

University prizes green initiatives

Office of Sustainability unveils its plans for the academic year

By MEL FLANAGAN
News Writer

The Office of Sustainability has opened the school year with several initiatives, some new and some continued from last year, to keep Notre Dame on track to become a more sustainable university.

Rachel Novick, education and outreach program manager for the office, said the group is promoting recycling on football weekends again this year. Through the program, groups of student volunteers distribute recycling bags to tailgaters.

Novick said the people at tailgates enjoy the game day recycling program immensely.

"They're really excited for students to come around," she said. "Tailgaters look for their blue bags. They love seeing that students are excited about this."

The initiative also serves as a fundraiser for student groups on

campus, Novick said. Students volunteer on behalf of a club or residence hall, and the group earns money based on the number of students who assist.

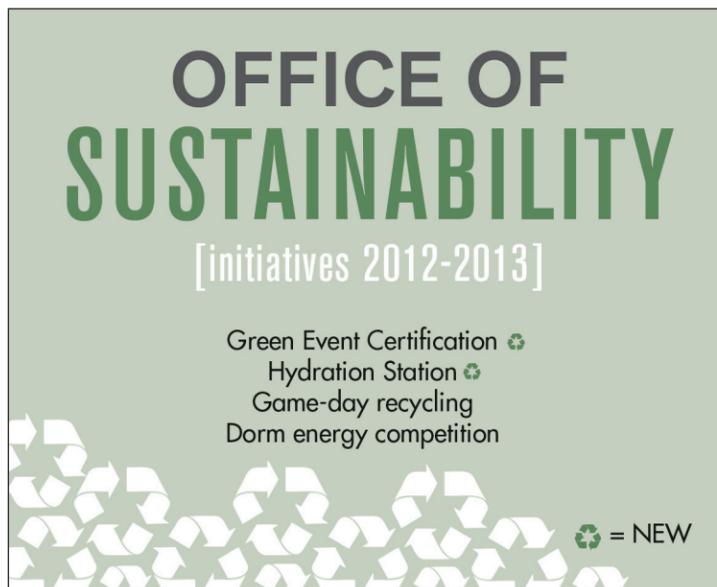
Student body president Brett Rocheleau said the program has been a huge success in past years.

"If you ever walked by the recycling bins on game days last year, they were filled to the brim," he said.

The Office of Sustainability is also expanding on its dorm energy competitions this year, Novick said.

The office is utilizing a dashboard system on a website where students can track their dorm's electricity usage and check how their residence hall ranks compared to others.

"The system is going to automate our competition and make it easier and more engaging for students," Novick said.



STEPH WULZ | The Observer

There will be four competitions this year, each lasting between one and three weeks. Novick said the first contest would begin Sept. 23.

One of the office's new initiatives is the Green Event

Certification. Through this program, anyone who is running a University event can apply for his or her event to be certified as sustainable.

see GREEN PAGE 3

Comedy writers visit SMC

By BRIDGET FEENEY
Associate Saint Mary's Editor

Students at Saint Mary's will be treated to series of lectures, workshops and a live show when two veteran comedy writers visit campus this week.

Tom Leopold and Bill Persky will visit the College on Sept. 12 and 13 to teach and discuss writing and comedy.

Persky is a five-time Emmy Award winning director, producer and writer for famous television shows such as "That Girl," "The Cosby Show," "Who's the Boss," "The Dick Van Dyke Show" and "Kate and Allie."

He visited Saint Mary's last

see COMEDY PAGE 5

Club celebrates Eid Al-Fitr

By SARAH McCARTHY
News Writer

The Muslim Student Association (MSA) celebrated the end of Ramadan, a month-long period when Muslims fast between sunrise and sunset, on Friday evening with the festival of Eid Al-Fitr, often abbreviated to Eid and Arabic for "the festivity of breaking the fast."

Members of MSA gathered together to eat traditional Middle Eastern foods and pray in the Coleman-Morse Lounge, while MSA leaders explained the traditions of Eid and discussed the place of Muslims at Notre Dame.

"The Muslim Student Association strives to increase dialogue and interaction between ethnic groups at Notre Dame," graduate student and MSA secretary Aamir Ahmed Khan said. "Notre Dame is a place where all faiths are respected, and we all believe in the same God."

Guests at the festival enjoyed a buffet of traditional Middle Eastern foods such as falafel,



Photo courtesy of Aamir Ahmed Khan

The MSA club gave a presentation on the traditions of the Muslim holiday Eid Ul-Fitr in the Coleman-Morse Lounge on Sept. 7.

hummus and rice with vegetables, while a PowerPoint presentation taught them about the Islamic holiday.

According to the presentation, there is a great diversity of Muslims at Notre Dame. Muslim students hail from various countries, including Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, France and Bangladesh. The Eid Al-Fitr celebrations in

these countries typically include giving gifts and sweets to children and coming together to rejoice in the special occasion.

Sophomore MSA vice president Liyana Syahirah said Eid is both sad and joyous, as it is a celebration of the end of a fast, but also an end to Ramadan, which is full of

see EID PAGE 3

Lunch discussion examines lawsuit

ND's suit against HHS Mandate

Violates First Amendment

Violates Religious Freedom Restoration Act

Filed in Northern district of Indiana

STEPH WULZ | The Observer

By CHRISTIAN MYERS
News Writer

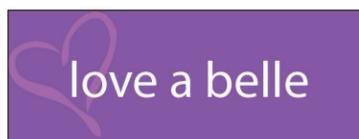
The second installment of the Professors for Lunch series featured a presentation on the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) healthcare mandate and the issue of religious liberty.

Director of the Center for Ethics and Culture and law professor O. Carter Snead delivered a talk titled "The HHS Mandate and Religious Freedom" at Friday's event.

Snead said the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act requires group health care plans to cover certain preventative services without cost sharing, which means the services are free to the individual.

The details were delegated to various administrative agencies, including the HHS, Snead said. The HHS then further delegated the task to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA),

see LUNCH PAGE 5



LOVE A BELLE PAGE 3



VIEWPOINT PAGE 6



SETH MEYERS PAGE 8



IRISH INSIDER: NOTRE DAME 20, PURDUE 17 WITHIN

THE OBSERVER

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QUESTION OF THE DAY:

Who should be the Irish starting quarterback?

Have a question you want answered?

Email obsphoto@gmail.com



Emily Migliore

Freshman
Ryan Hall

"Golson, because I think some fresh, young energy on the field wouldn't hurt."



Brian Campbell

Junior
Keough Hall

"Golson, because I just don't want Tommy Rees."



David Fleming

Junior
Keough Hall

"Golson, because Brian [Kelly] doesn't like Tommy Rees."



Jared Schneider

Senior
Keough Hall

"Tommy Rees. YOLO."



Sarah Claeys

Sophomore
Breen-Phillips

"Prince Shembo, because he's the best."



Matt Stewart

Sophomore
Dillon Hall

"Tommy Rees, because that last drive was heroic."



KEVIN SONG | The Observer

Leprechaun senior Bryce Burton leads the student section in cheering on the Irish football team at Notre Dame Stadium on Saturday. The Irish beat Purdue 20-17 on a late field goal.

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The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at (574) 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

Want your event included here?

Email obsnews@gmail.com

Monday

Work Off Your Weekend

Rolfs Sports Center
All Day

Take 10% off all personal training.

Panel Discussion

Geddes Hall
7 p.m.

The CSC hosts "From Battleground to Common Ground."

Tuesday

Man with a Movie Camera

Debartolo Performing Arts Center
8 p.m.-9:08 p.m.

Silent film by Vertov.

Library Workshop

Hesburgh Library
4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

Tutorial on bibliographic citations using RefWorks.

Wednesday

International Open House

Hesburgh Center
4 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Discover programs around campus.

