to win it all."

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Professor

continued from page 1

After studying at the Pontificia Universidad Católica, Bellalta also studied at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design and the University of London. He also practiced privately during those years and served as director of Chile's National Urban Renewal Agency and as executive director of the Academy of Christian Humanism.

Bellalta's award-winning design for the Benedictine monastery in Las Condes, Santiago, is one of Chile's National Historic Architectural Monuments.

Bellalta is survived by 10 children, 28 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. A Mass in his memory will be celebrated today at 9:30 a.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. In lieu of flowers, donations in his honor may be made to the Holy Cross Missions, P.O. Box 543, Notre Dame, IN, 46556.

Write News.

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Warrior

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run started three years ago I think they were looking to do something that the entire campus could take part in," Kelly said. "In the fall [Navy ROTC] does a 24-hour run to raise money ... but we're looking for something that everyone could take part in."

Lizzy Schroff, President of Trident Naval Society [Navy ROTC's service organization], said the Warrior Run really hit home with the cadets.

"It is a dangerous job in the military... many of us will probably be deployed to and in situations of combat," Schroff said.

"I think it really hits home for us because these people that we're helping to support will be the men and women that we'll be serving with when we graduate."

The Wounded Warrior Project provides crucial services to veterans and their families, Schroff said.

"They provide a lot of different programs, such as financial aid, a combat stress recovery program, physical health programs and financial training," Schroff said.

Schroff said the Project builds a network among veterans, providing a crucial venue for communication between disparate recovering veterans.

"It's an open line of com-

munication between veterans," Schroff said. "Veterans are able to email each other, talk with one another and [have] a collective voice to make their needs and the needs of their families known."

Schroff said the proceeds will be given to the Wounded Warriors Project. She said she has high hopes for a large turnout despite the close proximity of the Holy Half to the Warrior Run.

"Last year we raised about \$5,000, so if we could reach that mark that would be great and if more that would be even better," Schroff said.

Registration begins at 8 a.m., Schroff said. The race will start off with a tri-military color guard featuring the Glee Club singing the national anthem.

Schroff said the race starts at 9:30 with ROTC and non-ROTC divisions for male and female runners.

"We have a lot of participants who are from our battalions from ROTC," Schroff said. "We also have a lot of people from outside Notre Dame who are in the community [participating in the race]. It's a great way to get everyone involved."

Kelly said the entire community should feel welcome to participate in this race.

"I think people should know that even though at a lot of ROTC events people might feel like they're not wanted or shouldn't be in-

cluded, we really want the entire Notre Dame community to get involved with this and to feel they should be a part of this," Kelly said.

Michael Falvey, sophomore midshipman in Notre Dame's Navy ROTC battalion, said the service men and women are fighting for everyone in the community.

"This is something that intimately involves everyone in the community. I think that it is imperative that the community supports these heroic individuals because these individuals give everything they have for the community," Falvey said.

Chris Patterson, treasurer of Trident Naval Society, said he wants to expand this event in coming years.

"What we do here is close to everyone's hearts. This is the job we're going to be doing and these are people who have already sacrificed for their country," Patterson said. "I want to make this event bigger to reach more people and to get more participation."

Patterson said this run is special because it's for a cause greater than the concerns of a single individual.

"I think we try to make it seem as though the run is really a run for something greater than yourself, a run for people who have done very important things for the country," Patterson said. "We hope to spread that feeling throughout the community."

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Police arrest 911 caller



Pasadena police chief Phillip L. Sanchez holds a news conference on Wednesday to address a controversial police shooting.

Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif. — Oscar Carrillo's 911 call was clear: Two young men just robbed him of his computer and backpack. At least one of them had a gun and it was pointed in Carrillo's face.

Moments later, police caught up with two teens they believed were the thieves in a Pasadena alleyway. When one of them, Kendrec McDade, made a move at his waistband, an officer opened fire, killing the 19-year-old college student, authorities said.

No weapons or the stolen items have been found.

Now, police are laying part of the blame for the fatal shooting on Carrillo, who they say admitted that he lied about the men being armed so officers would respond faster. "The actions of the 911 caller set the minds of the officers," police chief Phillip Sanchez said.

As the nation focuses on the fatal shooting of Florida teen Trayvon Martin by a neighborhood watchman, the police shooting in Pasadena raises more questions about the role and responsibility of those who report or witness crimes.

While experts say it's not uncommon for people to exaggerate the circumstances of a crime — especially if they are the victim — most are unaware about the importance of their role in an emergency response and the potential consequences.

"Lots of people's lives are in jeopardy," said Joseph Pollini, a professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York. "If you make a bogus call, you may be taking away from something where someone else's life is in danger."

Pollini said the Pasadena case is a good example of holding people accountable.

"To a certain degree he (Carrillo) is liable for what he caused the police to do what they did," Pollini said. "There should be a thorough investigation."

Caree Harper, an attorney representing McDade's family, said arresting Carrillo may be an attempt by police to shift blame away from the officers. Harper added that Carrillo should be prosecuted for filing a false police report.

"However, he didn't pull the trigger and the officers can use discretion," she said. "They can't blame the caller because they shot an unarmed black man."

Calls seeking comment from police on Thursday were not immediately returned.

Carrillo has been arrested for investigation of involuntary manslaughter. Prosecutors are weighing whether to file charges. The juvenile with McDade was charged with two counts of commercial burglary, one count of grand theft and one count

of failure to register as a gang member as a condition of his probation.

Police said the teens matched descriptions provided by Carrillo, witnesses and surveillance footage.

Scott Thorpe, of the California District Attorneys Association, said he's not aware of any cases in the state where prosecutors have filed charges against someone for the consequences of a false 911 call.

On the call, the dispatcher asked: "Do they have any weapons?"

"Yeah, they have a gun," Carrillo replied.

McDade was spotted in an alley about two blocks from the spot where Carrillo told police he'd been robbed, Sanchez said. McDade ran from police until an officer used the police cruiser to block his path in an alley and rolled down his window, authorities said.

McDade made the motion at his waistband and the officer opened fire, police said. A second officer who was chasing McDade on foot also opened fire. McDade, a Citrus College student and a high school football standout, died at a nearby hospital.

One state lawmaker compared McDade's shooting to that of Martin's. Martin, who also is black, was killed last month during a confrontation with George Zimmerman. Martin was walking home from the store. Zimmerman said the 17-year-old Martin attacked him.

Police haven't charged Zimmerman, who has a white father and Hispanic mother. That has set off widespread public outrage and protests across the country.

Pasadena police haven't released the officers' names or their ethnicities.

Assemblywoman Holly Mitchell, D-Los Angeles, said that like the Martin case, the Pasadena shooting highlights the need for a continuing discussion about racial profiling.

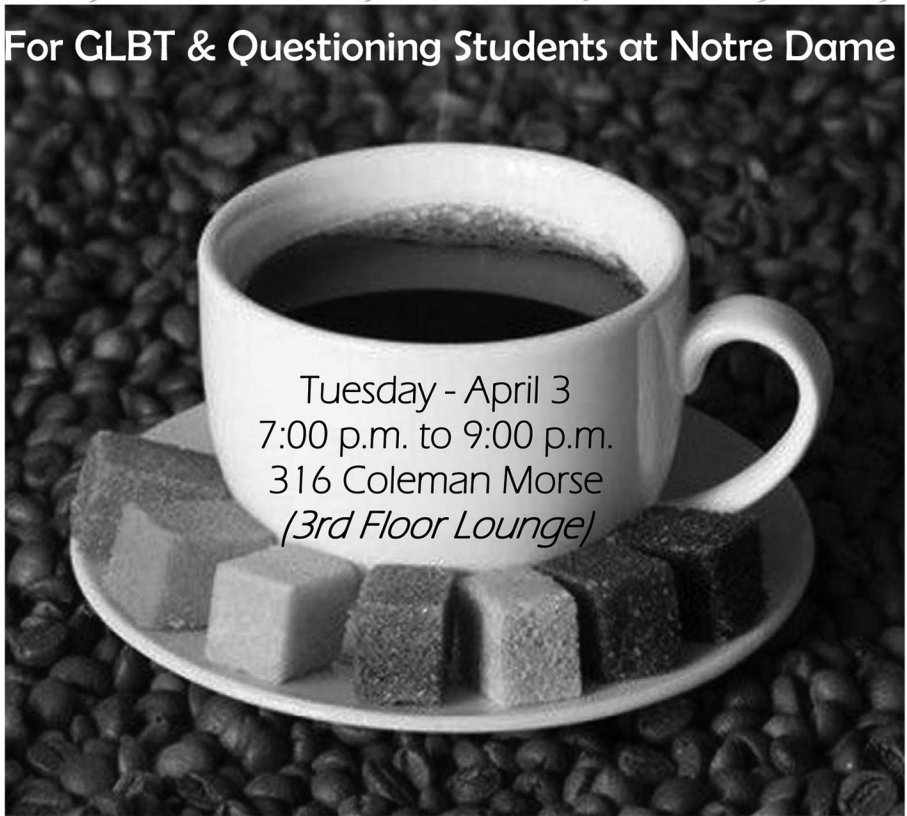
"The bigger picture is bias and racism," said Mitchell, secretary of the Legislative Black Caucus. "And while the particulars of the two cases may be different — while the perpetrator who actually fired the weapon may be different — the fact of the matter is two young black men are dead."

The Los Angeles County of Independent Review will investigate McDade's shooting, Sanchez said.

Pasadena police accepted many of that agency's recommendations two years ago in connection with the fatal shooting of Leroy Barnes Jr. Police acknowledged they incorrectly reported that Barnes fired his gun at officers before being shot during a traffic stop. Barnes was killed in the backseat of his car during a struggle over a gun, police said.

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Spaceport America runway to be extended by 2,000 feet

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — The nearly two-mile-long runway at Spaceport America in southern New Mexico will have to be extended to accommodate Virgin Galactic's sleek rocket-powered spacecraft, spaceport officials confirmed Thursday.

New Mexico Spaceport Authority board members

voted during a regular meeting Wednesday to extend the runway by another 2,000 feet. Spaceport America is the world's first terminal, hangar and runway built specifically for commercial space travel.

Virgin Galactic, which will be the spaceport's anchor tenant, determined through a battery of test flights and simulations that more room would be needed for

landings under certain circumstances.

"It's really being done for safety," spaceport spokesman David Wilson said. "It was a guess until they started dropping it and simulating and doing different scenarios, how this thing was going to behave on the runway. This is all a product of the testing and the characteristics of the vehicle."

Backed by British billionaire Richard Branson, the commercial space line has been developing its craft and rocket engines in California's Mojave Desert. The company plans to begin moving into the hangar and terminal facility later this year, and the runway extension is not expected to cause delays.

The runway was dedicated by Branson and other officials in October 2010 with much fanfare.

commodated by the state.

One scenario considered was if the rocket ship's engines did not fire. That would require the craft to glide back to the spaceport, loaded with unburned fuel. That would mean the craft would be heavier and would require more room to land.

Other factors involve New Mexico's altitude and high temperatures, which make the air thinner.



This 2010 image shows Virgin Galactic's White Knight Two mothership on the runway at Spaceport America in N.M. The two-mile-long runway will have to be extended to accommodate Virgin Galactic's rocket-powered spacecraft.

Stretching across a flat dusty plain 45 miles north of Las Cruces, the runway is designed to support almost every aircraft in the world, day-to-day space tourism flights and payload launch operations. It is 42 inches thick and includes a 14-inch layer of concrete.

The extension will cost \$7 million, Wilson said. Money will be reassigned within the spaceport's \$209 million taxpayer-financed budget to absorb the cost of the change.

Designing the extension will take six to eight months.

Virgin Galactic has said rocket testing is continuing and commercial flights are at least a year away.

Wilson said the extension did not come as a surprise to spaceport board members. As part of the agreement Virgin Galactic had with New Mexico to build the spaceport, any technical changes that resulted from development of the spaceship technology would have to be ac-

"That dictates longer runways," Wilson said.

Branson and Virgin Galactic officials have said repeatedly that everything possible will be done to ensure safety once commercial flights begin.

Unlike experimental programs run by NASA, Wilson said Spaceport America and Virgin Galactic are based on business models and investments.

"Obviously safety has to be at the highest level, especially when you're talking about commercial passenger service," he said.

Branson announced last week that Virgin Galactic had netted its 500th customer, actor Ashton Kutcher. Others include Hollywood types, international entrepreneurs, scientists and space buffs.

At \$200,000 a ticket, the space tourists get a 2 1/2-hour flight with about five minutes of weightlessness and views of Earth that until now only astronauts have been able to experience.

Militia leader, son plead guilty in domestic terror trial

Associated Press

DETROIT — A Michigan militia leader and his son pleaded guilty Thursday to possessing a machine gun, giving prosecutors their only gain in a domestic terror trial that was upended when the judge dismissed charges of plotting war against the government.

Hutaree leader David Stone rocked in a chair at the defense table after pleading guilty and told reporters he was a "stand-up true American patriot" whose anti-government comments and bravado about wanting to kill police were not a call to attack the United States.

He and six militia members were cleared Tuesday of conspiracy charges, which he called a "victory for everyone" who cherishes the First Amendment.

"It's amazing how someone can take a comment out of context and make it to whatever they want it to be," Stone, 51, said.

Gun charges were all that remained for Stone and Joshua Stone, 23, both from Lenawee County, Mich., after U.S. District Judge Victoria Roberts said prosecutors in six weeks had failed to present evidence of a specific plan to go to war against law enforcement and federal authorities.

Jurors heard hours of secretly recorded conversations between David Stone and an FBI informant and agent. He talked about killing police, building bombs and engaging an international coalition of freedom-hating law enforcers dubbed

the "brotherhood."

"The government's case is built largely of circumstantial evidence," the judge said Tuesday. "While this evidence could certainly lead a rational fact-finder to conclude that 'something fishy' was going on, it does not prove beyond a reasonable doubt that defendants reached a concrete agreement to forcibly oppose the United States government."

Defense lawyers said David Stone is a Christian who was preparing to do battle with the armies of the Antichrist, not the U.S. government.

A juror, Rickey Randall, 58, said the judge made the right call.

"I heard talk, talk, talk, but no action," Randall said. "I was shocked by their effort to bring the defendants to trial. ... Do you think a group that small can go up against the mighty U.S. government?"

In her first remarks since the case was gutted, U.S. Attorney Barbara McQuade said she wouldn't have handled the case differently and "strongly" disagrees with the judge's interpretation of federal conspiracy law.

"If you have a suggestion, let me know," she told The Associated Press during an interview in her office.

"I take the view that you stop 'em when you can if you've got evidence," McQuade said. "We have an obligation to protect the public. The jury and the judge don't have that obligation. ... There were many plans to oppose by force the authority of the United States."



Joshua Stone, left, smiles as he looks at his father, David Stone, Sr. in the federal courthouse in Detroit on Thursday. The father and son each pleaded guilty to illegally possessing a machine gun.

David Stone was released on bond after two years in custody. He could face another year in prison when he's sentenced for the gun crime on Aug. 8 but hopes the judge will consider the past two years as enough punishment. Joshua Stone, too, has been jailed for two years and could face more time behind bars.

The elder Stone said the trial's outcome likely will stir anxieties about the government among other militias.

"Now they know their

paranoia is true," he said, referring to the FBI's tactics.

David Stone's wife, Tina Stone, and another son, David Stone Jr., were among the militia members cleared of all charges this week. The four Stones walked away from the courthouse together Thursday. Tina Stone earlier said her husband's Hutaree days are over, although she said the group never was the violent threat the government had claimed.

"They couldn't overthrow

F Troop," she said, referring to a 1960s TV satire about soldiers in the Old West after the Civil War.

Militia members are finding that resuming their lives isn't easy. Despite his acquittal, Michael Meeks of Manchester, Mich., said he can't open a bank account yet because the bank told him he's still on a terror watch list. Told of the troubles, McQuade didn't seem moved.

"It's the consequences of their actions," the prosecutor told the AP.

SPAIN

Labor reforms cause strikes



A protestor is seen rioting next to a cafe stormed by Spanish demonstrators during clashes with the police at the general strike in Barcelona on Thursday.

Associated Press

MADRID — Spanish workers enraged by austerity-driven labor reforms to prevent the nation from becoming Europe’s next bailout victim has slowed down the country’s economy in a general strike, closing factories and clashing with police as the new-center right government tried to convince investors the nation isn’t headed for a financial meltdown.

Tens of thousands held protest marches in Madrid and other cities Thursday, and the demonstrations turned violent in Spain’s second-largest city of Barcelona, where hooded protesters smashed bank and storefront windows with hammers and rocks and set fire to streetside trash containers.

Traffic was slowed in northeastern Valencia when demonstrators lit mattresses ablaze on a highway, and a Molotov cocktail was hurled at a police car in the eastern city of Murcia. Authorities arrested 176 protesters across Spain and said 104 people were injured in clashes, including 58 police officers. There were no immediate reports of serious injuries.