Benjamin Balthaser Reading

Hammes Bookstore
7:30 p.m.-9 p.m.

Focus on Modernism and Anti-Imperialism.

Thursday

Barack Obama and the Crisis of Liberalism

Law School
12:15 p.m.-1:15 p.m.

Lecture by Dr. Charles R. Kesler.

The Merchant of Venice

Washington Hall
7:30 p.m.-10 p.m.

Actors from the London Stage.

Friday

National Catholic Invitational

ND Golf Course
3:30 p.m.-6 p.m.

Cross country event.

Damsels in Distress

DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Film on girls helping depressed students.

Week highlights resources

By **JILLIAN BARWICK**
Saint Mary's Editor

Support a Belle, Love a Belle, a weeklong program dedicated to providing resources for girls struggling with depression and anxiety, begins today at Saint Mary's.

Senior Meghan Casey, vice president of Student Government Association (SGA), said Support a Belle, Love a Belle draws attention to a sensitive issue for college women.

"It is a really important issue on our campus and even more important for us to let the students know that there is support for them," Casey said. "This is a small campus, so it is so important for us, as student leaders, to promote our resources and promote our sisterhood."

Casey said her job includes making sure students know resources for girls who suffer from anxiety and depression are readily available, and support is always there when students need it.

"The SGA door is always open as well," Casey said. "We want students to know that we can provide a safe place for them."

Senior Maureen Parsons, president of SGA, said many girls are already struggling with depression and anxiety when they enter college, but they do not frequently voice their feelings.

"Students don't realize that they are not the only one suffering

MONDAY 9/10

Walk to Grotto in honor of Lizzy Seeburg at 10:30 PM (Meet at Holy Cross Circle)

TUESDAY 9/11

Student panel in Student Center Lounge at 7 PM

WEDNESDAY 9/12

"To Write Love On Her Arms" with Aaron Moore in Little Theater at 7 PM

THURSDAY 9/13

Candlelight vigil on Library Green at 7 PM

FRIDAY 9/14

Brown bag lunch with professional panel in SGA office at 12 PM



STEPH WULZ | The Observer

because they don't talk about it," she said. "We are highlighting these issues with events to show students that they are not alone."

Junior Kat Sullivan, SGA vice president of external affairs, said she hopes these events will encourage people on campus to be more open about these issues.

"The big thing we want to emphasize with Support a Belle, Love a Belle week is that at Saint Mary's, we are part of a sisterhood," Sullivan said. "I wanted to be involved with these events because I have struggled with these issues myself."

Support a Belle, Love a Belle, which now has a committee of 20 members, has grown greatly since it began last year, Sullivan said.

"We are really excited to see how everything falls into place," she said.

With such positive involvement from students, Casey said she hopes the program is able to create a club in the upcoming years.

"So many girls are interested, so I think it would make a great organization for years to come," she said.

Having a great support system is key to making this week successful, Sullivan said.

"This week will hopefully carry out as we continue the rest of our collegiate careers and even after we graduate," she said. "It is truly important for girls to recognize that everyone struggles and we are here to support those who need it. We have wonderful resources on campus that everyone should be made aware of."

Contact Jillian Barwick at jbarwi01@saintmarys.edu

Green

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In order to qualify as sustainable, Novick said the group must complete an easy checklist that can be found on the Office of Sustainability website.

"You go through and check off things, and you need a certain number of points [to qualify]," she said. "Then you get to display the green certification logo on your event materials."

Some items on the checklist in-

"I know there are people who are very sustainable-conscious, while there are others who just don't have the knowledge of what being sustainable would entail."

Brett Rocheleau
student body president

clude minimizing paper use and avoiding bottled water, Novick said.

The program also has an education component. Rocheleau said the checklist would teach students small, easy ways to become more "green."

"I know there are people who are very sustainable-conscious, while there are others who just don't have the knowledge of what being sustainable would entail," he said.

Another new project this year was the installation of hydration stations in each of the dorms over the summer.

Novick said her office subsidized custom stainless steel water bottles for each dorm that expressed an interest in them.

"They designed a dorm logo for one side and on the other it says 'Office of Sustainability,'" she said. "That's really helping to get students excited about using reusable bottles and using the water bottle filling stations, not bottled water."

Rocheleau said student government hopes to install hydration stations in more campus buildings, such as DeBartolo Hall, O'Shaughnessey Hall and the two campus fitness centers.

"[The fitness centers] are on board and they're willing to fund it," he said. "Nothing is signed, but I don't see anything stopping that from happening. It could be as quickly as fall break, or it could be somewhere around Christmas break."

These initiatives and others all contribute to bring Notre Dame closer to its goals of lessening its carbon footprint.

"I think we're moving in the right direction toward our two-year sustainable strategy," Rocheleau said. "Having initiatives like this is the first step I think, and knowledge and awareness of the student body [are others]."

Contact Mel Flanagan at mflanag3@nd.edu

Online tutoring expands to ND

By **CATHERINE OWERS**
News Writer

Apparently, technology can be a teacher's best friend.

Using webcams, chat, and a virtual whiteboard, tutors at InstaEDU, an online tutoring portal, assist students with their studies through a computer.

InstaEDU CEO Alison Johnston said she was inspired to create the company after working as a tutor herself. In her role, she realized private tutoring could be both expensive and exclusive.

"Our general goal is to make high-quality, one-on-one tutoring universally accessible to any student ... to let any student work with a tutor at any time," Johnston said. "Also, we realized that the time when many high school students are in need of homework help, say 11 p.m., is when many college students are available."

Sophomore InstaEDU tutor Jordan Stella started tutoring in high school and also tutors at the First Year of Studies Learning Resource Center.

Stella said tutors connect to InstaEDU through Facebook or Google chat and receive notifications whenever a student asks for help. Students can view tutors' profiles to see areas of expertise and interests. They then

select an individual tutor, or can be matched randomly with an available tutor. The tutor's time is logged, he said, and they are paid by the minute.

"Why not [do it]," Stella said. "I'm on Facebook anyway."

The InstaEDU website lists help available for a variety of subject areas including math, science, finance, languages, English and social studies.

"[The tutor] can choose areas [he or she] wants to tutor, like SAT prep, ACT prep [or] AP test prep," Stella said.

The students looking for tutoring "could be [in] high school, could be [in] college, could be [in] middle school," Stella said.

Stella said he heard about job opportunities at InstaEDU through an email from the Anthropology Department, and the pay-per-minute of tutoring was appealing.

Tutoring online does not inherently pose a significant problem, Stella said, though he believes lecture-based tutoring is more difficult.

"In general, it's all the same, as long as you know what you're talking about," he said. "If it's something I'm not really familiar with, then it might be easier if you're sitting next to me, so I can gauge what you're understanding, what you're not understanding.

"It also depends the subject. Math is something easier to tutor over the Internet, there's one's answer, one way to do it."

Stella also said he thinks the students using InstaEDU are more motivated to learn through tutoring, as opposed to just receiving an answer.

"We're not supposed to do their homework for them," he said. "They're not just going to

"Our general goal is to make high-quality, one-on-one tutoring universally accessible to any student ... to let any student work with a tutor at any time."

Alison Johnston
CEO
InstaEDU

be like 'Hey, what's the answer to this problem?' They could just Google search that."

Stella said he appreciates InstaEDU's promise of nearly instantaneous tutoring, and believes he would use online tutoring if he needed help, as opposed to having to set up a time to meet with a tutor in person.

"I think I'd rather do online than in person, again depending on the subject. Personally, I'd much rather be like, 'Hey, I need help right now,'" he said.

Going into the future, Johnston said InstaEDU is looking to expand the tutor base.

"We've had a great time recruiting out of these top universities, like Notre Dame," she said. "We also would love to plug into the online learning platforms. Right now we're seeing a lot of top schools putting courses online."