The protests came a day before Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy’s administration is expected to announce about €30 billion (\$40 billion) in spending cuts and tax hikes to ease increasing fears about Spain’s budget deficit. European leaders insist drastic cuts must be made this year even though reductions in government spending are almost sure to boost the unemployment rate of nearly 23 percent, the highest among the 17 nations that use the euro.

The labor reforms make it less costly for Spanish busi-

nesses to fire workers, and give them incentives for hiring — but protesters said they are being forced to give up rights they earned decades ago.

“Why wouldn’t I protest?” asked textile worker Jose Jimenez, 60, from the Madrid protest. “I’ve spent 45 years working for the same company and now they can get rid of me almost for free.”

Others said the reforms put in place by Rajoy in February after his conservative Popular Party ousted the governing Socialists in November will only boost the profits of companies and banks.

“Workers are losing all their rights, and the benefits will go only to the banks and the businesses,” 57-year-old bus driver Fidel Martin said.

Labor unions said millions of Spaniards in the nation of 47 million stayed away from work to protest, and the strike caused transportation delays and prompted Spain’s government-run national health care system to significantly reduce services except for emergency cases. Workers at car factories that assemble vehicles for Renault SA, SEAT SA, Volkswagen AG and Ford Motor Co. largely stayed home, and services at mining and port facilities were also severely limited, union leaders said.

But many other businesses remained open, and Rajoy’s government claimed the strike didn’t have its intended impact because

Spanish electrical consumption dropped only 16.3 percent, not as much as the 16.9 percent reduction when the country’s last general strike was held in 2010 when the Socialists were in charge.

Union leaders demanded a “gesture” from the government to scale back the reforms, warning they could cause more unrest starting in May. Members of Rajoy’s administration said they are willing to talk with union leaders, but won’t issue concessions.

“There is no stopping on the path to reform,” Labor Minister Fatima Banez said.

The cuts expected Friday are designed to lower the national deficit to within European Union limits and reassure jittery international investors who determine the country’s borrowing costs in debt markets — and could well determine whether Spain will follow Greece, Ireland and Portugal in needing a bailout.

Spain’s benchmark borrowing rate — the yield on its 10-year bonds — continued to creep up Thursday, to 5.4 percent, suggesting increasing investor concern about whether the country can avoid a bailout, one that European leaders and experts say could lead to the breakup of the Eurozone. Spain’s economy is twice the size of Greece, Ireland and Portugal.

And the country’s benchmark Ibex 35 stock index continued a weeklong slide Thursday, closing down nearly 1 percent and below the psychologically important level of 8,000 points.

Protester Angel Andrino, 31, said he was laid off a day after the labor reforms were approved in a decree last month. He lives with his parents and brother, who is the only employed person in the family, but working part-time.

“Why wouldn’t I protest? I’ve spent 45 years working for the same company and now they can get rid of me almost for free.”

Jose Jimenez
textile worker

“There is no stopping on the path to reform.”

Fatima Banez
labor minister

VENEZUELA

Polls favor Chavez

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela — President Hugo Chavez has a double-digit lead over the opposition’s presidential candidate, but a quarter of Venezuelan voters haven’t committed to either candidate, a poll said Thursday.

The survey released by the Caracas polling firm Datanalisis said nearly 45 percent of those polled said they would vote for Chavez, while 31 percent supported Miranda state Gov. Henrique Capriles. About 25 percent were undecided.

“Those undecided ones are going to indicate the trend in the future,” said Luis Vicente Leon, the polling firm’s president.

Chavez, who has been in office since 1999, is seeking another six-year term in the Oct. 7 election.

The survey questioned about 1,300 people in Venezuela between Feb. 29 and March 7, and had a margin of error of nearly 3 percentage points, Leon said.

He said the percentage of people expressing no choice for a candidate had increased since the firm’s previous poll a month earlier, when almost 50 percent said they would vote for Chavez and 35 percent backed Capriles.

Leon said the monthly poll is paid for by about 300 clients that include both private businesses and state companies as well as individuals. He said some of the clients include po-

litical leaders, but he didn’t identify them.

About 62 percent of respondents said they viewed Chavez’s performance favorably, compared to 50 percent who had a favorable view of Capriles’ performance as governor.

Poll results have varied widely in Venezuela recently, with each political camp touting dueling figures. Government media have reported on polls indicating Chavez is ahead of Capriles by as much as 30 points. Last week, the polling firm Consultores 21 released a survey indicating Chavez and Capriles are running head-to-head.

Chavez appeared on state television early Thursday after returning home from a five-day round of radiation therapy in Cuba, where he has been undergoing cancer treatment.

“Thanks to God, I’ve withstood the treatment very well,” Chavez said. “Let’s hope that’s the case next time.”

He said that the radiation treatments had been administered for five days in a row and that he would be in Venezuela until Saturday, when he plans to return to Havana for the next round.

Chavez has said the radiation therapy is intended to prevent any new cancer threat after a surgery last month that removed a second tumor from his pelvic region. He had another tumor removed from the same location in an earlier operation in June.

HONDURAS

Riot kills thirteen

Associated Press

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras — At least 13 people died during an uprising by armed inmates at a Honduran prison Thursday, one of them decapitated and the others killed by a fire started by the rioters, authorities said.

Varying reports of local and national authorities said as many as 18 inmates were killed, but national police chief Jose Ramirez said only 13 bodies had been sent to the morgue by late afternoon.

The unrest came six weeks after a fire at another prison in Honduras killed 361 inmates.

Yair Mesa, police commissioner of the rough northern city of San Pedro Sula, said Thursday’s riot had been brought under control.

“The uprising has been put down without the need to fire shots,” Mesa said by telephone from inside the prison.

San Pedro Sula Bishop Romulo Emiliani arrived outside the prison, saying he had been asked to serve as a negotiator with the inmates.

Emiliani reflected the prevailing view that such tragedies are bound to recur in Honduras’ overcrowded prison system. The 800-bed San Pedro Sula prison was housing 2,400 prisoners, he said.

“Everybody has known for some time that the authorities have no interest in the prisons. They are a time bomb that will continue to explode,” the bish-

op said.

In 2008, the latest year for which figures are available, Honduras’ prison system had nearly 38 percent more prisoners than it was built to house, according to the London-based International Centre for Prison Studies.

Mesa said most of the victims apparently died of burns or asphyxiation, but said the cause of death could not immediately be determined because the bodies were so badly burned.

One prisoner’s head was cut off and tossed outside the prison during the riot. It was not immediately clear if his body was among those sent to the morgue.

Inmates carried the burned bodies from the site of the blaze and set them out in the prison yard.

City fire chief Jose Danilo Flores said the prisoners themselves appeared to have fought the fire inside the facility. He said the armed inmates initially kept firefighters from entering.

San Pedro Sula is believed to be one of the most dangerous cities in a country that has the highest homicide rate in the world. A fire at the San Pedro Sula prison in 2004 killed 107 inmates.

Thursday’s uprising came a month and a half after Honduras’ overcrowded prisons were hit by the worst prison fire in a century — a Feb. 14 conflagration at the Comayagua farm prison that killed 361 inmates.

INSIDE COLUMN

Anthony Davis is the 99 percent

There is a striking resemblance between what sociologist Dr. Harry Edwards calls “the Civil Rights Movement for our times” and the Occupy Wall Street movement that has been taking place since October of last year.

Daniel Azic

The 99 percent are college athletes. The exploitation of their services without any pay is ludicrous, seeing that college athletics has turned into a huge money machine. Some big-name college athletes need to muster up the courage to do something about these injustices. And what better stage than March Madness?

This is a call to the players of Louisville, Kentucky, Ohio State, and Kansas for this coming weekend: don’t play your Final Four game. Protest these injustices. Show up to the game and right before it starts, grab a microphone. Demand that unless you make some of the billions in revenues created by March Madness, you won’t play. Simple as that. You have the power here.

Just imagine Jared Sullinger or Thomas Robinson performing such an act. It may upset us fans for a day or two, but it would send a message that should have been sent out years ago. It would call out the NCAA for the fraud they are pulling on us with the phrases “amateurism” and “student-athlete.”

If the NCAA’s goal was to promote student-athletes, why would they allow for college basketball players to leave after only one year of college? Why not allow them to go professional straight out of high school? Could it be that they did not want to lose a year of unpaid, world-class services?

The money being raked in by coaches, administrators, universities and media outlets such as ESPN is ridiculous. In 2010, Kentucky’s conference, the SEC, became the first to make over a billion dollars in a year. The revenue brought in from ticket sales, merchandise and television contracts has made college athletics one of the biggest businesses in the country. The players that keep college sports running are making squat in return. Something needs to be done.

For a specific example in these teams, look no further than the top player in the country and the projected first-overall pick in this year’s NBA Draft — Anthony Davis. He has led the Wildcats to their best year in decades. What does he have to show for it? A year of pointless tuition, seeing that he will leave for the NBA at the end of the year. What’s his coach making for all the hard work Davis has put in? A measly \$4.5 million. If it weren’t for the one year out of high school rule that was adopted by the NBA, Davis would be making millions right now in the NBA. Instead, he’s not making a penny.

I’m calling you out, Anthony. Sit out Saturday’s game. Let the NCAA know that their days of exploitation are numbered.

You can make a change for the 99 percent.

Contact Daniel Azic at dazic@nd.edu
The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Commencement speaker an appropriate choice

After a long wait, the Notre Dame class of 2012 has its commencement speaker: Haley Scott DeMaria, a Notre Dame 1995 graduate and a survivor of the 1992 bus crash that killed two members of the Irish women’s swimming team.

It would be easy for seniors to reflect on the choice and focus on what DeMaria is not. She is not the President of the United States. She has not hosted “NBC Nightly News” or “Meet the Press.” She has not run the U.S. Department of Defense, General Electric or The Carnegie Corporation. She is not another flashy, nationally visible commencement speaker — that is undeniable. It would be easy for the seniors to focus on these things.

Rather, the soon-to-be-graduates could — and should — focus on what the choice of DeMaria as commencement speaker offers them. The commencement speaker is chosen to inspire a group of young adults on the verge of full adulthood, to evoke a sense of promise in the years ahead and offer advice on dealing with the challenges that lie before the graduates.

Who better to do this than DeMaria?

In the days following the tragic bus accident that killed freshmen Colleen Hipp and Meghan Beeler, a paralyzed DeMaria was told she would likely spend the rest of her life confined to a wheelchair. Faced with extreme hardship, she persevered. Within a week, she had feeling in her legs. Within a month, she was walking. 20 months later, she swam once again in an Irish uniform — and won.

When DeMaria speaks to the assembled Class of 2012 on May 20, she will be speaking to a class that has seen its share

of hardship in its time at Notre Dame. They have weathered the storm together, but there will be many more obstacles in the future. DeMaria offers a golden example of the grace and fortitude with which Notre Dame graduates face hardship. To put it another way, she embodies the intangible quality that is often referred to as the Notre Dame spirit.

That spirit highlights yet another positive aspect of DeMaria’s selection that the senior class may overlook: she will deliver a strong Notre Dame-specific message in her address. Robert Gates, Brian Williams or any other national figure may offer an inspiring and positive message, but their words would ring just as true at Stanford, Boston College or Harvard. Having lived through a Notre Dame undergraduate experience and all

it entails, DeMaria possesses a unique connection with the current undergraduates that national figures almost certainly lack. She understands what the graduating Domer can bring to the world that graduates of other universities cannot, simply because she has lived as a Notre Dame graduate for 17 years. For an institution with as unique a mission as Notre Dame, DeMaria’s experiences and character make her an ideal choice.

Yes, Class of 2012, you will not read much of your commencement speaker in national publications. Her selection will not inspire discussion on cable news, nor will it bring protesters to campus. After years of political figures that divided the student body along ideological lines, the graduating seniors have a unifying speaker behind whom they can rally. No, this is not the edgy pick, nor the popular one. But it is the right one.

THE OBSERVER
Editorial

EDITORIAL CARTOON



QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Achievable goals are the first step to self-improvement.”

J. K. Rowling
British author

Submit a
Letter to
the Editor

Email obsviewpoint@gmail.com

WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THE THIRD EYE BLIND CONCERT?

IT WAS AWESOME! 29%
I WENT FOR HOODIE ALLEN 10%
IDIDN'T GET A TICKET 33%
WHO'S THIRD EYE BLIND? 28%

TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTES: 58

Supreme Court's health care decision too big to fail

Each generation witnesses at least one iconic event that twists our national fate — often for the betterment of society, other times setting back our way of life. Throughout the last 75 years, American history has been dotted with both tragedy and achievement through external or internal forces. We have endured dramatic attacks upon our nation and assassinations of our government leaders. We have persisted through political intrigue and legislative accomplishments while occasionally adjusting to judicial disappointment. The Supreme Court's consideration this week of the constitutionality of President Obama's signature landmark legislation, the Affordable Care Act (ACA), will provide another historical twist when we learn in June whether the high court upholds or strikes down portions or all of the law.

Gary J. Caruso
Capitol Comments

On the opening day, the justices clearly signaled why they are supreme — they would not abide by what the layman saw as common sense, namely, a Reconstruction-era law called the Anti-Injunction Act which forbids lawsuits filed “for the purpose of restraining the assessment or collection of any tax” until that tax has been paid. The court was eager to make constitutional history in the politically-charged matter. Their questions focused on how to wiggle around the law's flat ban on tax-restraining lawsuits and how to avoid

concluding that the mandate's penalty is, in fact, a tax.

By now the justices have probably met to take their preliminary votes in the case. While the Supreme Court usually confines itself to legal precedent and matters of written law, the national need for health care is too big for the court to void the law by another 5-4 squeaker vote. It has been decades since the high court has dedicated so much time over a three-day period to conduct oral arguments for a single case. That schedule signaled the first of many clues about the historical enormity of their decision. Simply said, the ACA offers too much of a unique and complicated health care remedy for Americans. I believe the chief justice knows that he needs to uphold the law by a 6-3 or better vote.

Chief Justice John Roberts began the year shrewdly defending the self-policing way his court enforces its ethical standards. He demonstrated just how sensitive he is of his legacy by overtly worrying about his tenure's institutional integrity. Thus, his best interest in the ACA case lies in not gutting the 2,700-page law by a one-vote margin reminiscent of the Bush vs. Gore debacle, even though post-Bush vs. Gore appointees to the court are generally seen as rank-and-file partisans.

Roberts must avoid appearing like the third chamber of Congress. In modern times, the high court polled at a favorable 60 to 80 percent, with its highest ratings earned in the late

1990s. However, since determining the presidential election in 2000, the court's rating has fallen steadily, with an even steeper plunge after its 2005 eminent domain ruling. Today, just 46 percent of Americans approve of the court's performance as the guardians of the U.S. Constitution.

Roberts will make efforts to accommodate Justice Anthony Kennedy so that they can join the other four liberals — Justices Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer. Roberts and Kennedy left clues on how they will vote during each of the three days of hearings, just like the unfolding of a three-act play. While most observers point to the second day's brutal questioning against the government mandate to require everyone to purchase insurance, both swing justices left the tiniest of hints that they may join the liberals.

For example, on the second day, after saying that the government changed its relationship with citizens, Kennedy raised the possibility that the mandate was a unique effort to force people into commerce to subsidize health insurance and that the insurance market may be unique enough to justify that unusual treatment. On the third day, both Kennedy and Roberts seemed to grasp the magnitude of the nation's health care problems. Kennedy suggested a health care fix would require a comprehensive solution. Roberts also spoke about uniqueness, citing that almost everyone uses it at some point.

“Everybody is in this market, so that makes it very different than the market for cars or the other hypotheticals that you came up with, and all they're regulating is how you pay for it,” Roberts noted, paraphrasing the government's argument.

Just as in a Broadway play when the third act ties up loose ends and solves any conflicts, the third day of arguments accentuated just how seriously void the nation would be if the mandate is stricken. Most justices agreed that if the mandate fails, two subsequent aspects of the law must also be voided: the requirement that insurers cover people regardless of existing medical conditions and the requirement that limits how much companies can charge for premiums based on a person's age or health. The long-range ramifications became clear for all when Justice Antoin Scalia said removing the heart kills the body. At this point, both Roberts and Kennedy know our national interest — upholding health care for 30 million currently uninsured Americans.

Gary Caruso, Notre Dame '73, serves in the Department of Homeland Security and was a legislative and public affairs director in President Clinton's administration. His column appears every other Friday. He can be contacted at GaryJCaruso@alumni.nd.edu

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

2012 commencement speaker is disappointing

Disclaimer: I am not a heartless robot.

Now that that's out of the way, I would like to say what I believe many people are thinking but (likely) few will say openly: Notre Dame's choice of Haley Scott DeMaria for a 2012 commencement speaker is disappointing.

Notre Dame has selected influential politicians, academics, captains of industry, human rights advocates and others to be commencement speakers. Many have been Catholic; some have been Notre Dame graduates. All have achieved great things and bettered humanity in some form. The vast majority have been able to give graduates practical advice regarding their future careers, which, in all honesty, is what most of us are thinking about these days.

Ms. DeMaria has a remarkable and inspiring story, and I'm sure few of us would meet such hardship with her tenacity. However, I must be blunt: she has little to offer my fellow graduates or myself. Previous commencement speakers changed American politics, improved our common discourse and lifted thousands out of poverty. Ms.

DeMaria's accomplishments, however inspiring, pale somewhat in comparison. To my knowledge, she will also have very little to offer us in the way of constructive career advice.

Some may point out that we needed to have a female commencement speaker. After five male speakers, I agree. But with all the influential, successful women who have contributed so much to the world, and with Notre Dame's prestige, it smacks of nepotism and questionable judgment to choose someone so strongly affiliated with Notre Dame.

Our commencement should not be about one woman's admittedly remarkable story nor her persistence in the face of obstacles. It should be about us, the graduates. The speaker should be someone who can tell us from experience how to accomplish great things and improve the lives of those around us. I have no doubt that we will, but I do not believe Ms. DeMaria is the right person for this job.

Patrick Hernandez
senior
off-campus
March 29

Question of the day: better dining hall?

I would like to state some concerns I had with yesterday's “Question of the Day,” which was “which dining hall is better, North or South?” The fact that the most intelligent response was “I like turtles” is saddening. I would like to go through each response and address the issues with each one.

First, let's look at Drew Williams' response of, “South is too confusing. North.” Drew, I'm sorry to hear that you are confused by the layout of South Dining Hall. I could somewhat understand this response if you were a freshman. Seeing that this is not the case, I'm a bit worried. I hope your classes do not cause as much confusion.

Tina, your response does have some truth to it. South can get quite crowded. But North can also become a free-for-all during the lunch rush. I'm sure we've all waited in those seemingly endless salad, pizza and pasta stir-fry lines at North.

Miss Cleveland, I think your response bothered me the most. To state that North Dining Hall is more aesthetically pleasing than South Dining Hall is absolutely mind-blowing to me. Maybe you are just a fan of Cold War-era Communist-bloc housing. Personally, I prefer more detail and creativity in my architecture. Next time you are in South, take a few minutes to look around. The magnificent windows, ornate lighting, artistic additions and Gothic feel are unmatched. The outside is also spectacular. The relief-stone carvings on the side exits alone are enough to put South ahead of North.

Maureen, I'd just like to say that South also has mints. Granted, sometimes North does vary their mint variety. But North also runs out of mints much faster than South, in my experience.

Mr. Brandt, you're spot on. Keep doing what you're doing. In conclusion, I'm very disappointed in all of you (except for Mr. Brandt). The reasons stated for North's superiority were subpar at best. No mention of the lunchtime salad specials, the make-your-own pizza station, the larger trays or the televisions? You can do better, people. And finally, South rules.

Robert Ryan
senior
off-campus
March 29

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Style

with Sean

LOUISVILLE KENTUCKY

FINAL FOUR

OHIO STATE KANSAS



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Photo courtesy of chase-taylor.blogspot.com



Photo courtesy of ukathletics.com

By SEAN FITZGERALD
Scene Writer

Kentucky vs. Louisville
In a battle for the Bluegrass State, Kentucky and Louisville face off in the Final Four. Since the tournament this year has been so erratic I figured I would make my choice on who would win based on completely arbitrary and meaningless factors like what they wear.

Kentucky
Before we start this, I would like to thank Kentucky's John Calipari for eliminating the highlighter-wearing Baylor Bears. Kentucky's maestro doesn't like to experiment too much. But why should he? He has a winning philosophy, and

if it ain't broke, why fix it? You might occasionally see different shades of blue on his ties, but night in and night out, it won't be too hard to predict what he'll be wearing on game day. Late-ly, he's been sporting the pin-stripe look. Look for that with a plain blue tie this Saturday.

Louisville
Rick Pitino's full-court press is not just a style of play, but it is also how he picks what to wear on game day. Have you seen him in that white suit? He looks a little bit like Colonel Sanders, if the Colonel didn't have a mustache and a beard. Needless to say, Coach Pitino goes all-out for these games. Let's hope he brings his "A" game on Saturday. Advantage: Louisville. Rick Pi-

tino believes in the power of his clothes. I mean, the man changed his clothes at halftime in a 2008 game, and Louisville came back to win. How can you not believe in someone like that? I'm feeling a big night from the master of the full-court press.

Prediction: Louisville 70, Kentucky 68

Kansas vs. Ohio State
No. 2 in a battle of seeded teams that didn't lose to No. 15, Kansas faces off against Ohio State. Apparently, this year the school's colors either need to be red or blue to make it to the Final Four. Sorry Baylor, you never had a chance.

Ohio State
Despite Thad Matta's receding hairline, he's managed to bring his team to the illustrious Final Four.

I don't know what his secret is, but this man knows what he's doing. Jared Sullinger is not flying under the radar, though.

I mean, look at those arm sleeves. Even Dwight Howard might be a little envious. Honestly, I have no idea if those sleeves serve a functional purpose. I really don't care, because they are amazing.

Kansas
Bill Self's Kansas Jayhawks didn't screw it up this year by losing way too early. That's a good start. But can they finish?

As a classic powerhouse in the NCAA, they have a consistent look that is professional. But let's be honest, it is really boring. The only thing I think Kansas has going for them is they have already beaten a team wearing red in NC State. I know, it's completely arbitrary, but maybe they trained with the bulls in Pamplona and have a seething hatred of red.

Advantage: Ohio State. Between Thad Matta's hairline and Jared Sullinger's arm sleeves, they have got to win.

Prediction: Ohio State 61, Kansas 55

Contact Sean Fitzgerald at sfitzge3@nd.edu



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Photo courtesy of bleacherreport.com

IRISH INSIDER

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2012

THE
OBSERVER

THE IRISH GUARDS

Notre Dame's four-guard phenomenon
paves way to Final Four



COMMENTARY

Final Four competition poses challenge for Irish

Here come the Irish to the Final Four, and here come the nail-biting, down-to-the-buzzer games Irish fans have been waiting for since the tournament began.

It's about time they get a real soul-shaking 40 minutes of play in the most important part of their season.

These — potential — two games won't disappoint, whether the Irish reach their goal of tournament champions or if they fall short. Notre Dame has old conference tension to break open against Connecticut. This team is incredibly hungry for a championship, which will fuel them into the finals.

No matter the outcome, Notre Dame's season will end here with a pressure-filled contest, in the truest sense of the word. In entirely predictable fashion, all No. 1 seeds and the top four teams in the polls made it this far, and they promise to not make it easy for the Irish anymore.

Notre Dame won by 30 points or more in three of the four contests it took to get to Denver and was comfortably leading at halftime in two of those.

Sure, Cal was even with the Irish mid-game in the second round back at home to light a little fire under Notre Dame's feet. But after a good talking-to at halftime, the Irish escaped the pressure and unleashed the true character of their relentless defense, recorded multiple steals and rebounded better.

Now they are surrounded by the elite company that their play resembled all season, with teams they know, teams they have seen and teams that deserve to be there just as much as the Notre Dame deserves to be there.

Two of Notre Dame's three losses this season came at the hands of teams represented in the trifecta of tournament top-seeds, once faltering against all-too-familiar Connecticut in the postseason and letting Baylor taint the loss column on their record early last November.

These are teams that not only can beat the Irish, but have proven it as well. In the Final Four, there should not be any more blowout wins, no



Molly Sammon
Sports Writer

These — potential — two games won't disappoint, whether the Irish reach their goal of tournament champions or if they fall short. Notre Dame has old conference tension to break open against Connecticut. This team is incredibly hungry for a championship, which will fuel it into the finals.

more games where a combination of their usual rebounding techniques and good offensive management by each of their four guards on the court can run away with a lead as soon as the ball is tipped.

Against Maryland, they executed this perfectly with hardly a flaw in their play and structure, and a triple-double for Diggins. They made a victory over No. 2 seed Maryland, the ACC conference tournament champions who held an obvious height advantage, look far easier than expected. They ran away with the game like it was the first of the tournament, not a regional final where teams have to not only work hard and show poise, but fight off a team that shares the court as their relative equal.

Conference foe Connecticut will want to shake Notre Dame first, in their fourth and final time the Irish will play their Big East rival this season with the veteran team they have now. Senior guards Natalie Novosel and Fraderica Miller and graduate students guard Brittany Mallory and forward Devereaux Peters have one last chance to play the once-invincible team before they graduate. It follows that it will be either the most important or the second more important game of their last season with an Irish jersey on their backs.

In the Big East tournament final, Connecticut gave the Irish one of the rare chances to feel the real and raw panic associated with losing. Not just a shot-for-shot final few minutes where the Irish had a chance to win, but the feeling of being down by 10 points or more and knowing that losing was inevitable.

They will see that same encompassing panic one more time, but now it will be magnified as the importance grows. If the Irish want to reach their goal of returning to South Bend and graduate this senior class with a national championship, they will need to show the utmost composure, even if they are down by 10.

One of the benefits of playing on a Final Four team is not having to play through many discouraging situations. But in this year's finals, stacked with the teams who have been on top all year, Notre Dame will need to learn how and learn it quickly.

Contact Molly Sammon at msammon@nd.edu

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

Irish enter semifinal rematch

By JOSEPH MONARDO
Sports Writer

For the second consecutive year, the Irish and the Huskies will face off in the Final Four with a berth in the national championship game on the line. In last year's semifinal, the two-seed Irish entered the game as the heavy underdogs, trying to prove they belonged among the game's elite.

What a difference a year makes.

No. 4 Notre Dame (34-3, 15-1 Big East) and No. 3 Connecticut (33-4, 13-3) both enter this year's Final Four matchup in Denver as top seeds. No. 1 Baylor and No. 2 Stanford also reached the Final Four as top seeds, making this the first Final Four since 1989 populated entirely by number-one seeds.

For the Irish, the arrival at Denver is a long-awaited achievement that brings relief.

"I feel like we have accomplished what we needed to," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "I think we would have been extremely disappointed had we not gotten this far. I think the expectation from probably November was that these are the four teams that were going to advance, and that is a heavy burden to carry throughout the year."

Despite the burden, the Irish managed to sustain success throughout the season, losing only to Baylor (38-0, 18-0 Big-12), Big East foe West Virginia and Connecticut.

In the tournament's opening rounds, the Irish made the most of their home-court advantage, and blew out 16-seed Liberty 74-43 before hammering out a 73-62 victory over eight-seed California.



ASHLEY DACY/The Observer

Irish graduate student guard Brittany Mallory dribbles the ball during Notre Dame's 81-61 home victory over Akron on Nov. 11.

The Irish used a dominant defensive effort to get past five-seed St. Bonaventure, 79-35 in the Sweet 16, and crushed two-seed Maryland in the Elite Eight, 80-49.

"Our last game against Maryland seemed one of the best we have played this whole tournament, maybe all year, and we just have to really use that as momentum going into this game," Irish graduate student guard Brittany Mallory said.

The Irish must face a familiar foe in their Final Four matchup with the Huskies, who fell to the Irish twice in the regular season before denying Notre Dame its first-ever Big East tournament championship.

"We know them pretty well, they know us pretty well, so I don't think there is going to be a lot of mystery in the game," McGraw said. "I think it's a matter of who is going to play well, who is going to make shots, who is going to be able to defend a little bit better. The adrenaline will be flowing, I think anything can happen."

The Irish have plenty of prior experience and game tape to help guide them as they attempt

to replicate the successes from their two wins.

"[In our wins over Connecticut,] we were just clicking, especially on defense we were getting a lot of stops," Irish graduate-student forward Devereaux Peters said. "In the [Big East title] game, we were letting them do what they wanted to do ... and we let them decide what we were running [on offense] and we weren't as aggressive as we normally are, so that definitely has to change."

As they attempt to move past Connecticut and into the championship game, the Irish gain confidence from last year's tournament, Mallory said.

"Since we have been there before, we aren't as star-struck from the whole Final Four atmosphere," she said. "We are a little more relaxed going in, and just knowing what to expect."

The Irish will tip off with Connecticut at 6:30 p.m. Sunday at the Pepsi Center, as they try to advance to their second-straight national championship game.

Contact Joseph Monardo at jmonardo@nd.edu

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The Observer.

The fantastic four

Unique offensive system relies on guards' speed and versatility, produces strong results for Irish

By CHRIS MASOUD
Senior Sports Writer

Notre Dame isn't running up the score for promotional McDonald's vouchers anymore, but its 29-point average margin of victory in the 2012 NCAA tournament is reminiscent of its dominant performance during the regular season. The Irish start only one player over six feet tall, and yet outscore opponents inside the paint on a regular basis, including a Maryland team that started three in the regional finals.

There are no secret plays, no "Hoosiers" halftime speeches — just Irish coach Muffet McGraw's patented four-guard offense that has foiled height-advantaged opponents all season long.

"The four-guard lineup, it's just so versatile," senior guard Natalie Novosel said. "Everybody can score — it's so balanced. You can just do whatever you want, but at the same time it's a system, so there's different options. One person goes backdoor, one person cuts back out. There's just so many different options and it's so balanced."

Averaging 15.3 points per game as Notre Dame's second-leading scorer, Novosel has developed into one of the nation's most efficient players and junior guard Skylar Diggins' number-one option under McGraw's signature offense. While winning basketball games has been the most obvious effect of McGraw's implementation of the four-guard offense, her underlying motivation is much simpler.

"Because I love a high-scoring game as probably the other three coaches in this [Final Four would agree]," she said. "It's so much more fun to watch. I think it makes the game so much more exciting for the fans when you see up-tempo scoring also with great defense."

Notre Dame's path to the 2012 NCAA tournament national title may be remarkably similar to its successful championship run in

2001, but the vehicle responsible couldn't be more different. Take away the loss to Connecticut in the Big East tournament finals, the rematch in the Final Four, the consensus First Team All-American and the Hall-of-Fame coach, and you're left with two very different offensive systems driving the Irish.

"I think the players are more complete players [now]," McGraw said. "You used to have the defensive specialists [like] the 3-point shooter who couldn't guard. I think players now are so much better and so much more capable of playing the game at both ends, and it's great for the women's game."

The point guard

Every team needs one, but the Irish happen to have the nation's best. Averaging 16.7 points and 5.8 assists per game, Diggins lifted Notre Dame over the Terapins with her first career triple-double to send the Irish to the tournament semifinals.

The point guard leads the Irish attack with her exceptional vision, quickness and versatility. "Sky's the general of the court," Novosel said. "She just knows where everybody is — that's her job and she does it flawlessly. She's just really aware and does things really well."

Unlike a traditional Princeton offense that features four guards simultaneously directing the offense, Diggins' ability to dictate the Notre Dame offense on the court makes McGraw's system unique. The head coach said she has complete faith in Diggins to make the right pass, take the right shot and manage the game by herself.

"I give her complete control. I try to help her if I feel like she needs it, but she generally makes great decisions," McGraw said. "I really let her have a lot of flexibility to do what she can do because she's so talented and hard to guard."

In addition to letting Diggins facilitate her offense, McGraw

added the coaching staff selects specific plays in particular to signal Diggins it's her time to take over a game. Diggins said the degree of flexibility granted to her by McGraw has been a developmental process.

"I have the green light. I think it's lime-green now in my junior year," she said.

The offensive threat

Named the Big East's Most Improved Player in 2011, Novosel has elevated her game to another level in her final season in uniform. The talented guard led the Irish in scoring in victories over California in the regional quarterfinals and St. Bonaventure in the regional semifinals, including a 28-point performance against the Golden Bears.

A native of Kentucky, Novosel said the four-guard system rattles opponents by creating mismatches that are difficult to guard and even harder to prepare for.

"Guards are quicker, faster, sometimes craftier with the ball, so I think it definitely creates a lot of problems for different people, especially those who are used to playing against two posts inside," she said. "Especially in transition, guards can coast down the court, and that's really tough to match up against."

McGraw said the luxury of having two prolific scorers in Diggins and Novosel prevents opponents from successfully double-teaming on defense.

"They're both just really tough matchups," she said. "They can score in a lot of different ways. They can score off the dribble, they get to the foul line and they make great passes."

The wild card

Sophomore guard Kayla McBride sat out the second half of the 2010-2011 season to attend to an off-the-court issue, watching Notre Dame's run to the national title game from the bench.



MATT SAAD/The Observer

Irish graduate student forward Devereaux Peters shoots a layup during Notre Dame's 80-49 defeat of Maryland in the Elite Eight.

In her first NCAA tournament game, she paced the Irish with a team-high 15 points in Notre Dame's victory over Liberty in the first round.

Afterwards, Liberty coach Carey Green called her the "wild card" of Notre Dame's offense.

"I think the four-guard look really makes it tough for that fourth defender for the other team. Kayla McBride's a tough matchup because she can go on the perimeter and hit threes, she can drive the ball and she can do so many things," McGraw said. "So if you try to put a post on her, she can take advantage of that."

Two seasons ago, 2010 graduate Lindsay Schrader served a similar role as a guard who could score in the frontcourt while remaining a shooting threat on the perimeter. However, McBride's defensive skill and 3-point shooting ability makes her even more versatile.