"We think it's awesome that anybody can go and take class with an MIT professor. The one issue is that you lose a lot of the personal touch, so all of a sudden, you can't raise your hand in class, can't talk to a classmate."

That is where InstaEDU can contribute, she said.

"Say Notre Dame offers classes online, and it would be very valuable if a student is taking a class from somewhere like Oregon, that you could, actually — if there's a point in the lecture you don't understand — pause it and immediately connect over video chat with a Notre Dame student who had taken the class last semester and gotten an 'A'. That's a pretty powerful experience," Johnston said.

Contact Catherine Owers at cowers@nd.edu

Eid

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

blessings. She said Eid carries the distinctive meaning of victory.

Junior MSA president Saad Khan said although Muslim students sometimes feel excluded among the large number of Catholics at Notre Dame, the MSA gives them a sense of community.

"As long as you have faith, Notre Dame will only strengthen your beliefs," he said.

Fr. Jim King, director of Campus Ministry, said he is proud Muslims feel welcome to engage in conversation at the University.

"I am glad that Muslim students feel that Notre Dame is a place where they can come together to have conversations we need to have so that people can live together in peace," King said.

Khan said he is happy as a Muslim with his decision to attend graduate school at Notre Dame.

"I haven't felt any difficulty in practicing my religion, and there are plenty of resources on campus for students of the Muslim faith," he said.

Syahirah said she feels Muslim students are welcomed into the Notre Dame community.

"Two people that really helped me were my rector and my [resident assistant]," Syahirah said. "Dorm life was overwhelming at first, but I like Notre Dame a lot."

Contact Sarah McCarthy at smccart6@nd.edu



University of Notre Dame Engineering Industry Day 2012

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, September 10

AEROSPACE/MECHANICAL ENGINEERING NIGHT

Monogram Room, Joyce Center 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 11

CIVIL ENGINEERING LUNCH

Monogram Room, Joyce Center 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

NETWORKING RECEPTION (Business Formal Attire)

Monogram Room, Joyce Center 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

INDUSTRY DAY CAREER FAIR (Business Formal Attire)

Heritage Hall, Joyce Center 5:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 12

INTERVIEW DAY

Flanner Hall 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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Comedy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

April with Adriana Trigiani, a television writer, author and member of the Class of 1981. The pair taught master classes and discussed their careers with the College community.

Persky said he is looking forward to returning to campus and interacting with the students and faculty.

"I had such a great time last time," he said. "There's a sense of being at home when I'm at Saint Mary's and feeling like I belonged. I felt like I was amongst friends."

Senior Elizabeth Elsbach attended Persky and Trigiani's lectures and pri-

"Bill Persky is an inspiration for any writer who wants to break the mold, and his guidance, to Saint Mary's alumnae and to current students, is invaluable."

Elizabeth Elsbach
senior

vate classes last spring. As an English writing major, Elsbach said she is eager for another opportunity to work with Persky and to meet Leopold.

"Bill Persky is an

inspiration for any writer who wants to break the mold, and his guidance, to Saint Mary's alumnae and to current students, is invaluable," she said. "I personally have gained a greater insight into my own writing and writing as a career due to Bill Persky's advice from last year."

Persky said he is excited Leopold will be with him this week as he visits the College.

"Tom brings a whole new element to the lectures and classes," he said. "He's one of the funniest people I've ever met, and I'm excited to [see] the audience react to him."

Leopold's career as a comedy writer spans nearly four decades. He has served as writer, producer and story editor for a number of television shows including "The Chevy Chase Show," "Cheers," "Seinfeld," "Will and Grace," "Hope & Faith," "Ellen" and "Caroline in the City." He has also worked with famous entertainment personalities such as Bob Hope, Lucille Ball, Billy Crystal and Chevy Chase.

On Thursday evening at 7:30, Leopold will present his new one-man show, "When a Comedy Writer Finds God," about his conversion from Judaism to Catholicism. Persky, who helped Leopold write it, will introduce Leopold before the performance.

Leopold said his show, which includes original songs, has wide appeal.

"It's my journey of faith and finding grace," he said. "It's about what led me to Jesus. There are lots of laughs and jokes, but I think people will find the story touching, too."

Elsbach said she is happy for the opportunity to meet the pair and learn from them.

"I am looking forward to Tom Leopold and Bill Persky's workshops on humor because I have found that often writers, especially new writers, find humor difficult to articulate," she said. "Being able to tell a joke is different than putting a joke to a page. I'm looking forward to the workshop in order to improve my style of writing in this particular genre."

English, communication studies and theatre students will enjoy private master classes and lectures with Persky and Leopold on Wednesday and Thursday.

After Leopold's show, Persky will be signing and selling copies of his book "My Life is a Situation Comedy," and Leopold will sign copies of his CD, "Just the Hits," featuring original songs, including some from his one-man show.

"I always knew I was funny, but I didn't know I could write; that was a lucky thing," Leopold said. "Writing comedy is a high because everyone laughs at the same stuff."

Contact Bridget Feeney at
bfeene01@saintmarys.edu

Lunch

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

an agency within the HHS. The HRSA consulted the Institute of Medicine (IOM) and adopted its recommendations.

Snead said he considered the process employed by the HHS imperfect.

"The governance in this case is gravely flawed because of the lack of transparency and the delegation of the decision," Snead said.

In accepting the IOM recommendations, the HRSA included all FDA-approved contraceptives under the provision for free preventative services.

Snead said this decision led to objections from religious groups based on pro-life concerns or religious freedom.

He said there is also a religious accommodation in the form of ministerial exception and a re-

"The governance in this case is gravely flawed because of the lack of transparency and the delegation of the decision."

O. Carter Snead
law professor

ligious employer exemption. However, the ministerial exception is very limited because it only covers employees in a ministerial role, and the religious employer exemption has five requirements that must all be met for an institution to be exempt.

Snead said the University cannot take advantage of this exemption because one of the requirements is an institution be deemed a non-profit organization under U.S. code and be recognized as a church.

The University has brought its suit on two grounds: the First Amendment and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. Snead said the argument under the First Amendment is that the law is not a "neutral law of general applicability" and thus can't violate the freedom of religion clause.

The argument advanced under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act is that the government must have compelling justification and use the narrowest means available when restricting the religious liberty of an individual or institution.

Snead said there are many means of accomplishing the government's goal of free contraceptives that do not infringe on religious liberty.

"There are many less-restrictive means," he said. "The government could give a tax credit to individuals for every penny they pay for

these contraceptives."

In response to opposition from Catholic and other religious groups, the HHS announced a one-year period for organizations to reorganize their health plans in order to comply with the new law, Snead said.

The deadline for compliance has been set for Aug. 1, 2013, and Snead said the far-off date might have been reached with the upcoming election in mind.

"There is a concern that the Aug. 1, 2013 timeline is an attempt to eliminate this issue as a topic of discussion during the presidential election," he said.

The government announced its intention to find a means for insurers to cover the cost of contraceptives for employees without the employer paying. Snead said he is uncertain how this goal will be achieved.

"It isn't clear how you prevent the insurer from building the cost of free contraceptives into what they charge the institution for the plan," he said.

Snead said even if such a plan were settled upon, the University might not be able to take advantage because it is self-insured.

The judge hearing the University's case is likely to make an effort to delay the decision until after the presidential election, Snead said.

"If I'm the judge, I'm not going to bring all my judicial resources to a question that could be decided by the upcoming election. I'm going to try and delay until after the election," he said.

Snead said the University would face nine million dollars in fines per year for noncompliance, and will have to find some way to comply should their suit fail. He said the possibility of complying does not mean the University should not oppose the new law.

"The question of what we can live with is not the same as what the government can impose on us," he said.

In response to the question of what a Mitt Romney administration might mean for the provision requiring health care plans to provide free contraceptives, Snead said it is likely a Romney administration would eliminate the provision.