"K-Mac shoots a lot of threes and Lindsay really didn't, but she can still bang inside like Lindsay did," Diggins said. "It's different components."

The specialist

Ranked sixth all-time in program history with 150 career 3-point field goals, graduate student Brittany Mallory serves as Notre Dame's most potent threat behind the arc. Despite her recruitment by McGraw for her exceptional 3-point shooting, Mallory's experience in the four-guard system and off-ball movement has made her invaluable on the court.

"Brittany's the stabilizing force. She's the smart one," McGraw said. "She's going to go backdoor, she's going to make a great cut. She's going to tell everybody to be in the right spot and make sure everybody's doing what they're supposed to be doing."

Mallory said the offense can't function properly if Notre Dame relies too heavily on the three-point shot. Rather, McGraw's system flourishes when the guards spread the floor and allow Diggins to find the open shooter or cutting player.

"When we spread the floor, that creates opportunities for driving, and when Sky drives everyone's going to look at her," she said. "We just have to look to get open and allow her to get us the ball."

The forward

Graduate student forward Devereaux Peters serves an important role as Notre Dame's lone conventional post player, attracting defenders to free up perimeter shooters while finding the backdoor cutters. An athletic forward like Peters who can run the floor and rebound makes McGraw's offense that much more effective.

"The guards really play well through me," Peters said. "We have found our niche, where we know each other and we play well together. I move a bit quicker than a lot of the posts, so it works to our advantage in our case."

Regardless of position, McGraw said her players' laser-like focus and motivation to return to the national championship game, coupled with their ability to coach themselves on the floor, set this year's team apart.

"This is a team that has taken ownership. They're accountable for each other, they help each other," she said. "They feel like they're coaches on the floor. When they see things they'll talk about, 'Hey, why don't we try this? This looks great. I see this. This is going to work.' I think it's a real team effort."

Contact Chris Masoud at
cmasoud@nd.edu



MATT SAAD/The Observer

Irish sophomore guard Kayla McBride drives to the basket during Notre Dame's 80-49 victory over Maryland in the Elite Eight in Raleigh, N.C. McBride had 16 points in the game.

BAYLOR

38-0, 18-0

BRITTNEY GRINER

23.4 ppg, 9.4 rpg,
199 blocks

ODYSSEY SIMS

14.8 ppg, 4.4 apg, 114
steals, 1.62 assist/TO

DESTINY WILLIAMS

10.2 ppg, 9.2 rpg

KIMETRIA HAYDEN

7.5 ppg, 4.1 rpg

BROOKLYN POPE

7.5 ppg, 5.5 rpg

TEAM – 78.9 ppg, 18.4 apg, 45.3 rpg, 8.55 steals,
+26.9 margin

THREE-POINT .337

OPPONENTS 52.0 ppg

STANFORD

35-1, 16-0

NNEMKADI OGWUMIKE

22.5 ppg, 10.3 rpg, 49
steals, 1.8 apg

CHINEY OGWUMIKE

15.3 ppg, 10.3 rpg, 44
blocks, 47 assists

TONI KOKENIS

9.5 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 3.6 apg,
53 steals

JOSLYN TINKLE

8.9 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 45 blocks,
48 assists

AMBER ORRANGE

4.9 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 3.1 apg,
40 steals

TEAM – 76.8 ppg, 16.8 apg, 43.4 rpg, 6.72 steals,
+22.2 margin

THREE-POINT .316

OPPONENTS 52.22 ppg

Joseph Monardo
Sports Writer



One of the best teams in the country this year, the Irish have played some of their best basketball the last two times out. Also promising, the Irish seem to have the upper hand in the matchup with Connecticut, having won two of three meetings this season and currently on a mission to avenge their Big East championship game loss to the Huskies. Diggins and Peters will lead the Irish on both ends as they overcome UConn and move on to the finals against Baylor. The Irish will have their hands full with the Bears, but their penetrating style will put Griner on the bench with foul trouble early while McBride jumps out to a hot start. Ultimately, Griner and the rest of Baylor will be too much for Notre Dame to contain as the Irish finish as runner-ups for the second straight year.

BOTTOM LINE: Baylor 76, Notre Dame 68

Molly Sammon
Sports Writer



Notre Dame might know Connecticut better than Connecticut knows Connecticut. They've got it down by now, they knew what it took to beat them twice in the regular season, and they got a chance to see what they needed to change in their loss at the Big East Tournament final — keep Connecticut from going on huge runs and they will make it to the finals with no trouble. Baylor will beat Stanford with no obvious problems. The Cardinal regular season schedule was too weak for them to be able to break a team like Baylor's 38-game win streak. Baylor's junior center Brittney Griner and the Bears will see the Irish in the final game on Tuesday. Irish coach McGraw walked away from that game knowing her team didn't defend the entirety of the Baylor offense well enough, so they will improve this time.

BOTTOM LINE: Notre Dame 75, Baylor 72

Matthew Robison
Sports Writer



The Irish have had Connecticut's number this season, beating the Huskies in two of three matchups. The only Connecticut victory came in a virtual second home game in the Big East championship. Diggins, Peters and the Irish will send Auriemma, Hayes and the Huskies packing after the national semifinal. But, as much as I would like to see Muffet McGraw and Notre Dame win another national title, I really don't see anyone getting past Baylor this year. Brittney Griner and the Bears dominated the Irish in the first matchup this year. While I don't see it being another dominant performance, I think Baylor is just too big and strong for Notre Dame's post players. I hope the Irish prove me wrong, but Baylor will edge Notre Dame in a close one.

BOTTOM LINE: Baylor 81, Notre Dame 76

NOTRE DAME

34-3, 15-1

SKYLAR DIGGINS

16.7 ppg, 5.8 apg, 3.3 rpg, 2.6 spg

NATALIE NOVOSEL

15.3 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 47 steals, 1.9 apg

BRITTANY MALLORY

5.8 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 2.0 spg, 2.2 apg

KAYLA MCBRIDE

11.7 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 1.6 spg, 1.8 apg

DEVEREAUX PETERS

11.8 ppg, 9.4 rpg, 1.9 blocks per game, 2.1 apg

TEAM – 79.2 ppg, 18.1 apg, 41.1 rpg, 13.0 spg, +27.7 margin

THREE-POINT .346

OPPONENTS 51.5 ppg

UCONN

33-4, 13-3

MOSQUEDA-LEWIS

15.0 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 1.7 apg, 46 steals

TIFFANY HAYES

14.8 ppg, 5.8 rpg, 3.4 apg, 82 steals

BRIA HARTLEY

13.9 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 3.7 apg, 69 steals

STEPHANIE DOLSON

10.2 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 1.8 apg, 53 blocks

KELLY FARIS

6.6 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 4.3 apg, 77 steals

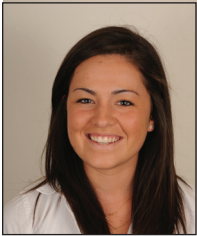
TEAM – 76.4 ppg, 18.8 apg, 41.6 rpg, 11.38 steals, +30.4 margin

THREE-POINT .352

OPPONENTS 46.1 ppg

Kelsey Manning

Sports Writer



The Irish have come up against the Huskies eight times in the post-season, six in the Big East tournament, and twice in the Final Four. And the Irish have lost every one of those contests — aside from the two Final Four matchups. Notre Dame will make that count 3-0 on Sunday led by continued strong postseason play from Diggins. But in the championship, the Irish will not be able to derail Baylor from the first 40-0 season in NCAA basketball history. The last time Notre Dame matched up with the Bears, Griner dropped 32 points, 14 rebounds and six blocked shots. While the Irish have certainly improved defensively since then and will not allow Griner that kind of statline again, Baylor will simply prove too tough and too big for ND and its four-guard system.

BOTTOM LINE: Baylor 84, Notre Dame 78

Chris Masoud

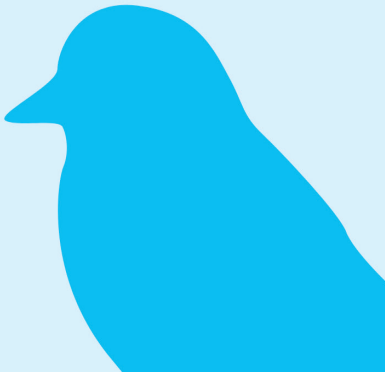
Senior Sports Writer



Conventional wisdom suggests the team that has not lost a game all season, Baylor, led by a national champion coach, Kim Mulkey, and powered by the sport's best player, 6-foot-8 Brittany Griner, will not lose in Denver. But Stanford's senior forward Nnemkadi Ogburn is quietly putting together the best performance in the NCAA tournament thus far, averaging 28 points per game after leading the Cardinal to 28 regular season wins against just one loss. But Notre Dame and Connecticut are peaking at the right time. Despite a first half scare against Kentucky, the Huskies rallied against the Wildcats to reach the Final Four, while the Irish thoroughly pounded Maryland in the Elite Eight. Losing to UConn in the Big East tournament finals was the best thing that happened to Notre Dame, who will start a new winning streak against the Huskies instead of trying to extend an old one to five.

BOTTOM LINE: Stanford 76, Notre Dame 68

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Notre Dame-Connecticut rivalry gains added significance

By MATTHEW ROBISON
Sports Writer

Notre Dame and Connecticut renew their Big East rivalry Sunday night in what will determine the premier team in the conference.

For the last two decades, Connecticut has dominated the Big East. However, recently — and especially this season — Notre Dame has made its claim as the new face of the conference.

In the regular season, the Irish knocked off the Huskies twice, once at Purcell Pavilion and once at the XL Center in Storrs, Conn.

“We’ve played them before,” graduate student guard Brittany Mallory said. “We know what to expect. They know what to expect. So it’s just going to be a good challenge.”

Connecticut got revenge for its two defeats this season when it beat Notre Dame, the Big East regular-season champion, in the conference championship game in Hartford, Conn.

“We beat them twice this year and they have beaten us once so it is an equal matchup,” senior guard Natalie Novosel said. “Going in, it is just going to be all about heart.”

When asked how the loss to the Huskies in the Big East title game will carry over into Sunday, the Irish said they will use it as a means of motivation.

“In a way it is a blessing in disguise,” Novosel said. “We look at it as a revenge game, and we usually do well in revenge games.”

Sunday night’s matchup figures to be the most heated contest of the rivalry to date. Last season, the Huskies swept the Irish in two regular season meetings and beat them in the Big East championship game. In the Final Four, the Irish finally got a win against Connecticut, beating the Huskies to advance to the national cham-

pionship game against Texas A&M.

The Huskies were the No. 1 overall seed, had four-time All-American and AP Player of the Year Maya Moore and were thirsty for a rematch with Stanford, who ended their 90-game winning streak earlier in the season. But Notre Dame came out strong and held on to a 72-63 win, ending a 12-game skid by the Irish in the series.

After the game, it seemed as though Notre Dame had already won its championship — it had beaten Connecticut. The Irish then went on to lose to the Aggies in the title game.

“Last year with Maya Moore, they were the team to beat, we were the underdog,” McGraw said. “We were coming in off the Tennessee win off a high. Nobody expected us to be there.”

This year, Notre Dame might be even hungrier. But Connecticut has been here before. It may not have a single go-to scorer like Moore or Tina Charles, but Huskies coach Geno Auriemma knows how to prepare his players for big games.

“I think when we played UConn, we’ve had a lot of different games with them,” McGraw said. “Stefanie Dolson has really beat us. Bria Hartley’s beat us. I think different people have stepped up in different games and played really well. When you’re playing a team like Connecticut, they’ve had such an equal opportunity team that any one person can step up on a given night and play extremely well.”

Facing such a versatile lineup, the Irish cannot be complacent with their two victories over the Huskies this year. A national championship is the goal.

“Now, people expect us not just to be there, but to win,” McGraw said.

“We beat them twice this year and they have beaten us once so it is an equal matchup ... Going in, it is just going to be all about heart.”

Natalie Novosel
senior guard



MATT SAAD/The Observer

Irish senior guard Natalie Novosel takes a shot during Notre Dame’s 72-63 victory over Connecticut in a 2011 Final Four matchup. Novosel scored 18 of her 22 points in the second half.

The Notre Dame-Connecticut rivalry has reached new heights. The two teams are not only competing for Big East dominance but nation-

al renown. When the ball is tipped Sunday night, it will no longer be about a conference, a rivalry or a history. It will be about two teams’ relentless

pursuit of a national championship.

Contact Matthew Robison at mrobison@nd.edu

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Diggins leads Irish in title hunt



ASHLEY DACY/The Observer

Junior guard Skylar Diggins plays defense during Notre Dame's 81-61 victory over Akron on Nov. 11 in the Purcell Pavilion. Diggins had 21 points, seven assists and four steals in the season opener.

By KELSEY MANNING
Sports Writer

In the midst of racking up nominations for every major national player-of-the-year award, earning spots on three different All-America teams, recording her first career triple-double and claiming the title of Most Outstanding Player of the Raleigh Regional, Irish junior point guard Skylar Diggins remains focused on one thing — winning it all.

“We are not just here to participate,” she said. “We are not just happy to be here. We want to win it.”

This attitude has been evident in Diggins’ postseason performance, as she posted her first career triple-double in No. 4 Notre Dame’s 80-49 rout of No. 5 Maryland in the Raleigh regional final March 27.

Diggins finished the game with 22 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds along with five steals — she was the game’s top performer in all four categories. The feat marked the 13th triple-double in NCAA tournament history, and only the second in a regional final. Diggins also achieved the third triple-double in Notre Dame history, and the first ever in postseason play.

In the wake of the win over Maryland to advance the Irish to the Final Four for the second straight year, Irish coach Muffet McGraw recognized the profound mark Diggins has had on the Notre Dame program.

“This puts us in more elite company,” she said. “This is something that [Diggins] has brought to our program. I think we now have a place with all the elite programs in the country, and I couldn’t be prouder of that.”

Diggins has been showered with national honors, most recently earning a spot on the John Wooden All-American

Team and the 10-player United States Basketball Writers Association All-American Team. These selections indicate the finalists for player-of-the-year awards from both organizations.

But despite all the individual attention, Diggins said her focus is on winning a championship, where it has remained since last year’s loss in the final.

“The loss against Texas A&M has been in our mind for a year now. [We were thinking] ‘When is a championship going to [come]? When is the tournament getting started?’” she said. “I think we tried to win a

championship against Arkansas Pine-Bluff right on the tip [in the first game of the season.] It’s good for us to finally be back here, and get into the last hurrah with the team. And with this team, it is kind of bittersweet, because we are at the end of the season with this team. But that gives us more reason to play for.”

With that in mind, Diggins currently has her gaze set firmly on No. 3 Connecticut, who the Irish will face in the tournament semifinals in what will be the teams’ fourth matchup of the year. Brushing off any notion of the difficulty of beating a team three times in one year, Diggins said she and the team are using the same approach they have all year — one game at a time.

“I don’t think [the difficulty of beating a team three times

in one year] matters. I think it is hard beating them once, especially a team like that,” she said. “It’s the game to get to the championship, so I don’t think it matters who we are playing. The fact that it is UConn, I think we both have some familiarity [with each other].

In a Wednesday teleconference, Huskies coach Geno Auriemma was asked what concerns him the most about playing Notre Dame.

“The most, everything,” he responded. “This is the eighth time we’re playing them in 12 months, and it’s crazy, isn’t it? I mean, it’s just ridiculous. Every-

thing. Everything. I think if you stripped them apart as a team and all the components, you would find they don’t have any weaknesses, and you can’t say that about a lot of teams.”

Some of that praise can definitely be attributed to Diggins, he said.

“Certainly

Skylar Diggins is playing unbelievable basketball right now,” Auriemma said.

Diggins will try to continue this trend, as Notre Dame looks to advance to the national championship game for its second-straight year. And as the Irish take on Connecticut to earn that right, they will look to their junior point guard, who will — as always — have her eye on the prize.

“We know what it is like to get there, but we don’t know what it is like to win it,” Diggins said. “So it’ll be great for us.”

Contact Kelsey Manning at kmannin3@nd.edu



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Clockwise from left: Sophomore forward Natalie Achonwa handles the ball for the Irish during an 80-49 victory over Maryland in the Elite Eight; Notre Dame huddles before its Elite Eight matchup; the Raleigh regional-champion Irish celebrate their victory over Maryland on Tuesday.

MATT SAAD/The Observer



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As a young girl, I had a very great obsession (well to tell the whole fashion truth, I had many, but I'm writing a column, not a memoir so I'll err on the side of brevity for your sake, dear reader).

She was glamorous, international, musical, and quite the femme fatale—and my dream was to one day fill her shoes. Her name was Evita. I first fell under this Argentinian diplomat and dictator's wife's spell when I saw the film adaptation of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical, but it wasn't the rags-to-riches tale, the many lovers or the pure ambition that first caught my impressionable eye. Oh no — it was the montage of the song "Rainbow High." Fur after necklace after hat after shoe is presented in this scene to Eva Peron with unabashed glee. If you haven't seen it, YouTube now, please--you'll never be the same.



Felicia Caponigri

Scene Writer



FELICIA CAPONIGRI/The Observer

Sophomore Andjela Pehar models Neon.

my idol's ideologies, we all must admit the desire to celebrate oneself through dress is common to us all, and secretly, or openly as is the case here, don't we all wish we were in this Argentinian rose's shoes? There are certain times, fellow fashionistas, which call for unabashed, look-at-me-now-I'm-fabulous fashion.

At this moment, we Notre Dame fashionistas are partaking in one of them. Spring has finally arrived, spring break and its restful days have given us renewed vigor, and some of us are just a stiletto heel's length away from graduation. If ever the time to celebrate was at hand, it is now. Even the

weather finally seems to be cooperating! For Gucci's sake, what kind of Evita followers would we be to contest? This spring season, designers are urging us to create our own spotlight--in neon.

The Street Style of Paris, New York and Milan Fashion Weeks turned up our fellow fashionistas in the most eye-catching colors: neon pink, blue, green and even orange.

Instead of those telltale t-shirts that we collegiates are often fond of wearing to sporting events, these neon items come in your classic tailored pieces--cuffed pants, blazers and exquisitely-cut blouses.

These key pieces morph into colorful, eye-catching highlights, proving these colorful bursts don't just need to draw our eyes to key pieces of academic information as high-lighters do in our textbooks. They can also serve as a useful reminder to



Photo courtesy of macys.com

Michael Kors Neon Bag, macys.com, \$125.99



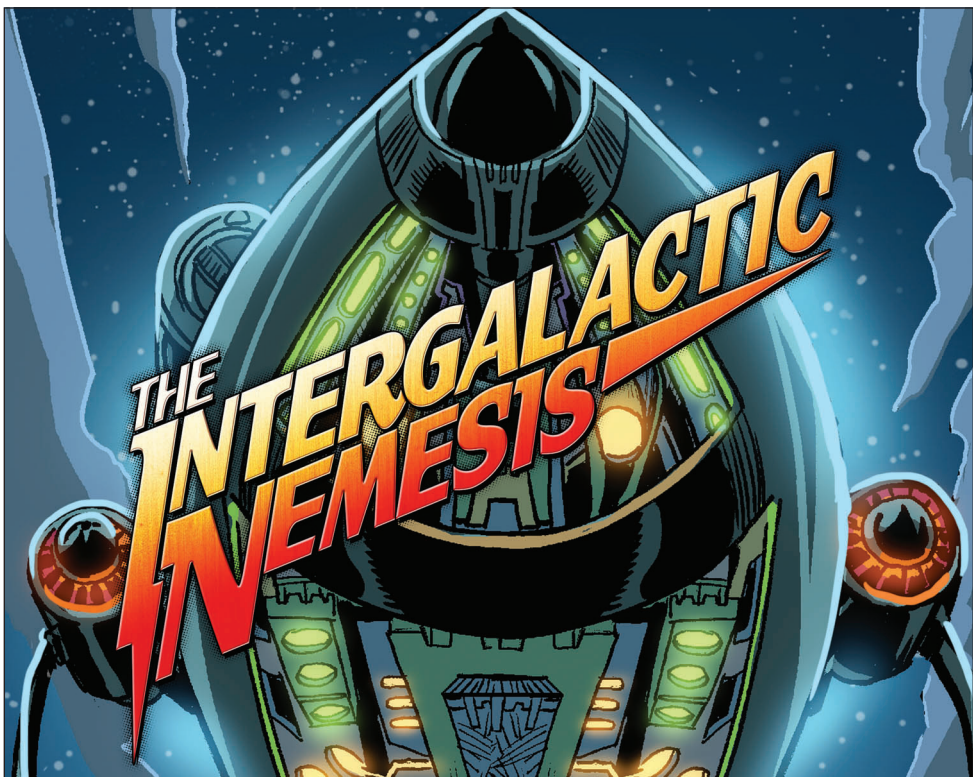
Photo courtesy of asos.com

Asos Neon Dress, asos.com, \$69.80

on stiletto — no one will be able to keep their eyes off your gams when your heel is bright neon yellow. Don't cry for me, Evita — I'm neon high now.

Contact Felicia Caponigri at fcaponig@nd.edu

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



By KEVIN NOONAN
Scene Editor

In 1938, Orson Welles incited a countrywide riot with his radio-play adaptation of H.G. Wells' science fiction classic, "War of the Worlds." Around the same time was the boom of the graphic novel.

Those forms of media have somewhat died out through the years, as technology has advanced, but for artists like Jason Neulander, they remain a continuing source of inspiration for unique storytelling techniques.

Neulander's show, "Intergalactic Nemesis," which he created and stars in, combines the two into a one-of-a-kind live-action graphic novel.

His performance consists of a full graphic novel of over 1,000 frames projected onto a screen behind the stage, three voice actors who provide the speech for all characters in the show, a Foley artist who makes the sound effects on stage for the audience to see and a pianist who performs the score live.

"We've created a comic book series to tell the story, and we project the art work from those books, panel by panel, without the word balloons. It's a total one-of-a-kind [show]. There's really isn't anything else like it out there at all," Neulander said.

The story not only combines the presentation techniques of a radio play and graphic novel, but the plot structure as well. Like many of the pulp fiction stories of the early 1900s, "Nemesis" is a science fiction adventure following a hero who must save a damsel in distress. But the story is far more than it might seem.

"The show definitely has a broader appeal than just comic book fans. It really is like an homage to and embracing of the storytelling that 'Star Wars' and 'Raiders of the Lost Ark' had. If you're a fan of imagination and adventures and fun, and you like to laugh, then the 'Intergalactic Nemesis' is probably a show for you," Neulander said.

"Now if you're one of the people that doesn't like fun and if you don't like to laugh, then you're probably clear."

The idea for the show came to Neulander in an epiphany, when he realized he needed to do something a little different in order to entertain large audiences.

"This actually started as a radio play, and I got invited to bring it into this 2,400-seat theater in Austin, and I just felt that venue was too big for the experience of watching a radio play be performed. And so it kind of hit me in a flash, the idea of projecting comic book artwork to tell the story visually," Neulander said.

And the audience loved it.

"I have been producing and directing plays for about 20 years, and no one has responded to anything I've ever done the way audiences respond to this. It's a m a z - ing."

"Intergalactic Nemesis" will be

performed in the Leighton Concert Hall in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center on Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for students.

Contact Kevin Noonan at knoonan2@nd.edu



Photo courtesy of David Hutchison



Photo courtesy of intergalacticonemesis.com

"The Intergalactic Nemesis" stage.

SPORTS AUTHORITY

Don't forget to tune in to the Frozen Four

One of the most exciting annual events on the sports calendar takes place next weekend.

And chances are, almost none of you will watch it.

The Frozen Four of the men's NCAA hockey tournament commences in not-so-frozen Tampa, Fla., next Thursday night with two semifinal games, followed by the national championship two days later.

Playoff hockey at every level is more than exhilarating, and college hockey is no exception. After a weekend of twelve intense contests in four regionals, the tournament field has been whittled from 16 to four for what should provide some of the best hockey yet in the season's final three games.

The Frozen Four is typically filled with great moments, as was the case last year. As many might remember, Minnesota-Duluth edged Notre Dame by a goal in the semifinals, while Michigan just hung on to defeat North Dakota in the other game that was in doubt until a late empty-net goal. And in the finale, overtime was needed as the Bulldogs defeated the Wolverines to win their first-ever national championship.

In fact, two of the past three national championship games have gone to overtime: last year's and the 2009 title game between Miami and Boston University. That instant classic provided a remarkable finish when the RedHawks were up 3-1 on the Terriers with less than one minute left in regulation ... and lost. Overall, it has taken more than 60 minutes to decide the national champion seven of the past 16 seasons. And if there is one thing in this world more exciting than playoff hockey, it's overtime playoff hockey.

There have been some duds of Frozen Fours in the past, such as 2010, when the closest of the three games was decided by five goals. But that is the exception, not the rule. And the storylines this season just add to the intrigue.

In one semifinal, there is Boston College and Minne-



Sam Gans
Sports Writer

sota, two powerhouse programs that have combined for nine national championships. On the other side of the bracket, you have newcomers Ferris State and Union, each making its first-ever appearance in the Frozen Four, with a combined total of five NCAA tournament wins in their histories.

In a way, it is similar to last year's men's basketball Final Four, with juggernauts Kentucky and Connecticut matching in one semifinal and Cinderellas VCU and Butler in the other. Except unlike the basketball tournament, with No. 3, No. 4, No. 8 and No. 11 seeds competing, these four teams might actually be the best four teams in America.

Boston College is the tournament's top overall seed and Union also earned a No. 1 seed, while Minnesota and Ferris State were awarded No. 2 seeds. All four squads won their respective conferences in the regular season. So even though the Bulldogs and Dutchmen don't have the name recognition of the Eagles and Gophers, they have proven their ability on the ice this year.

College hockey is a niche sport and one that I really did not appreciate until attending this university and covering Irish hockey. While Notre Dame has good student support for its hockey team, it does not extend to national interest, especially after the Irish did not qualify for the NCAA tournament this season. Therefore, it is quite easy for many to overlook the Frozen Four.

Doing so would be a mistake. The excitement of playoff hockey, the illustrious history of Frozen Four's past and the unique story of two elite, small-name teams competing with two historically dominant programs for the ultimate prize will combine for incredible sporting drama.

Hopefully, you choose to tune in.

Contact Sam Gans at sgans@nd.edu

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

NFL

Decision still pending for Saints

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Decisions are still pending on a possible appeal of Sean Payton's suspension or an interim coach should his season-long punishment be upheld, a person familiar with the situation said.

The person says Payton, general manager Mickey Loomis and their staffs were in meetings at the team's suburban headquarters Thursday and focused primarily on preparations for next month's NFL draft. The person spoke to The Associated Press Thursday on condition of anonymity because the Saints have not announced their plans.

"Everyone is working hard, in draft meetings, et cetera ... trying to get better," the person said.

Payton's suspension in connection with the Saints' bounty scandal is slated to begin on Sunday, and NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell has said he has until Monday to appeal.

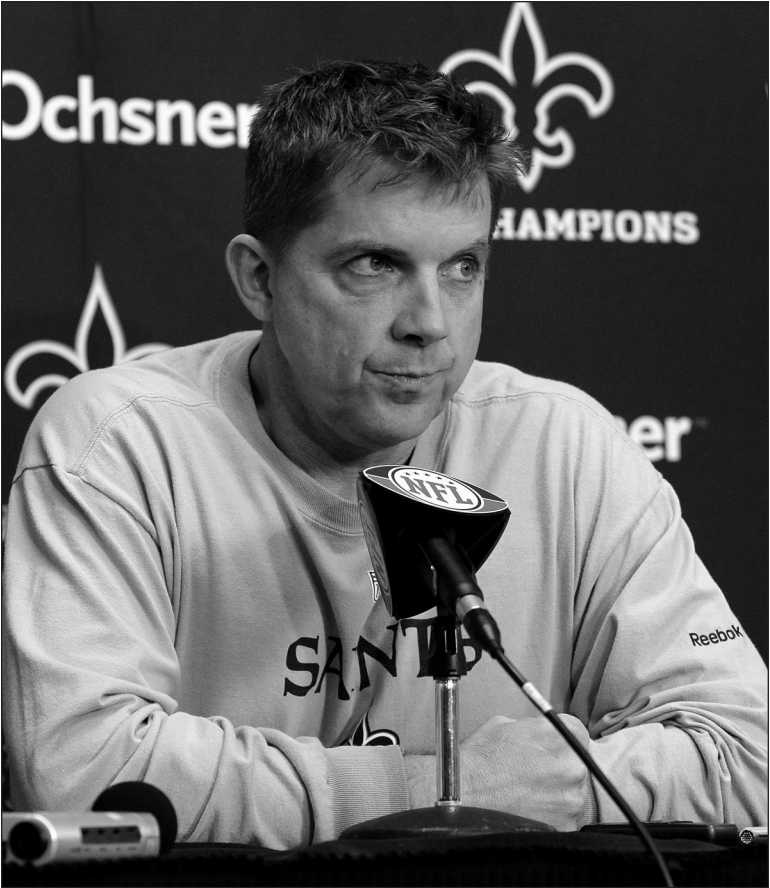
Payton has sought advice on the matter from his friend and retired coach Bill Parcells, who has told several media outlets he'd consider taking the Saints' interim coaching job if Payton, his protégé, asked him to take over.

"I had plenty of opportunities to do things with different teams, and I've turned them all down," Parcells, who turns 71 in August, told the New York Daily News. "But this one is special. This guy is like family to me. And if I could help him, I would."

Payton began working with Parcells in 2003, when he was hired as an offensive assistant with the Dallas Cowboys. The two have been close ever since and Payton, throughout his six seasons as New Orleans' head coach, has continued consulting his mentor on numerous matters, including how to handle preparations for the 2010 Super Bowl.

However, the Saints must clear up several matters before they can choose an interim coach. They must not only decide whether to appeal, but would have to see if an appeal resulted in a reduced punishment.

If Payton's punishment is upheld, the Saints could then proceed with finding an interim coach either from their own staff or outside the organization. If the Saints choose the latter approach and Parcells becomes a top candidate, the club would still



Saints coach Sean Payton answers questions at a press conference Wednesday. Payton is considering appealing his year-long suspension.

have to interview a minority candidate under the NFL's "Rooney Rule."

"I don't know how this is going to play out," Parcells, who was a Hall of Fame finalist this year, told the newspaper. "I really don't know anything about the situation. There's a lot of things going on here, and I would suspect it's going to take a while to all sort out."

There are also three strong candidates among Saints assistants to take over as interim coach: offensive coordinator Pete Carmichael, defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo and offensive line coach Aaron Kromer. Payton expressed confidence in the abilities of his own assistants to compensate for his absence, but also has voiced some misgivings about saddling those coaches with additional responsibilities.

"We feel like we've got a number of good candidates" on the staff, Payton said earlier this week at NFL meetings in Florida. "The trick then is what it does to affect their roles that they currently have."

The appeal process itself, should Payton choose that route, is not expected to give him much additional time to work. Goodell has said he would expedite that process, indicating that it is highly unlikely Payton would be able to keep working through

the draft in late April if he files an unsuccessful appeal.

That is why Payton is spending long hours with Loomis, other coaches and scouts reviewing draft prospects this week. Payton said he has also laid out plans for the offseason training program and the beginning of training camp, up until the Saints play Arizona in the Hall of Fame game Aug. 5 in Canton, Ohio.

If this is indeed Payton's final week of work in 2012, Loomis will be able to oversee the draft and handle other roster moves up until the season starts. Then he is slated to serve his eight-game suspension for failing to put a stop to the bounty system in a timely way. Assistant head coach Joe Vitt, who also coaches linebackers, is facing a six-game suspension.

The NFL's investigation in New Orleans found that Payton initially lied to league investigators about the existence of a bounty and instructed his defensive assistants to do the same. Payton twice apologized for his role in an enterprise that offered payouts for knocking out opponents, saying he takes "full responsibility" for a system that operated for three years under his watch.

The NFL has said as many as 27 players also could be sanctioned for their role in the scandal.

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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<http://pregnancysupport@nd.edu>

High Hopes
By Frank Sinatra

Next time your found with your chin on the ground. There's a lot to be learned so look around, Just what makes that little old ant.

Think he'll move that little rubber tree plant Anyone knows an ant can't move that little tree plant.

But he's got high hopes, he's got high hopes, he's got high apple pie, in the sky hopes So any time you're getting low. 'stead of letting go just remember that ant Oops there goes

Another rubber tree plant When trouble calls and your back's to the wall

Once there was a silly old ram, thought he'd punch a hole in a dam No one could make that ram scam He kept buttin' that dam But he's got high hopes He's got high hopes

He's got high apple pie In the sky hopes RIP Harry Kalas

[Chorus]



Senior Casey Watt returns a serve in an Irish home game against Maryland on March 4. The Irish won 5-2.

Andrews

continued from page 20

that match, so we take them pretty seriously. We feel we are playing well and we are really not particularly afraid of anybody, so we expect to do well.”

In the evening, Irish will head indoors to the Eck Tennis Pavilion to face off against a St. Bonaventure (1-9), a team entering the match with only one victory in their spring season thus far. As it is the second match of the day, the Irish may send out an atypical lineup to meet the Bonnies,

Bayliss said.

“I think we will be careful not to push anybody too hard or cause an injury,” Bayliss said. “We think we’ve got eight or nine guys that are all pretty capable of winning in singles and I wouldn’t be surprised if two or three of those guys get in to play in the second match.”

The Irish have not played since a 4-3 loss to South Florida on March 17 in Tampa Bay, Fla., but thanks to an extended stay in Florida and unseasonably warm weather in South Bend the past two weeks, the Irish had the opportunity to consistently play outdoors.

“Fortunately, the weather has really cooperated with us,” Bayliss said. “We got to practice and play for nine straight days in 85 to 90-degree temperatures in Tampa. When we got back here, we still had the 80-degree mark, and it was a big surprise.”