"It was done by administrative action, so it can be undone by administrative regulations," Snead said. "It's a typical practice for a new administration to repeal the administrative regulations of its predecessor."

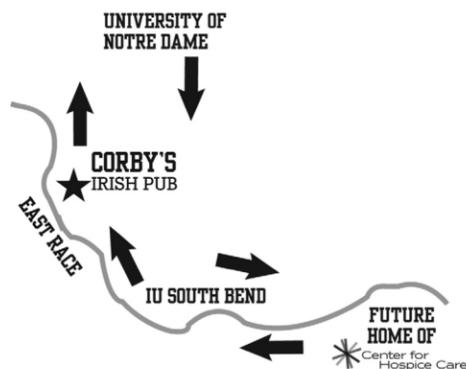
The Professors for Lunch series will continue on Sept. 21 at 12 p.m. in North Dining Hall with a panel discussion of the University's lawsuit against the HHS.

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INSIDE COLUMN

Purdue
nostalgia

Tori Roeck
News Writer

Saturday's game was nostalgic.

The Class of 2014 shares the same first home game experience as the Class of 2016, characterized by a sunny day, a victory over the Boilermakers and a collective, unquenchable enthusiasm. But the first home game of my junior season had a different feel from that of freshman year. It felt familiar.

Having never been to a college football game before, let alone one at the iconic Notre Dame Stadium, I was overwhelmed as a freshman. What do I do before the game? If I go up for pushups, will I fall to my death? Will I flub the words to the Alma Mater?

A resident of God Quad's finest Walsh Hall, I woke to the sounds of tourists and the smell of propane that Saturday at 9 a.m. It wouldn't have been that bad, except the upperclassmen banged on our doors at 6:45 a.m. to run through Stonehenge and sing the Alma Mater in front of the stadium. Exhausted, my roommate wasn't planning on getting up again until noon, but I dragged her out of bed. "MC, get up!" I cheered. "People are out and about!"

The only people "out and about" were old alumni and their grandchildren. After wandering aimlessly for a couple hours and realizing we didn't know anyone hosting a tailgate, I'm pretty sure we ended up doing homework. Nevertheless, we arrived at the stadium eager for some Notre Dame football, and the vibe in the student section was unparalleled.

The most striking aspect of the experience was the same as that of my first mass in the Basilica: the volume. Just as students sing out with "full heart and voice" at Basilica mass, a sea of green shirts erupted into the fight song with a power I had never felt before.

While gameday is still magical for us, we upperclassmen will never again be able to harness the wide-eyed wonder of that first game freshman year. I now know when to cheer and when not to cheer, but sometimes I'm too lazy to pump my fist or hit that high note. How did we stand so long without complaining? My legs are sore! And while I still woke up pretty early Saturday, it was only so I could squeeze in some practice LSAT questions before my day was shot.

I learned from housing visitors this summer that I appreciate my hometown much more when seeing it through someone else's fresh eyes. In the same vein, I can't wait to bring my best friend from home to his first Notre Dame game in two weeks.

Maybe I will embrace my inner freshman and wake up the echoes at 9 a.m.?

Or maybe not until 10 ... or 11.

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

1:1

Bridget Galassini

Bitter Bridget

Ratios. They're important. They're relevant in almost every situation. Parties — boy to girl ratio. Food — apple to peanut butter ratio, mac to cheese ratio, peanut butter to jelly ratio. Drinks — coffee to cream ratio. It always has to be perfect. And when it's not, it's bad.

Last Sunday, I was in the dining hall eating my breakfast at 2 p.m. as always. That day, the delicious apple slices were in little bowls, instead of in the serve-yourself bin. I grabbed one of the bowls and put my usual amount of peanut butter on it. Little did I know, the bowl contained more apple slices than I normally put on my plate. To my dismay, I watched as the peanut butter dwindled away, leaving me with about 10 apple slices and no more peanut butter. It's not that I can't eat apples without peanut butter; I can. It's that all of the other slices got to have peanut butter, so why didn't these ten? (I assign humanistic qualities to food very often. When I was little, my mom or grandma or someone would constantly tell me if I didn't eat the last two baby carrots or the last three strawberries, they would feel left out and cry. So I thank them for this.) Also, apples taste better with peanut butter anyway. This caused me to get up and go get more. An inconvenience, albeit a necessary one.

This brings me to my point: People

will go to great lengths to fix ratios when they are off. For guys at parties, this means girls getting in free, making the "odds be ever in their favor." For colleges, this may involve hiring enough teachers to bring down the ever-important teacher to student ratio. For students, it's balancing that triangle we've all seen with "enough sleep," "good grades" and "social life" in the corners and "pick two" in the middle. It's an exaggeration, but like all exaggerations, it contains some degree of truth.

Some intellectuals have been fascinated with a particular ratio for thousands of years — the golden ratio, the value of which is an irrational number called Phi, equal to about 1.618. This should sound somewhat familiar to readers of "The Da Vinci Code." All of the applications and occurrences of this number are crazy. It even has its own website, www.goldennumber.net. There, you can see all the different places it is found in nature. Phimatrix.com offers even more — including the Nissan and Toyota logos and the shape of Pepsi bottles. Saturn's rings, a human arm, plant leaves — it seems there's an unspoken language between everything in the universe that says to employ this ratio in some way. For all I know, maybe there is. I don't understand how it shows up so many times, but it shows me the golden ratio is pretty important.

But as humans, our lifestyles don't come equipped with the perfect ratios already laid out for us. So, what do we

do to get our ratios right? We experiment, we sacrifice, we choose and we decide what ratios work for us. We practice until we get the hang of it. As a freshman, I have to learn to give my schoolwork enough time — but it's really hard being as popular as I am. People are constantly knocking at my door, trying to get me to sacrifice my grades for going out. Or maybe they're just knocking at my door because of the stash of Nutella and pretzels I have in here. Regardless, I always give in and drop my schoolwork to socialize. I have to learn to make the ratio of going out to doing schoolwork closer to 1:1. It's just hard when I'm so cool, because everyone wants to hang out with me constantly.

So, ratios matter — for plants, planets, companies, us. We all choose the ratios that will benefit us most in every situation. For us, the situations are varied. Most of my interactions with ratios relate to food (just because I love food), so I spend a lot of time either thinking about food or eating food. But different people deal with different ratios every day. And once we find that perfect ratio of peanut butter to jelly, cake to frosting, boy to girl, work to play, skin to clothing or family to friends, we'll do whatever we can to keep it.

Bridget Galassini is a freshman. She can be reached at bgalassi@nd.edu

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LETTER

Multiculturalism fosters
segregation

After reading "Segregation at the Tabernacle" (Sept. 3), "Segregation or Celebration" (Sept. 6) and "Celebrate to unify" (Sept. 6), I agree with the first article in that race-specific events wholly contradict the University mission of unification. How can race-delegated retreats unite all members of the Notre Dame community?

However, the author of "Segregation or Celebration" said her time at a Latino retreat was open to various members of the Notre Dame community. So apparently such is not the case

with all race-specific organizations on campus. While they insist they are welcoming to all persons and committed to diversity, race-based organizations are not welcome to a diversity of thought.

As a black American, I reach to the various members of the Notre Dame community by sharing my conservative-leaning ideology. I find it is the blacks and African-Americans who attack me with scorn and derision — the same people who claim they appreciate diversity. "Uncle Tom" and "sell-out"

are just a few of the responses levied at me; they hardly ever retort with a response that is not laced with hate.

So, if we as a community want to heal the wounds of yesteryear, unify people with various opinions and enlighten each other, then we have to acknowledge multiculturalism does indeed foster segregation.

Shaaya Ellis
sophomore
Stanford Hall
Sept. 9

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"There's a difference between a philosophy and a bumper sticker."

Charles M. Schulz
U.S. cartoonist

WEEKLY POLL

What was your favorite part of the game against Purdue this weekend?

Tweet your response with #ViewpointPoll by 5 p.m. Thursday.

When to compromise and when not to

Elliott Pearce
The Human Interest

As the 2012 presidential election nears and the partisan animosity between the candidates and their supporters escalates, many concerned citizens have called for a renewed spirit of compromise in American politics. I acknowledge partisan gridlock has kept our government from resolving many crises, and I would like to see our leaders adopt a more civil and constructive tone when debating contentious issues. I am suspicious of “compromise” considered in the abstract, though, because I believe most proponents of compromise and bipartisanship give faulty reasons for why our politicians cannot come together and work things out.

The conventional wisdom on this topic is that most people agree about what’s right for America and would readily support a bipartisan agenda if one were ever put forward. Politicians, however, are prideful, selfish and fiercely tribal, so they refuse to admit that someone from outside their own party could be “right” or have ideas worth considering and including in their own plans. On the surface, this view makes sense. Those who run for office are more likely to be power-hungry and to think highly of their own ideas

than those who do not. Recognizing the important role their allies played in getting them elected can also make politicians feel beholden to “party machinery” and “special interests.” What America needs, according to this diagnosis, is a new kind of leader who is loyal to the people rather than to himself or his party, and who can reach across the aisle to pass the kind of common-sense legislation that will put our nation back on track.

I believe this view of America’s problem with partisanship is wrong because it fails to recognize how far our divisions extend beyond the political class to the general population, and how deeply they go beyond politics to fundamental questions about human beings, nature and morality. Large, well-organized and powerful groups of people drawn from varying backgrounds hold different and even contradictory views, not only on the purpose of government, but also on the purpose of human life. We compromise with allies and neutral parties, not with those we see as mortal enemies of our worldview.

No post-partisan leader can arise to speak for all of America, because America does not speak with the same voice. Barack Obama tried to do this in 2008 and succeeded admirably for a time. Sooner or later, though, he had

to come out as either for or against eliminating the secret ballot in union elections, cutting entitlement spending and legalizing gay marriage. With each decision he made, he further alienated one group of people and ingratiated himself to another. Try as he might to remain above the fray, Barack Obama is now a liberal Democrat running against a conservative Republican. Should he beat Mitt Romney, liberals would see this as a victory for their side, conservatives as a loss for theirs. There would be no sense of a step forward for all of America like there was after the last election.

Is compromise impossible? Are we doomed to languish in partisan paralysis until one side amasses enough votes to ramrod its entire agenda through Congress by brute force? I do not believe so. We must instead think about compromise in a different way. The “grand bargains” everyone desires that would cut through major problems facing our country (immigration, debt ceiling, jobs) like swords through Gordian knots are unlikely to pass. Both parties could, however, try to advance their respective positions simultaneously by passing the least controversial parts of their agendas first and saving the fierce battles for after they have already done everything they could together.

One such example is health care reform. Democrats could have agreed with Republicans to extend the employer tax credit for purchasing health insurance to private citizens, cap medical malpractice lawsuit awards and expedite the FDA’s approval process for new drugs before getting into a heated debate about whether or not health care is a “right” and the dollar figure to which we are entitled if it is. Pro-life politicians should recognize the amount of court-packing required to overturn *Roe v. Wade* is a long way off, instead focusing their efforts not on outlawing abortion directly, but on eliminating the absurd statutes that allow minors to obtain abortions without the consent of their parents.

We have a long way to go before we solve even one or two of the problems that threaten our country, but we must resist the urge to make up lost ground in huge chunks by advocating sweeping reforms that are unlikely to pass. Instead, we must begin our journey by taking small steps. Who knows? The more steps we take together, the more we might discover we have in common.

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

UWIRE

College costs count

Peter Stroud
Daily Texan

In his speech [two weeks ago] at the Republican National Convention, the party’s nominee Mitt Romney offered nothing to college students reeling from the soaring cost of higher education.

According to the College Board, the cost of four-year colleges has increased by an average of \$8,244 over the past ten years — a 72 percent rise above inflation. Outstanding student loan debt has hit \$914 billion, or about 45,000 times the number of students currently enrolled in American universities.

We at U. Texas are painfully aware of the skyrocketing costs. “UT gave me a \$20,000 per-year scholarship, but I found out pretty quickly that doesn’t cover everything,” theatre and education senior Jorge Galan said. “Even with that I’ll be graduating with over \$60,000 in debt. That’ll take at least 20 years to pay off.” But Galan, a Texas resident, ranks among the lucky ones. In 2010, the cost of attendance for out-of-state students at UT reached \$45,960, or 93 percent of the U.S. median household income.

And this doesn’t just affect us. The price of a college education has an enormously outsized impact on the economy. The economic explosion of the 1950s saw one of the sharpest rises in GDP per capita in our country’s history — and it had a lot to do with Americans getting affordable college degrees through the

GI Bill. They flooded the economy with skilled workers and consumers ready and eager to spend their paychecks. Notably, those paychecks weren’t being exhausted paying off student loans.

If Romney seeks to revitalize the economy, he should alleviate the crushing debt burying college students. When we graduate, we’re entering the economy thousands of dollars in debt with few job prospects. It doesn’t take a PhD in economics to deduce that there isn’t going to be very much revitalizing spending coming from an enormous swath of the population that’s eating ramen noodles six out of seven nights.

It seems like a no-brainer, but on this issue Romney has failed to deliver. When asked what he would do about college costs in March, Romney told students to “shop around.” This is sound, albeit somewhat obvious, financial advice. But he doesn’t seem to realize that we’re shopping in a district where every store is far out of most Americans’ price range.

But hey, perhaps Romney can be forgiven for not fully understanding the problem. After all, when he went to Brigham Young University in 1969, tuition for Mormon students was \$215 a semester. Just one semester’s worth of non-resident tuition at UT in 2012 would have allowed young Mitt to attend BYU for about 80 years.

In May, Romney released a paper titled “A Chance for Every Child,” which blames federal spending for the exorbitant cost of college, claiming that “a

flood of federal dollars is driving up costs and burdening too many young Americans with too much debt and too few opportunities.” The paper crows that “a Romney Administration will tackle this challenge by making clear that the federal government will no longer write a blank check to universities to reward their tuition increases.” Instead, Romney plans to put the nation’s trust in the private sector to “provide information, financing and education itself.”

Contrary to Romney’s assertions, tuition hikes at public universities have happened largely as a result of huge funding cuts by state governments. In 1985, state appropriations for UT Austin accounted for 47 percent of the university’s budget. Tuition and fees accounted for no more than five percent. Now, tuition and fees provide a quarter of UT’s budget while state funding has dwindled to a mere 13 percent. Amazingly, that actually puts UT ahead of many other state colleges. Last year, the state of Michigan contributed a paltry 4.5 percent of its flagship university’s budget.

Furthermore, Romney’s trust in the private sector is horribly misplaced. We saw how much private lenders care about their borrowers’ best interests in 2008 when Citigroup, Lehman Brothers and their fellows drove the economy into the ditch by issuing countless toxic mortgage loans and gambling on securities with our money. We see it every time we pass a payday lending office in a poor part of town. Those guys aren’t

the answer. Neither are the for-profit, University of Phoenix-style institutions that happen to be contributing enormously to Romney’s campaign.

All this provides opportunity for President Obama to draw contrast between himself and his opponent, but his own response has been sadly underwhelming. So far, Obama has kept interest rates for subsidized Stafford loans from doubling to 6.8 percent, but even Romney was on board with that. In his second term, he plans to make permanent his American Opportunity tax credit, which grants college students up to \$2,500 a year but would take \$13 billion next year alone to renew. He also promises to expand the maximum Pell grant from \$5,550 to \$5,635, but that was already scheduled under current laws.