Two months remain in the spring season for the Irish, including the Big East championships and NCAA tournament. With the warm weather, the Irish have been able to practice outdoors, something Bayliss said is crucial, as the majority of these matches will be played in these competitions.

“When you are indoors, it’s easier to go through your shots more and be aggressive and you get rewarded for taking some chances,” Bayliss said. “When you are outdoors, you have to focus on the depth of your shots and your placement, and be more patient and work the ball a little bit more before your opportunity comes.”

“So we’ve tried to increase our threshold of how many balls we can make in a row and make sure that feeds into the rest of the year for us.”

As the Irish look to their matches Saturday and what remains on their springschedule, they have one thought on their mind, Bayliss said.

“The goal is to win everything else we play,” Bayliss said. “We’d like to think that if we play well, we can win any of [the remaining] matches and the goal is to win them all.”

The Irish face off against Ball State at 11 a.m. at the Courtney Tennis Center, followed by a 6 p.m. match with St. Bonaventure in the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

Contact Peter Steiner at psteiner@nd.edu

SMC Softball

No. 24 Lady Reds sweep Belles in doubleheader

By MATT UNGER
Sports Writer

Matched against No. 24 Carthage (Wisc.) on Thursday, Saint Mary’s had little room for error. But the Belles (13-7, 0-2 MIAA) faced early deficits in both games of a home doubleheader and could not muster enough offense to avoid back-to-back 8-0 and 12-5 losses to the Lady Reds (12-2).

In the first game, Carthage quickly grabbed a 2-0 lead in the second when freshman right fielder Olivia Scott drilled a two-run home run to center off of sophomore pitcher Carlie Selner. Selner did not receive support from her defense in the third and fifth innings as the Lady Reds tacked on four unearned runs in those frames to extend their lead to 6-0. The Belles made five errors in the first game.

“Our defense was all over the place today,” Saint Mary’s coach Erin Sullivan said. “Our errors piled on as we let physical errors turn into mental ones and made the same mistakes repeatedly.”

Meanwhile, Lady Reds junior pitcher Krystina Leazer held Saint Mary’s offense to just one hit. She pitched a complete game shutout, allowing only two base runners on a hit and a walk. While Leazer was not overpowering — only striking out four — she induced bad contact from Belles hitters, resulting in a number of ground ball outs.

“Our hitters looked very anxious today,” said Sullivan. “They all felt the weight of the world on their shoulders. [Leazer] is a good pitcher, but we made her look a lot better today with our at-bats.”

Leazer improved to 8-1 on the season with the win, while Selner dropped to 6-4 with the loss.

In Game 2, the second inning

proved even more disastrous for the Belles, as the Lady Reds scored seven. After recording three straight outs to start the game, senior pitcher Monica Palicki failed to escape the second. Carthage batted around and played small ball, recording eight singles in the inning.

With one out in the second and trailing 7-0, Palicki was replaced by senior Angela Gillis, who would pitch the remaining 5.2 innings.

However, the Belles offense showed signs of life in the third inning. Trailing 8-0, junior catcher Morgan Bedan stroked an RBI double to right field. The Belles would add two more in the inning on a Selner single.

In the bottom of the fifth, Bedan, who finished 2-for-3, drilled a 2-run home run to right-center field to cut the Belles deficit to 9-5.

But Carthage quickly ended Saint Mary’s comeback hopes by responding with three runs in the top of the sixth to retake control of the game.

“Today was a situation where we didn’t have fun,” Sullivan said. “We can’t put too much pressure on ourselves, as we’re capable of competing in a very good MIAA conference.”

Senior Alyssa Schrader (4-1) pitched a complete game for the win, but allowed 11 hits in doing so. Four Belles players recorded two hits, including senior centerfielder Lauren Enayati and junior shortstop Emily Sherwood in addition to Selner and Bedan.

Meanwhile, Palicki (6-1) suffered her first loss of the season after she could not escape the second.

The Belles will not play again until April 5, when they resume MIAA play and host Calvin for a doubleheader at home beginning at 3:30 p.m.

Contact Matt Unger at munger3@nd.edu

SMC Tennis

Saint Mary’s prepares to recover against Alma

By ISAAC LORTON
Sports Writer

Coming off a tough conference loss against Albion, Saint Mary’s will look to bounce back against another conference front-runner when they take on Alma this afternoon.

Tuesday’s score may have been 8-1 in favor of Albion (6-2, 2-0 MIAA), but Belles coach Dale Campbell feels the team is not far from the top.

“Even though the score was 8-1, I did not feel we got blown out like the score shows,” Campbell said. “We did really well at the number-two spot in doubles and won that match. Both the one and three teams had close matches, but didn’t come through. In individuals, we are getting there.”

The Belles (7-5, 1-1) hope to use their home-court advantage against the Scots (8-2, 2-0) on Friday.

“Playing at home is always good for us,” Campbell said. “I think traveling definitely can affect our play, and will affect our opponents.”

Although still early on in conference play, in order to keep hope alive for a conference championship, the Belles need to capture the next two victories against Alma and Trine.

“We really do need to win the next two games, for sure,” Campbell said.

“We realize Albion was the defending champion, and we realize it was a tough loss, but the next two games will dictate our conference season.”

The Belles had swapped players between the top two doubles teams in their match against Albion, but are switching back to the lineup they had previously.

“We are going to try and switch back and play with the lineup a bit in the next coming match-ups,” Campbell said. “We are going to experiment a bit, and see how it goes.”

Sophomore Mary Catherine Faller and freshman Audrey Kiefer will be back again in the top doubles spot and freshmen Shannon Elliot and Kayle Sexton will team up again at the No. 2 spot.

“I think switching things up comes with the game,” Campbell said. “I think since they have spent so much time practicing together, there will be good communication and all of these switches will go over smoothly. Right now, this is the best option. This will give us an even spread in the doubles matches.”

As for singles play, there will be no changes made for the game against Alma.

Contact Isaac Lorton at ilorton@nd.edu

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TRACK AND FIELD

Irish travel cross country for multi-athlete events



Senior All-American heptathlete Maddie Buttinger clears the high jump in the Alex Wilson Invitational on March 2.

By BRIAN HARTNETT
Sports Writer

Irish pentathletes and heptathletes spent Thursday competing in venues across the country, with three members of the team wrapping up competition at the Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays in Austin, Texas and three athletes commencing competition at the Eastern Illinois Multi-Events Invitational in Charleston, Ill.

In Texas, senior Maddie Buttinger and freshman Carly Loeffel competed in the final three events of the women's heptathlon, with Buttinger finishing sixth in the final overall standings and Loeffel finishing in 19th place. Buttinger put up strong showings in the long jump, finishing fifth, and in the 800-meter run, where she crossed the finish line in sixth. On the men's side, junior Ted Glasnow competed in the final five events of the pentathlon, taking 14th place in the final overall standings. Glasnow started the day with a victory in the discus throw, taking first with a throw of 42.22 meters, but struggled later on, failing to register a top-ten finish in the other four events. Irish coach Joe Piane said he was satisfied with the results from Texas, particularly those of Buttinger.

"I would say that Maddie did well, not great," Piane said. "Her performance might be good enough to qualify her for the NCAAs, but she has done

significantly better in the past."

Meanwhile, in Illinois, sophomore Meghan Moore competed in the first four events of the women's heptathlon, finishing just outside the top five with a score of 2,710 points. Moore's top showing came in the 200-meter dash, where she finished fifth, with a time of 26.16 seconds. Junior Alex Bavis, junior Dean Odegard and freshman Carson Barnes represented the Irish in the first five events of the men's decathlon, with Odegard racking up 3,134 points, Barnes earning 3,059 points and Bavis compiling 2,329 points. Top finishes included Barnes' fourth-place finishes in the 100-meter dash and long jump, as well as Odegard's fifth-place finish in the high jump.

The majority of Notre Dame's athletes will return to competition on Friday, when the Irish travel to West Lafayette, Ind. for the Purdue Poehlein Invitational. The Irish will send over 60 competitors to the meet, which will feature over 550 athletes from 13 schools.

The Irish will look to continue their success from last weekend's season-opening Victor Lopez Invitational, where the Irish claimed five victories and several top finishes. The Irish took victories in the men's hammer throw, won by senior thrower Andy Hills, the women's hammer throw, won by sophomore thrower Vivien Devaney, the women's 1500-meter

event, won by sophomore Kelly Curran, the men's 3000-meter steeplechase, won by senior Jordan Carlson and the men's pole vault, won by senior Kevin Schipper.

"This meet gives a lot of guys an opportunity to get qualified for the Big East," Piane said. "Some people already qualified last week, so we'll hopefully get more this week and continue on until the Big East."

Piane said he was looking forward to watching the steeplechase and several field events — including the discus, hammer and javelin — only offered in the outdoor season. With victories by Hills, Devaney and Carlson last weekend, the Irish look to be strong in these outdoor events.

Despite the team's strong start, Piane noted the Irish are still far from reaching their full potential.

"Every area needs to improve," Piane said. "Even if you're the best team in the NCAAs, you still have to improve, and we've got a lot of room for improvement."

Irish pentathletes and heptathletes will finish competition at the Eastern Illinois Multi-Events Invitational on Friday, while the remainder of the team will start competition at the Purdue Poehlein Invitational, which runs through Saturday.

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TENNIS

Disputed final point leaves Sharapova with win in semifinals



Maria Sharapova celebrates after winning her match against Caroline Wozniacki in the Sony Ericsson Tournament on Thursday.

Associated Press

KEY BISCAINE, Fla. — Maria Sharapova was confused and Caroline Wozniacki was

mad. The linesman was wrong and the chair umpire was right. Sharapova won the disputed final point after an overrule by the umpire, edging Wozniacki

4-6, 6-2, 6-4 Thursday in the semifinals at the Sony Ericsson Open.

"Obviously you don't want it to end that way," Sharapova said.

At 40-30 in the last game, Sharapova hit a second serve that the linesman called long, which would have been a double-fault, but umpire Kader Nouni immediately reversed the ruling and ordered the point replayed. The call couldn't be reviewed because Wozniacki had no challenges left, although TV replays showed Nouni was correct to overrule.

Sharapova was awarded two serves and took advantage with a big first serve to set up an overhead slam for the victory.

Wozniacki, angry about the overrule, declined to shake Nouni's hand and had words with him as she walked to the exit.

"It was a pretty crucial point," she said. "When the ball is so close, I think he should give her a chance to challenge, at least when I don't have any challenges."

Sharapova said she didn't realize Wozniacki had no challenges left, and added she would have challenged the call herself had it not been overruled.

"It's obviously a tough situation to be in," Sharapova said, "because it's so close to the end of the match, and both of us had fought so hard for over two hours."

Top-ranked Novak Djokovic advanced to the semifinals without argument, beating No. 5 David Ferrer 6-2, 7-6 (1).

Djokovic lost a remarkable 40-shot rally that had spectators gasping as it progressed, but he played a nearly flawless tie-breaker to seal the victory.

Djokovic seeks his third Key Biscayne title and second in a row. His opponent Friday night will be No. 21 Juan Monaco, who advanced on his 28th birthday by eliminating the last American in either singles draw, No. 8 Mardy Fish. The scrappy Monaco dominated from the baseline and hit only eight second serves during the 6-1, 6-3 victory.

"This is the way to celebrate my birthday, playing like this," Monaco said. "I feel proud and very happy."

With the departure of defending champion Victoria Azarenka, the tournament is guaranteed a first-time women's winner. Sharapova's opponent Saturday will be the winner of Thursday night's match between No. 5 Agnieszka Radwanska and No. 7 Marion Bartoli, who handed the top-ranked Azarenka her first loss of the year Wednesday.

The No. 2-seeded Sharapova improved to 4-0 in Key Biscayne semifinals. She's 0-3 in finals at the event, losing every set.

"I'm happy that I gave myself another chance to go out there and try to change that," said Sharapova, who attended the tournament several times as a fan when she was a youngster training in Florida.

Sharapova will play in her second successive final and third this year. She was runner-up at the Australian Open in January and at Indian Wells

two weeks ago.

Wozniacki, a former No. 1 now ranked sixth, fell to 1-7 lifetime against opponents ranked in the top two.

Sharapova was in an attacking mode against the Dane, a relentless retriever whose defense helped her beat Serena Williams in the quarterfinals.

Sharapova went for winners at every opportunity and hit 55, but she also committed 46 unforced errors. Wozniacki totaled only 13 winners and 25 errors.

"Being aggressive is really the key," Sharapova said. "If you let her play many, many balls, she's such a great mover around the court and she can be out here for many hours, and that's not really my game."

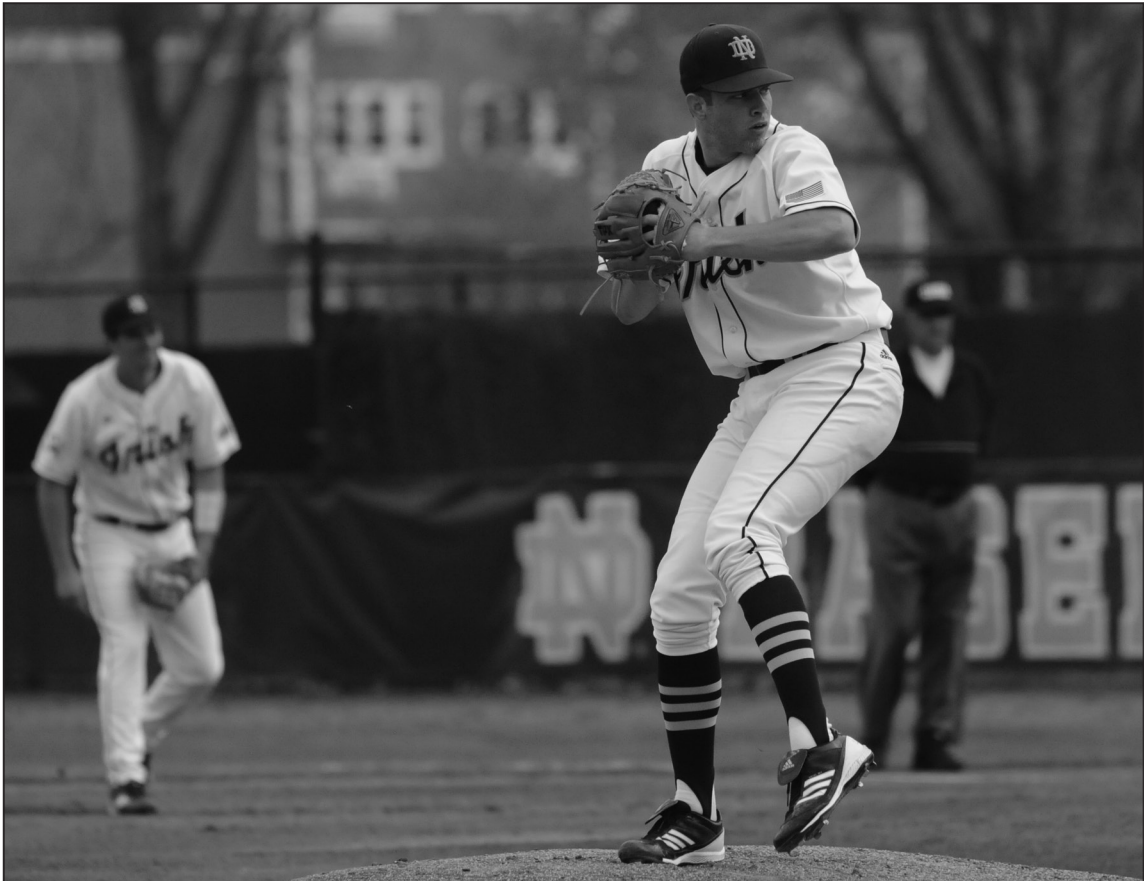
Sharapova was a point away from a 5-1 lead in the opening set but then began overhitting her forehand, which allowed Wozniacki to sweep five consecutive games and take the set.

Shrieking with each shot, Sharapova regained her accuracy thereafter. By the time she led 4-love in the second set, she had a 27-4 advantage in winners.

She went ahead 5-2 in the final set before Wozniacki staged one last rally, which fell short amid the fuss at the finish.

"Maria started off really well and played aggressively," Wozniacki said. "She played some good tennis out there. I tried to do my best, and it just wasn't enough."

Sharapova improved to 17-1 in three-set matches since the beginning of 2011.



DILLON WEISNER/The Observer

Junior right hand pitcher Adam Norton winds up during an Irish game March 23 against Pittsburgh in Frank Eck Stadium. The Irish won 6-5.

Pitchers

continued from page 20

ration has been good this week. So I'm looking forward to getting out of Fitz what we would have anticipated getting out of him at the very beginning of the year."

Aoki also said he would like to see tighter fielding from his players after Wednesday's 8-5 loss to UIC — which saw three more errors from the Irish — but overall, the coach was confident in Notre Dame's chances going into the weekend.

"In comparison to the way we've played against UIC the other night, I'd like to get us back to taking care

of the baseball a little better than we did," Aoki said. "Offensively, we've been fairly steady all year and I'd like to be able to see that. I'd like to see a little more production out of whoever we're playing at shortstop, but overall I just want us to go down there and do a really, really good job of competing and playing hard."