These are admirable efforts, to be sure, but they bring to mind trying to halt a wildfire with a couple dozen water balloons. In 1980, according to Education Week, the maximum Pell grant covered 77 percent of the average cost of attendance at a 4-year public institution. Today, it covers 36 percent. Even if Obama passes the promised increase, that 36 percent won’t go up by a single percentage point. Something far more substantial is necessary.

This article originally ran in the Sept. 6 version of the Daily Texan, serving the University of Texas.

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

SETH MEYERS

brings the laughs at Stepan

By SAM STRYKER
Assistant Managing Editor

On a weekend when America's favorite wedding crashers visited campus, one comic talent stood out as the funniest man in South Bend: Seth Meyers.

Not even the presence of Owen Wilson and Vince Vaughn at Saturday's football game could overshadow the fact that the head writer of "Saturday Night Live" brought down the house at the Stepan Center on Friday night. With a standing-room-only crowd of 2,100 in the geodesic dome, and 3,000 watching on a screen outside, the event marks the largest in the Student Union Board's (SUB) history.

Luckily for students in attendance, Meyers did not disappoint. Walking out to cheers of "Seth, Seth, Seth," the "Weekend Update" host started the show off by sharing memories of a previous visit to Notre Dame, when he attended a game as a Northwestern undergrad.

From there, Meyers launched into an hour-long set, touching upon personal experiences, everyday observations and pop-cultural references. Everyone and everything was fair game for the target of his humor, from Greece and their "yogurt-based economy" to girls with cameras.

"They all need the same picture on their camera," Meyers said. "One day, God willing, technology will advance to the point where we can email each other our photos." True that, Seth Meyers.

Some of Meyers' strongest material dealt with personal experiences. He reminisced about his time living abroad in Amsterdam, poking fun at the assumed motivation for such a move.

"It's not why you think," he said. "The reason I lived in Amsterdam for two years is because weed is legal there."

Red-light-district-based humor aside, Meyers moved on to some hilarious Owen Wilson and Matthew McConaughey impersonations when describing his cannabis-fueled hijinks in the Dutch city, and hit the nail on the head when he described students returning from Europe as the most-hated, most-obnoxious people on campus. For those juniors who decide not to leave the cultural hotbed of South Bend during their junior year, this joke rung especially true.

Meyers' other European-related humor was also on the mark. Meyers commented on the European economic crisis and the discord between the Old World countries.

"I can't make dinner plans with three friends," Meyers said. "Think of how hard it would be [to solve problems] if you all didn't speak the same language and all your grandparents killed each other during World War II."

As head writer at "SNL," Meyers is gearing up for an election year featuring a set of four candidates ripe with comic potential. Meyers made a Freudian slip as he shifted to presidential humor — accidentally switching one letter in "election," saying a very un-Catholic word that left the audience in stitches — and joked about how dogs seem to be at the center of each candidate's image problems, with Romney strapping his pooch to the roof of his car on a family road trip in the 1980s, and Obama eating man's best friend in his time abroad in his youth.

But the highlight of Meyers' current events material was based on his experience as the host of the White House Correspondents Dinner in 2011. Meyers made some self-deprecating jokes about a botched handshake with President Obama, and also highlighted how he made fun of Donald Trump, much to "The Apprentice" host and real estate mogul's disdain.

"Donald Trump said if he runs for president, it will be as a Republican, which is funny, because I just assumed he would be running as a joke," Meyers quipped.

The best material of this segment of Meyers' set was his commentary on SEAL Team 6's mission against Osama bin Laden. The terrorist happened to be killed the day after Meyers hosted the press dinner. The comic noted "almost everyone" was excited about bin Laden's death — except himself. Meyers joked that the day after he hosted the dinner, he thought he had done such a good job he would be on the news as the lead story the following Monday.

"My theory is this," Meyers said. "Obama also told some jokes that night. He was funny, but I was a little bit funnier. I think he went back to the White House in a bad mood. I think he went to the Situation Room and got his staff together and was like, 'Seth Meyers has the focus. We have to do something to get the focus back. Any ideas?' And someone was like, 'We can kill bin Laden,' and Obama was like 'Do it.'"

From start to finish, Meyers had the audience bent over with bellyaching laughter. Meyers even excelled in delving into topics most goody-two-shoes Notre Dame students would not normally find appealing — including pornography, gay jokes and the aforementioned marijuana humor — although the laughter was cautious for this material, something Meyers picked up on and teased the Notre Dame students for.

Meyers closed the show with some "Weekend Update" jokes that didn't make it past television censors. This was met with raucous applause.

From start to finish, Meyers aced the show. The "Comedy on the Quad" event has featured lesser names in the past such as Gabriel Iglesias and Judah Friedlander, and

as such the "SNL" cast member was a breath of fresh air and a total success. If the maxim that laughter is the best medicine has any truth to it, all the maladies of Notre Dame students were cured Friday evening.

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SMALL TALKS WITH BIG PEOPLE

SETH MEYERS

By **SAM STRYKER**
Assistant Managing Editor

On Friday evening, "Saturday Night Live" head writer and "Weekend Update" host Seth Meyers performed a one-hour standup set to a full house in the Stepan Center in this year's installment of "Comedy on the Quad". After the show, *The Observer's* Sam Stryker sat down with Meyers for an exclusive interview — and no subject was off the table.

Sam Stryker: So first, a generic question. When did you know you wanted to pursue a career in comedy?

Seth Meyers: I guess by college I had a sense it was something I wanted to do. My parents were really funny people, and they introduced us to "SNL" and stuff like "Monty Python" when we were really young. My brother and I would do shows in high school. Then in college, I started to do an improv show at Northwestern and that was when I was like, "I want to try to do this at least for a little while." I started going to Chicago and taking classes.

SS: So you were more looking to pursue the comedy route than a career on television?

SM: Yeah. I went to college as a radio, TV, film major so I thought I would maybe write and direct stuff. I didn't really think on-camera was really my future. I kind of backed into that a little bit.

SS: And did you ever have a moment where you were like, "I made it"?

SM: No, I don't really know. I feel more comfortable now that I've been on the show [SNL] long enough, but for the first five years I kept thinking someone would come knock on my door and ask for my security pass and slowly guide me to the elevators.

SS: Do you have any advice for kids looking to pursue a career in comedy or television or the entertainment business?

SM: I think the best thing you can do, for comedians certainly, as young as you can, you have to just get on stage and try to figure out what your voice is going to be. It's really important, because you are going to have failures, and it's better to get them out of the way when you're young than when you get older. It's better to knock out the failures. You learn more from them than you do the successes.

SS: I'm going to jump right into election stuff, because you touched upon it

[in your show] and I know it is a big part of your routine. What are your general thoughts on this year's election, maybe as opposed to the last one?

SM: Well, for us it's always a little more exciting when there is no incumbent. That means all of the characters are sort of new. So in 2000 or 2008, you get to have people you have never seen before or do impressions you have never seen. Obviously last election was real lightning in the bottle for us with Sarah Palin looking like the most famous per-



SARAH O'CONNOR | The Observer

son who had ever been on our show, so that's not going to happen this time. But I do feel like the next couple of months will really sort of shape the dialogue of what type of election we are really looking at. For us at "SNL" we pay a lot of attention to the conventions that happen, but the reality is when our show comes on Sept. 15, I don't think people will be talking about the conventions anymore. They might be talking about Clint Eastwood talked to an empty chair, at least I hope they do, I hope they remember that.

SS: Do you have someone [involved in the election] you most look forward to writing for on the show, in terms of the races?

SM: One person we haven't done an impersonation of is Paul Ryan. So it will be fun if we can find some fun in him.

SS: So would you be playing him maybe?

SM: I won't, no. It will be somebody else.