Aoki said senior outfielder Alex Robinson will be returning to the Irish lineup over the weekend. Robinson, who is batting .344, has been out with injury and last played in Notre Dame's 12-4 home-opening victory over Eastern Michigan.

Aoki said the Irish will have their work cut out for them against the Bulls' starting pitching. Junior right-

handed pitcher Joey Lovecchio took a no-hit bid into the eighth inning on March 12 against Yale, and the Bulls have already thrown four shutouts this season.

"Their strength certainly lies in their starting pitching, but they've got some guys who swing the bat pretty well," Aoki said. "They're a solid all-around team, and so we're going to have to play quite well in order to try and win the series."

Friday's first pitch will be thrown at 7 p.m. in Tampa, Fla. Saturday's game will begin at 6 p.m., and the series finale will start at 1 p.m. on Sunday.

Contact Vicky Jacobsen at vjacobsen@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S GOLF

Irish prepare to face ranked opponents

By NICK BOYLE
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will travel to the University of Georgia Golf Club in Athens, Ga., this weekend to take on the field in the 40th Annual Liz Murphey Collegiate Classic.

The competition features six teams ranked in the top-25 nationally, and will prove to be a good test for the Irish, who are excited to compete against some of the best squads in the nation.

"We got here early [Thursday morning] and had a really good practice round," Irish coach Susan Holt said. "The team is really upbeat and ready to compete."

To hang with some of the best in the nation, the Irish will have to be at the top of

their game.

"We need to get consistent play for all three days," Holt said. "We need lower scores across the board and to avoid any score over 80. [Scores over 80 have] been our biggest problem this season. Against the level of competition we play, we can't have scores that high. We just need to be more consistent across the board."

The Irish are no strangers to playing against the nation's top competition, with every tournament they've played in thus far sporting multiple top-25 teams. Still, Holt says her team welcomes the regular challenge.

"Our tournament schedule has been very challenging this season, providing us an opportunity to compete against top teams in the country on a regular basis," Holt said. "There are three or four teams in the top-10 here this weekend. It's a really good opportunity to see where we stand. Our players are very excited to compete against the best."

While Holt will look to senior captain Becca Huffer for leadership, she knows that it will take a great team effort to compete this weekend.

"We need a big team effort from our players," Holt said. "We have five talented golfers. It would be nice to have four out of five to step up each day. We haven't been able to get that done yet this season, but with a little focus and consistency, we can get there."

The Irish tee off the 40th Annual Liz Murphey Collegiate Classic today in Athens, Ga.

Contact Nick Boyle at nboyle1@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

No. 17 Notre Dame to host No. 49 DePaul



ALEX PARTAK/The Observer

Senior Kristy Frilling returns a serve in 6-1 loss against Duke on March 3 in the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

By KATIE HEIT
Sports Writer

After a dominating shutout of Big East opponent Marquette on Sunday, the Irish will look to keep the success going when they take on DePaul at home on Saturday.

The No. 17 Irish (13-5) have had a series of strong showings in recent weeks, winning eight of their last ten matches. With three ranked players in singles, a top-five senior doubles pair, and an 8-2 record at home, Notre Dame is looking to continue that momentum in the last six matches leading up to the Big East championships.

Senior Kristy Frilling, ranked 84th in the country, said DePaul (10-5) has always proven to be a challenging opponent for the Irish.

"They're probably one of the strongest in the Big East," Frilling said. "We always really look forward to playing them."

Frilling and fellow senior and doubles partner Shannon Mathews were ranked No. 1 in the country after spring break, but have struggled since receiving the top ranking. In the match against Marquette (10-6), the senior pair split up and played with younger players to balance out the doubles competition. The

team swept all three doubles matches.

Against DePaul, Mathews and Frilling will reunite and attempt to turn their luck around.

"I think we were just playing tentatively and thinking 'We have to win, we should win,'" Frilling said. "It's a mental thing that we have to get over. We have to play loose and play how we know we can. We can't hold back anything."

DePaul has lost four of their last six matches, but they are still a force to be reckoned with in the Big East. They have had four shutout wins this season, and have won the doubles point in nearly all of their victories.

Frilling said she and Mathews are focusing on enjoying their last few weeks as college athletes more than on where they are ranked.

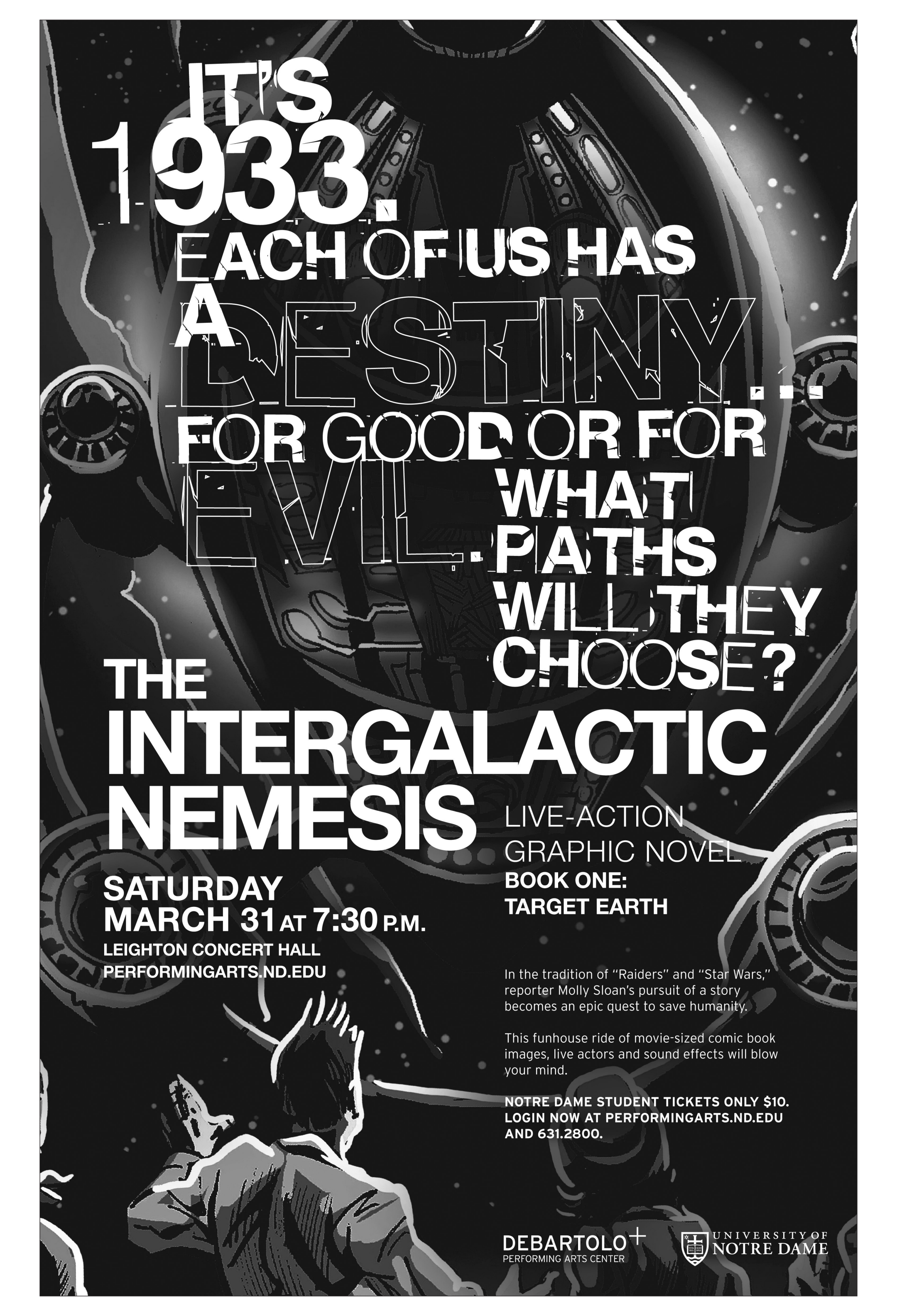
"We're just really trying to enjoy our last month and a half," Frilling said. "I'm really just trying to make sure I'm having fun. I want to look back on these four years and be really happy with everything I did."

The Irish hit the courts on Saturday at 2 p.m. at the Courtney Tennis Center.

Contact Katie Heit at kheit@nd.edu

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NHL

Laich closes shootout to give Capitals win over Bruins



Capitals defenseman John Carlson, left, celebrates with goalie Michael Neuvirth after defeating the Bruins 3-2 on Thursday.

Associated Press

BOSTON — Brooks Laich scored in the fourth round of a shootout to give Washington a 3-2 victory over the Boston Bruins on Thursday night and help the Capitals keep pace in the Eastern Conference play-off race.

Washington is tied with Buffalo with 86 points in pursuit of the eighth and final playoff spot in the East. The Sabres remain ahead because they have five games remaining and the Capitals have four.

The Bruins could have clinched a playoff berth with a win. The defending Stanley Cup champions will try again when they play the New York Islanders on Saturday.

Marcus Johansson had a goal and an assist in a 1:55 span midway through the third period to give Washington a 2-0 lead. But the Bruins tied it with two goals in the final 3:10, by David Krejci and Andrew Ference.

Tim Thomas made 21 saves for the Bruins. Michal Neuvirth stopped 19 shots after coming in at the end of the first period when Tomas Vok-

oun left with an apparent injury.

No information about Vokoun's condition was immediately available.

Washington came into the game trailing idle Buffalo by two points, but the importance of the game did not seem to register. The Capitals managed just one shot in the first 8 minutes, and just two overall in the first period.

They did not help themselves when Jason Chimera was given a game misconduct late in the first for a charge that sent Adam McQuaid into the boards and knocked him out of the game. No further information on McQuaid's condition was immediately available.

The Capitals killed off the 5-minute major, but not before Vokoun headed to the locker room. Still, Neuvirth managed to keep them in it until the third period.

Wideman, a former Bruin, beat Thomas over his left shoulder with 12:01 remaining in regulation. Less than 2 minutes later, Alexander Ovechkin picked up his second assist when he worked a 2-on-1 and drew Zdeno Chara

out to the left circle before feeding to Johansson in the middle for another goal.

It stayed that way until Chara flipped a wrist shot from the blue line toward the net and Krejci tipped it out of the air and into the goal with 3:10 to play in the third period. Just 1:55 later, Andrew Ference put it past Neuvirth to tie it and send the game into overtime.

Each team had good chances to score in overtime. But it came down to a shootout.

Krejci missed, then Matt Hendricks faked Thomas out so badly that the reigning Vezina Trophy-winner fell on his behind. Tyler Seguin tied it 1-1 with a backhand, then Ovechkin missed, putting it off Thomas glove and high into the netting above the glass.

Patrice Bergeron put the puck through Neuvirth's legs to give Boston a 2-1 lead in the shootout, but Alexander Semin's backhand tied it.

In sudden death, Rich Peverly put it off the goalie's left pad, then Laich went straight in and shot the puck into the goal over Thomas' glove to give the Capitals the win.

MLB

White Sox leave Dodgers with questions for future



White Sox pitcher Chris Sale throws in the fifth inning of a spring training game Thursday against the Dodgers in Glendale, Ariz. Chicago won 3-1, with Sale yielding one run in six innings.

Associated Press

GLENDAL, Ariz. — The Los Angeles Dodgers are left with four spring training games and a couple of key questions following a 3-1 loss Thursday to the Chicago White Sox.

The Dodgers began packing up for the trip home after Sunday's game with the Arizona Diamondbacks at Camelback Ranch, hopeful that major injuries aren't coming with them.

"I feel like we are pretty much ready," said Dodgers manager Don Mattingly, whose club plays split-squad games Friday and the Diamondbacks in Scottsdale on Saturday before departing after Sunday's finale for a three-game exhibition series next week against the Angels.

"This time of year, you just need to stay healthy," Mattingly said.

Chris Sale allowed one run and struck out seven, including his first five batters, in six innings and Trayce Thompson homered to lead the White Sox.

Sale (1-1) fanned Matt Kemp three times, and then Matt Thornton struck out last season's runner-up for National League MVP in the ninth. Kemp has struck out 21 times in 52 at-bats this spring.

"It would concern me if he took it half-heartedly," Mattingly said of Kemp. "Obviously, I would like him to be hitting and not striking out. But he has been asking me for more at-bats."

Sale gave up the Dodgers' lone run in the fifth when Josh Fields singled, advanced to third on Juan Uribe's single and scored on

sacrifice fly by A.J. Ellis.

The White Sox took a one-run lead on Thompson's homer in the seventh, and Adam Dunn's RBI single in the eighth made it 3-1.

Josh Lindblom (0-1) took the loss for the Dodgers in relief of Aaron Harang, who allowed one run in six innings.

Harang struggled in the fifth, giving up three singles, throwing a wild pitch and surrendering a run on an RBI single by Alejandro De Aza.

"That fifth inning cost me," said Harang, who joined Clayton Kershaw as the second Dodgers pitcher to work six innings this spring. "Otherwise, I felt pretty good."

Mattingly hopes to find some more answers about his starting rotation Friday. Left-hander Ted Lilly is scheduled for a bullpen session that will determine whether he will pitch at San Diego in a season-opening series that begins April 5.

Lilly missed his last scheduled start in spring training because of a stiff neck.

"He kind of missed a turn," Mattingly said. "That put him back a little bit."

Lilly, third in the Dodgers' starting rotation, wanted to throw Thursday.

"That's a good sign," said Mattingly, who decided to wait a day on the decision. "We want to make the right decision. We want him feeling good and ready."

If the Dodgers' training staff decides that Lilly needs more time to heal, Chris Capuano, fifth in the rotation, would move into his spot. If Lilly lands on the disabled list, Mattingly said his roster spot would be filled by an extra reliever.

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Freshman catcher Cassidy Whidden steps up to bat in a game against Toledo on March 28 in Melissa Cox Stadium. The Irish won both games in the double-header series, 9-1 and 8-0.

Big East

continued from page 20

three wins will help us get off to a good start to win the Big East,” senior outfielder Alexa Maldonado said. “If we can keep up the momentum, it will definitely help us make through the Big East all the way to hopefully winning a championship game.”

The road to the Big East tournament starts with the team making a big run through its conference schedule. Notre Dame will look to get that path started with a start against a weaker opponent in Connecticut.

“I think they’re a lot like Georgetown, the games we had postponed earlier in the year,” Maldonado said. “They’re a pretty mediocre team, but they’re scrappy and have a few good power hitters.”

One of the bigger challenges will be the adjustments between games throughout the weekend, but the Irish will look to set the tone with a win in their first game. “We’ll see their number one pitcher in the first game,” Maldonado said. “So, if we can get a win against her, then the rest should be routine.”

The key for the Irish will be to set the pace for the game and play their brand of softball, Mal-

donado said.

“We just need to be consistent and play the like any other team,” she said. “If we can play Notre Dame softball and play errorless and consistent, then we should win the games.”

Notre Dame will face off with the Huskies at home on Saturday in a doubleheader starting at 12 p.m. The final game of the series will be Sunday at 11 a.m. at Melissa Cook Stadium.

Contact Ernst Cleofe at ecleofe@nd.edu

Rutgers

continued from page 20

so we will be looking to do our best to limit those opportunities. Hopefully we will be able to limit their top dodgers and have success.”

After facing off with Rutgers in New Brunswick, N.J., on Friday, the Irish will head to Baltimore, Md., to meet up with a Loyola team prominently featuring underclassmen.

“Overall, they are a little bit younger. They graduated a ton [last year], and right now when you look at their starting lineup, they have four freshman ... with a couple of sophomores in there as well,” Halfpenny said. “I think they gain momentum off of every game that they have, and they are very skilled. They are a very well-coached team and they have a very creative offense.”

Loyola (5-3, 1-0) already has three wins in five matchups with top-20 teams this season. On Saturday, the Greyhounds captured a 15-14 overtime road win against No. 13 Georgetown.

Notre Dame and Loyola play similar styles and

have comparable talent, Halfpenny said.

“They are very similar to us, with the amount of weapons that they have. They have a lot of scoring threats, they have a lot of kids who are getting the job done, they move the ball very quickly and they have a very strong team defense,” she said. “We feel like we have something that can combat that in the same regard.”

“We are looking forward a battle, to be honest. This will be a big game for both teams.”

Both teams will enter the

“This is just the way the Big East schedule shakes out. As you prepare throughout the week, you get some of the conditioning things in and then taper off into that Friday game. Then you have to do your best to recover and move forward.”

Christine Halfpenny
Irish coach

game off only one day of rest, as Loyola hosts Cincinnati tonight.

“This is just the way the Big East schedule shakes out,” Halfpenny said. “As you prepare throughout the week, you get some of the conditioning things in and then taper off into that Friday game. Then you have to do your best to recover and move forward.”

The Irish will try to extend their perfect start at 4 p.m. today against Rutgers before meeting up with Loyola at 1 p.m. Sunday.