SS: What is your favorite part about working at "SNL"?

SM: The people you work with are really fun. You slave away on a Tuesday night, trying to write a couple of funny things, and it is really hard, and nothing is less funny than having trouble writing something funny. But the nice thing is on Wednesday, you know you have your two things, but you also get to hear 30 things that were written in the other rooms. That is really fun. Getting to see things done for the first time at a read-

SS: And how about someone more recent?

SM: You know, he killed it earlier this week — Bill Clinton would be so much fun. He's never hosted, never cameo-ed. That would be great.

SS: Do you have a character or role that is your favorite to play?

SM: Doing "Weekend Update" is my favorite. It's kind of the thing I most wanted to do on the show. Doing that, and especially with someone like Bill [Hader] is doing Stefon, or Bobby [Moynihan] is doing Drunk Uncle or Andy [Samberg] is doing Nic Cage, like being out with your friends and being able to be silly behind the desk is really great.

SS: Do you have a dream acting role beyond "SNL"?

SM: I feel way more comfortable playing Seth Meyers than I do other people, so my dream would be if I could continue to do that.

SS: Building on that, do you want to stay on "SNL"?

SM: I'd say through this season. I'd say I'm kind of the grey beard there now, so I don't know how much longer I can stay. I'm so worried what I do next will be sort of boring. I've never been bored at "SNL".

SS: Who is the funniest cast member you have ever worked with?

SM: [Amy] Poehler, I'm going to say Poehler. Fred Armisen is another who probably makes us laugh the most in the office.

SS: And what is a weird fact that people don't know about you?

SM: I have a nine-pound Italian greyhound named 'Frisbee'.

SS: If Tina Fey and Amy Poehler got into a cage match, who do you think would win?

SM: I think all of humanity would be dead and gone while they were still going at it. Two immortal forces.

SS: One last thing. You talked about humorous experiences throughout your life [in your show]. Do you see something and say, "This is funny" or "This would make for a great joke"? Is that how you see the world?

SM: I think when you have something funny happen in your life and then you have friends you tell it to, there are times when you are like "Oh this is funny. This might be something to work with for people who aren't my friends."

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SPORTSAUTHORITY

Second wild card adds excitement



Mike Monaco
Sports Writer

For just a minute, let's forget all his mishaps; instead, let's give credit where credit is due.

Bud Selig has made his share of mistakes. The steroid era has been downright embarrassing and has tainted a generation of baseball. Oh, and it won't permanently go away until the Hall of Fame fates of potential inductees such as Roger Clemens and Barry Bonds are decided.

Selig cancelled the 1994 World Series and ended the 2002 All-Star Game in a tie.

He's far from perfect.

But when he added a second wild-card team to each league, he got it absolutely spot-on correct.

Now, instead of having just one or two playoff races down the stretch at the end of September, every team is fighting for its spot in the postseason landscape. In powerful divisions like the AL East, there can be three playoff teams.

For example, the Baltimore Orioles, New York Yankees and Tampa Bay Rays are all within two games of one another in the standings. In years past, only two teams

earning playoff berths in each league, it didn't matter whether you made it as a division winner or the wild-card team. Sure, the home-field advantage for the first series might be a small incentive to go for division instead of wild card, but, for the most part, all playoff spots were created equal.

Now, however, getting a wild-card spot is not nearly as appetizing as winning the division. The two wild-card winners now square off in a one-game playoff to determine who advances into the divisional round of the playoffs. So in a division like the AL East, where there are often two playoff teams, winning the division crown matters.

In years past, we frequently saw division leaders with slim leads coast their way into October, because they knew at worst they would still be able to lock up the wild card spot and be no worse for wear. Well, coast no more. Winning the division is now a much greater incentive, and we have Bud Selig to thank.

Let's face it: the MLB season is long and, at times, monotonous. Seeing teams give half-hearted efforts in the end of September was just a

The sheer number of teams that still have realistic playoff hopes has gone up as well after the addition of the second wild-card spot.

would have had the chance to advance to the playoffs. But this time around, we could reasonably have both wild cards come out of the same division.

The sheer number of teams that still have realistic playoff hopes has gone up as well after the addition of the second wild-card spot. In the American League, there are five teams within two games of each other, while a sixth (the Tigers) are just 4.5 games back of the first spot as of Sunday.

In the National League, the Braves are running away with the first wild card. But other teams are still in contention for that second position: the Cardinals, Dodgers and Pirates are separated by just 1.5 games, while two other teams are within 5.5 games.

In addition to increasing the number of teams fighting for postseason glory, Selig's decision to add a second wild-card team made winning the division critical.

Previously, with four teams

slap in the face to fans everywhere. But now, teams have to give it their all down to the wire if they are within range of the wild-card positions.

And lastly, how exciting are these one game wild-card playoffs going to be? One game. Win or go home. Teams will almost certainly trot out their staff aces, giving us outstanding pitching matchups with everything riding on this one game.

Here are some potential American League wild-card aces. Mix and match for your favorite one-game pitchers' duel: David Price, Jered Weaver, C.C. Sabathia, Justin Verlander.

So while he's made his mistakes, don't be afraid to send Bud Selig a thank-you note sometime between now and the end of October.

Contact Mike Monaco at jmonaco@nd.edu

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

TENNIS

Serena Williams takes home fourth U.S. Open



Associated Press

NEW YORK — Finally tested, even trailing, at the U.S. Open, Serena Williams turned things around just in time.

Two points from defeat, Williams suddenly regained her composure and her strokes, coming back to win the last four games and beat top-ranked Victoria Azarenka 6-2, 2-6, 7-5 on Sunday night for her fourth championship at Flushing Meadows and 15th Grand Slam title overall.

"I honestly can't believe I won. I really was preparing my runner-up speech, because I thought, 'Man, she's playing so great,'" Williams said during the trophy presentation after the 2-hour, 18-minute match, adding:

"I'm really shocked."

Might be the only one.

After all, what really was stunning was that Azarenka made things as interesting as they were, given that she came into the day 1-9 against Williams over their careers.

Add in that Williams hadn't dropped a set in the tournament, losing only 19 games through six matches before Sunday. All part of a tremendous run she is putting together in reaction to her loss at the French Open in late May, the American's only first-round exit in 49 career major tournaments. Since then, she is 26-1, winning Wimbledon and the London Olympics.

There hadn't been a three-set women's final in New York since 1995, and Williams came through with a late

charge to become the first woman to win Wimbledon and the U.S. Open in the same season since a decade ago, when — yes, that's right — she did it.

"Serena deserves the win. She showed how true of a champion she is," said Azarenka, who managed only 13 winners, 31 fewer than Williams. "I definitely gave it all today. Stepping out of this court today, I will have no regrets."

Azarenka hadn't dropped a three-set match all season until Sunday, going 12-0 in matches that went the distance, including victories over defending U.S. Open champion Sam Stosur in the quarterfinals and 2006 champion Maria Sharapova in the semifinals.

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Declaration of Independence Preamble

July 4th, 1776 in Philadelphia, Pa.
Written by Thomas Jefferson
Signed by 56 delegates

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2.1 We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

TENNIS

Djokovic advances to face Murray in final

Associated Press

NEW YORK —The weather was much better at the U.S. Open on Sunday. So was Novak Djokovic.

Under a cloudless blue sky, in only a hint of wind, defending champion Djokovic got his game into high gear and reached his third consecutive final at Flushing Meadows by beating fourth-seeded David Ferrer of Spain 2-6, 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 in a match suspended a day earlier.

"I was a different player," the second-seeded Djokovic said. "I felt much more comfortable on the court today than I did yesterday, (when) obviously the conditions were more brutal."