Contact Joseph Monardo at jmonardo@nd.edu

Corrigan

continued from page 20

St. John’s comes into Sunday’s matchup already possessing more wins than last season’s 4-10 team. Sophomore attack Kieran McArdle leads the team with 29 points, while senior midfielder Terence Leach ¾ the reigning Big East Offensive Player of the Week ¾ paces the Red Storm at 16 goals on the season. On the other side of the field, junior goaltender Jeff Lowman ranks in the top-15 in the country in save percentage.

“I think [St. John’s is] a very talented team,” Corrigan said. “They’re young and they’ve been playing mostly the same guys for the last two years and probably will have most of those same guys in the same spots again next year. I think this is a team that is still finding itself, but that has a lot of talent and I think they’re going to win a lot of games in the next couple of years.”

The Irish, who enter on a five-game winning streak, have picked up their offensive production over the past three games, including scoring a season-high 12 goals in a win over Rutgers last Sunday.

The defensive end, however,

has taken a step back during that same stretch. After surrendering 17 total goals in the first four games, the Irish have allowed 25 total goals in the past three contests, which took place over an eight-day span from March 18 through March 25.

Corrigan believes a way to return back to early-season form is for the Irish to concentrate more on themselves instead of the opposition.

“We had three games in eight days, and the good news is we played well enough to win all three of them. The bad news is we lost a little bit of ourselves in the course of that week preparing for three games,” Corrigan said. “I think we got a little bit away from who we are, and there’s nothing more important in my mind than us having a great understanding of ourselves.”

“Maybe it’s on me for spending too much time talking about the teams we’re playing, and not enough talking about ourselves. When we’re at our best is when we play with a real good sense of ourselves and real smart, sound fundamental lacrosse.”

Notre Dame takes on St. John’s in the Big City Classic at 1 p.m. Sunday in East Rutherford, N.J.

Contact Sam Gans at sgans@nd.edu

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- Across**

1 Cuisine featuring nam prik

5 Identifies

9 Counterpart

13 Mezzo-soprano Marilyn

15 1968 Best Actor nominee for "The Fixer"

17 A blimp may hover over one

18 Induce squirming in, perhaps

19 Coat that's easy to take off

21 French loanword that literally means "rung on a ladder"

22 Colors

24 Perfect

25 It was MSNBC's highest-rated program when canceled in 2003

26 Antique shop purchase

29 Wizard's garment

30 Paper assets
- 36 Device with a hard disk

37 It has a denomination of \$1,000

38 Homeric character who commits matricide

41 Weapons used to finish off the Greek army at Thermopylae

46 What a robot might resemble

47 To the left

48 Psychedelic 1968 song featuring a lengthy drum solo

51 What a whatnot has

52 Like molasses

53 Danger for a climber

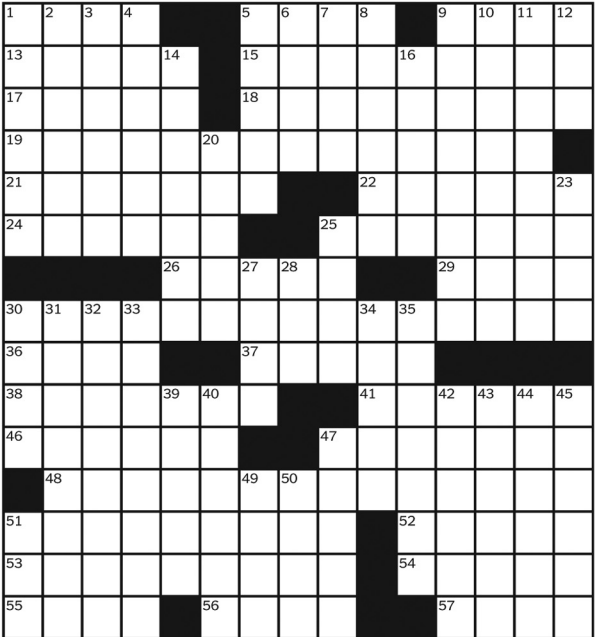
54 President's daughter on "The West Wing"

55 Alternative to "your"
- 56 Company whose Nasdaq symbol is the company's name

57 Keep alive, as a fire

Down

- 1 Showed a bit more friendliness
- 2 Poet who gave us "carpe diem"
- 3 Singer at Barack's inauguration
- 4 Poor
- 5 Hymn sung to Apollo
- 6 Trees in Gray's country churchyard
- 7 Kaplan who co-hosted six seasons of "High Stakes Poker"
- 8 Acknowledge a commander's entrance, maybe
- 9 Pizza sauce
- 10 Not going with the flow?
- 11 Round-bottomed container
- 12 Letter on Kael's costume
- 14 One hanging at a temple
- 16 It's all in your head
- 20 Christmas green?
- 23 Gets the gist
- 25 Dimwit
- 27 "I hate it when that happens!"
- 28 Business often located near an interstate



Puzzle by Patrick Berry

- 30 Obstruct

31 Trunk item

32 Too

33 Once-autonomous people of southern Russia
- 34 Sober

35 Nonwoody plant parts

39 Senate sheets

40 Make possible

42 Disobey the rule?

43 Baltimore's ____ Park
- 44 Begin with enthusiasm

45 Got a lot of laughs out of

47 1980s Tyne Daly role

49 Small quantity

50 Surrealism forerunner

51 Buddy

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HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

Happy Birthday: Put greater effort into relationships. Communication will lead to greater stability and closer bonds with the people who count most in your life. An opportunity to reconnect with someone from your past will result in professional opportunities that can help solve financial worries. A partnership will help to stabilize your life. Your numbers are 9, 12, 15, 23, 32, 41, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Show more patience and tolerance when dealing with personal relationships. It's important to give any partnership you are involved in a chance to develop. Communication is highlighted. Ask questions and you will solve any problem that crops up. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Use your imagination and step outside your comfort zone for a change. It's important to explore new avenues if you want to expand your horizons, meet new people and learn new things. Love is worth pursuing, and romance will pay off. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Keep things simple and avoid any sort of misunderstanding that can develop between you and someone you associate with for business or pleasure. Avoid impulsive purchases that promise the impossible and people pressuring you for hand-outs. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Let your imagination lead you. You need to experience something a little out of the ordinary if you want to challenge your mind. Utilize your skills to help a cause or someone in need and you will create a demand for your services. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Use ingenuity to come up with a plan. A good idea can help you improve your home life and environment. Getting involved in an organization or group that appreciates your talents will also lead to interesting friendships and positive challenges. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Put love first. Do something special for the people you care about most. Visit someone you enjoy spending time with. A chance to learn something valuable will play a role in your personal and professional progress. Love is highlighted. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A change will help you put your life in perspective. Take a short trip or change your surroundings to better suit your needs. Don't let complainers hold you back. Embrace knowledge and the people you relate to the most.★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Put pizzazz into the way you live your life or into your surroundings. You'll find inspiration in the changes you make. Raise your standards when it comes to business partnerships. Use imagination and you will succeed. Romance is highlighted.★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take action if you want to keep the peace. It's what you do that will count in the end. Focus on making your home a better place. Change will bring respect and clear the passage for better things to come. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take a walk down memory lane and recall some of the things that used to be important to you. Rethink your strategy and incorporate ideas from the past that suit what you are trying to accomplish now. Love is in the stars. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Good fortune can be yours if you do the right thing. Discipline will enable you to accomplish goals that have eluded you. Strive to make improvements for the right reasons. Ulterior motives based on what others want will lead to failure. ★★★★★

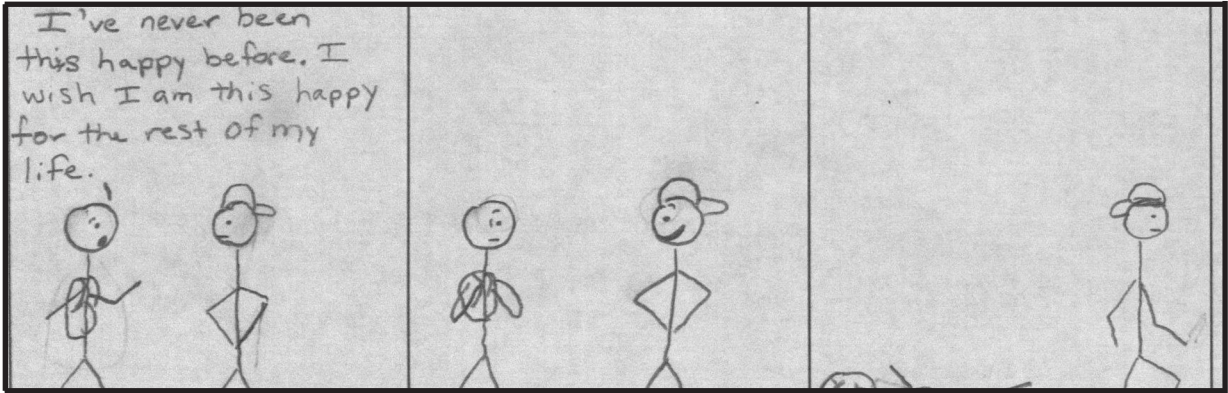
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Practical application of ideas will ensure success. Don't let your imagination run wild or your emotions cause you to reach for the impossible. Baby steps will build a solid foundation that will bring you years of satisfaction. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are inquisitive and emotionally sensitive. You exude lots of charm and charisma.

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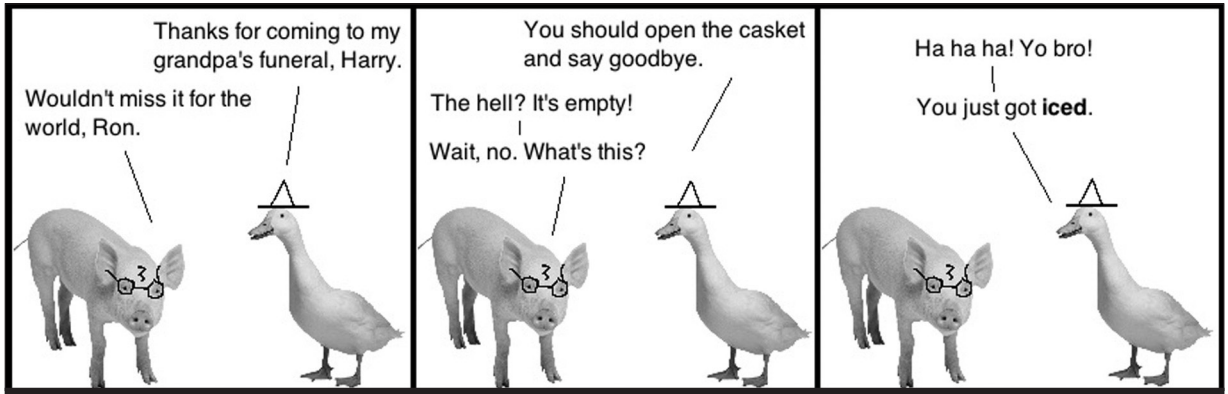
THE CLAMMY HANDSHAKE

KELLY LYNCH



THE LONDON EXPRESS

LEE HAGGENJOS and ALEX GRISWOLD



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HENRY ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

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

WERAA

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HILWE

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

TEYUBA

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

TRAGEH

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

A: ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's | Jumbles: SKIMP UNWED VORTEX INDIGO
Answer: When the waitress gave them the wrong cocktails, they had — MIXED DRINKS



THE OBSERVER

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MEN'S LACROSSE

Meadow bound

Irish, team to play at MetLife Stadium in Big City Classic

EILEEN VEIHMEYER/The Observer

Sophomore attack Westy Hopkins navigates around an opponent in the home-opener game against Duke on Feb. 19. The Irish won 7-3 and Hopkins had a goal and an assist.

By SAM GANS
Sports Writer

The Super Bowl-winning New York Giants, U2 and Notre Dame don't appear to have much in common. But after Sunday, all will have played at least once at state-of-the-art MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.

The No. 6 Irish will head to the Meadowlands to take on St. John's in the Big City Classic this weekend. The game will be the first of a triple-

header with Johns Hopkins, North Carolina, Syracuse and Duke also participating.

This is the fourth year of the Big City Classic, but the game against the Red Storm (5-3, 1-1 Big East) marks the first time the Irish (6-1, 1-0) have played in the event. Though the game will be played in an NFL stadium and in front of a large crowd $\frac{3}{4}$ the first three years each drew more than 22,000 spectators $\frac{3}{4}$ Irish coach Kevin Corrigan is trying to keep his

team's focus on the task at hand.

"I think it's a great place to play and it's fun to be part of an event like this, but our focus is just on playing St. John's," Corrigan said. "The field is the same dimensions as every other one we play on. We can't get caught up in thinking about anything other than what St. John's does and what we need to do against them."

see CORRIGAN/page 18

SOFTBALL

Irish enter weekend with winning streak

By ERNST CLEOFE
Sports Writer

Notre Dame is looking to continue its three-game win streak in its three-game home-stand against Connecticut this weekend.

The Irish (14-10) are coming off a packed schedule, with three games over the course of the week before this important weekend for early-season positioning in the conference standings. On Tuesday, junior catcher Amy Buntin hit a walk-off homerun to give the

Irish a 5-3 win against Western Michigan. The next day, the team swept Toledo in a double-header at home.

The win streak should give the team momentum heading into their Big East schedule, including this weekend's matchup against the Huskies (13-11, 3-0 Big East). Starting off well in the Big East will be a big boost for the team after a rough beginning to the season.

"We had a rough start to the season, so hopefully these

see BIG EAST/page 18

MEN'S TENNIS

ND returns to play after two-week recess

By PETER STEINER
Sports Writer

After a two-week respite, the Irish will return to the courts Saturday when they face off against Ball State in their first outdoor match of the spring season. Later Saturday evening, Notre Dame (12-7) will meet St. Bonaventure indoors, for the first-ever matchup of the two schools.

While Ball State (13-6) is not typically considered to be

a top-tier tennis program, the Irish recognize they cannot underestimate the Cardinals, Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said.

"Ball State is a team that traditionally has won the Mid-American Conference under Bill Richards, their coach," Bayliss said. "We played them last year at Ball State, and they were a good enough team that their No. 4 singles actually beat [sophomore] Greg Andrews in

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BASEBALL

Fitzgerald leads squad to exciting environment

By VICKY JACOBSEN
Sports Writer

The Irish are heading back to the Sun Belt for a weekend series against conference foe South Florida. But although the games will be played in Tampa, the atmosphere will be miles away from spring training.

"There are very few venues in college baseball that are quite as electric - [maybe] LSU," Irish coach Mik Aoki said of USF Baseball Stadium. "We were able to go down [to LSU] and really played our most complete game of the year and got that win against them, so hopefully we can build on that and have a little confidence from it, and play well all weekend."

The Irish will be following their regular weekend pitching rotation of senior Will Hudgins, followed by junior Adam Norton and sophomore Sean Fitzgerald, who will close out the series on Sun-

day afternoon. Aoki said he doesn't expect the usually rocking house at South Florida (18-8, 3-0 Big East) to faze any of his pitchers.

"They're good pitchers, they're good competitors, they're really good kids," Aoki said. "They're kids who have been in hostile environments and done a good job, and they're not going to get carried away with the moment."

Although Hudgins and Norton can boast matching 3-1 records, Hudgins holds a sparkling 1.08 ERA, while Fitzgerald has had rougher results in his first six starts, earning a 5.72 ERA in 28.1 innings.

"Fitz [Fitzgerald] has had a bit of a struggle to this point, and I hope that he's able to be more like the pitcher he was when we played LSU," Aoki said. "I don't really have any reason to believe that he won't be, because I think his sepa-

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WOMEN'S LACROSSE

ND looks to remain undefeated

By JOSEPH MONARDO
Sports Writer

After surviving a scare in their Big East opener, the No. 6 Irish are one of only two teams in Division I with an undefeated record.

Notre Dame will have to defend its perfect start twice this weekend, as it continues its Big East campaign by travelling to Rutgers today and No. 18 Loyola (Md.) on Sunday.

Their last time out, the Irish (7-0, 1-0 Big East) fell behind 5-1 early to Louisville, before battling back to capture the 13-11 home win. As they prepare to take to the road for a week-end swing, the Irish have shifted their focus to Rutgers (5-3).

"They have really been developing and growing in their game," Irish coach Christine Halfpenny said of the Scarlet Knights. "They definitely come into this year's game with a pretty solid, veteran lineup and they are very athletic $\frac{3}{4}$ they have great speed. I



DILLON WEISNER/The Observer

Senior midfielder Kate Newell defends a Louisville opponent in a 13-11 win March 24 in Arlotta Stadium.

feel like they have a very aggressive and tough mentality, and have a system that is working for them."

The Scarlet Knights began the season with consecutive losses, but have since won five of their last six, most recently in an 11-10 double-overtime defeat of Fairfield. The Irish expect a

stiff challenge from Rutgers as their opponent opens the Big East portion of their schedule this afternoon.

"We know that this is their Big East opener on their home field," Halfpenny said. "They have a lot of one-on-one scoring threats,

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