Ferrer led a shaky Djokovic 5-2 in the semifinal's opening set Saturday, when wind was whipping at more than 20 mph and play was halted because of an impending rainstorm. When they resumed about 18 hours later, Ferrer held serve to take that set — and then Djokovic quickly took control, using the brand of defense-to-offense baseline excellence that has carried the Serb to four of the past seven Grand Slam titles.

"We were all praying for less wind today," Djokovic said. "He handled the wind much better than I did."

In Monday's final, Djokovic will face Olympic champion Andy Murray, who beat Tomas Berdych 5-7, 6-2, 6-1, 7-6 (7) on Saturday. It's the fifth consecutive year the U.S. Open men's title match has been played a day later than planned.

The women's final between Serena Williams and Victoria Azarenka that was supposed to be played Saturday night was shifted to Sunday afternoon, the fourth time since 2008 the women's event went long, too.

The third-seeded Murray was able to enjoy a day off Sunday, while Djokovic had to put in some work. But in the end, it wasn't too taxing: Djokovic played only about two hours and was finished with Ferrer by 1:20 p.m., giving him more than 24 hours to rest before taking on Murray.

"I don't feel any problems physically. ... It was good to have the job done in four sets," Djokovic said. "I feel fresh as I can be at this stage of the tournament."

Murray is one of only two

men to lose each of his first four major finals — his coach, Ivan Lendl, is the other — and he'll try to avoid dropping to 0-5. He'll also try to become the first British man since Fred Perry in 1936 to win any of tennis' four most important tournaments.

"I don't think there's any clear favorite," five-time major champion Djokovic said. "He's looking for his first Grand Slam title. I'm sure he's going to be very motivated, and hopefully we can come up with our best tennis for this crowd."

Djokovic leads the head-to-head series against Murray 8-6 but lost their most recent matchup in the semifinals of the London Games.

He and Murray were born a week apart in May 1987 (Djokovic is younger), and they have come up through the ranks together and know each other well.

Before heading out to warm up for his semifinal, Murray sat in front of a computer with Djokovic and they watched online together while Scotland and Serbia played to a 0-0 draw in a qualifying match for soccer's World Cup.

Djokovic extended his

winning streak in Grand Slam matches played on hard courts to 27, including titles at last year's U.S. Open and the Australian Open in 2011 and 2012. He slides along the surface as though it were red clay, allowing him to use his elastic limbs to contort and stretch to get to opponents' shots that appear to be winners.

Over and over and over again Sunday, Djokovic would prolong points until he could gain an advantage or Ferrer would flub a groundstroke. After ending one 25-stroke exchange by snapping off a cross-court backhand winner while serving out the second set, Djokovic bellowed and spread his arms wide, holding a pose, as his parents rose to their feet in his guest box.

By late in the third set, when Djokovic took 12 of 14 points to go from a 3-2 deficit to 5-3 lead, Ferrer was muttering to himself and in the direction of his coach in the stands, the very picture of frustration.

"Playing so bad; a lot of mistakes," Ferrer said. "He was better. I don't have to say nothing. In some games in the third and the fourth set, I lost a little

bit my focus."

The loss dropped Ferrer to 0-4 in Grand Slam semifinals, with another of those defeats also coming against Djokovic at the U.S. Open, back in 2007.

Djokovic was playing in his 10th consecutive Grand Slam semifinal, equaling Rod Laver and Lendl for the second-longest streak behind Roger Federer's record of 23.

And after dropping that first set of this semifinal — the only set he's lost all tournament — Djokovic immediately began turning things around, breaking Ferrer twice in a row en route to a 5-0 lead in the second. In the third, Ferrer made a little charge, taking three games in a row to briefly lead that set.

But the difficulty that dealing with Djokovic presents began to wear on Ferrer. He would rush shots, trying to sneak balls past Djokovic, and that simply was not going to work on this day. Ferrer made three unforced errors to get broken and fall behind 4-3 in the key third set, and when Djokovic eventually served it out with a 123 mph ace, their match pretty much was over.

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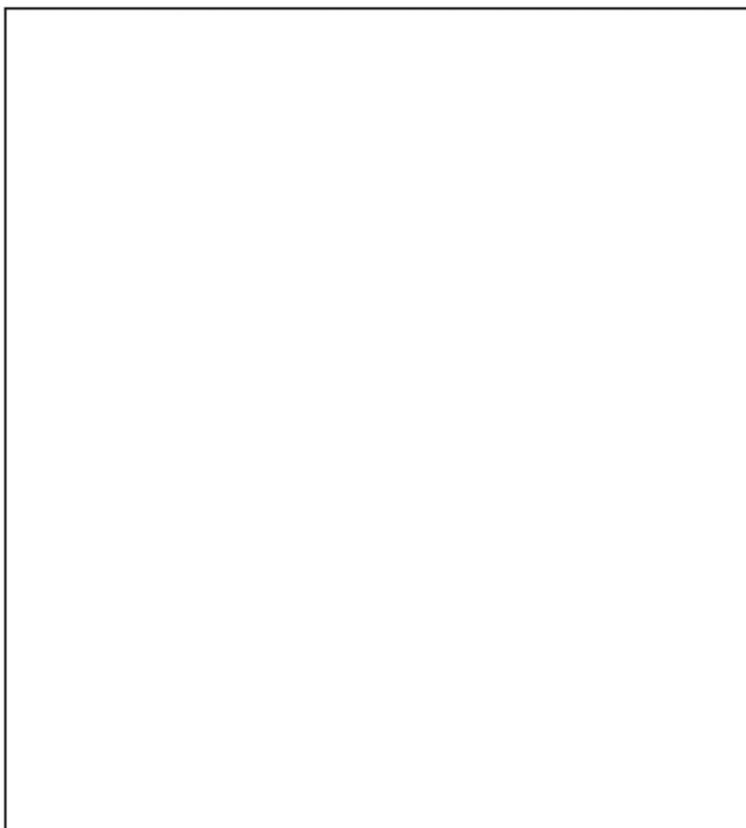
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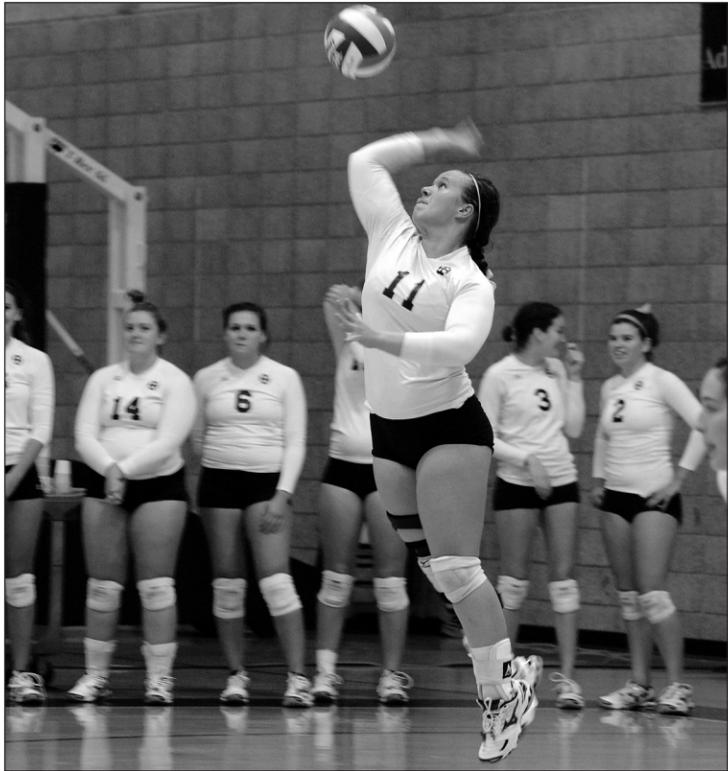
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Belles recapture winning ways



JULIE HERDER | The Observer

Belles senior setter Danie Brink hits a serve during Saint Mary's victory over Albion on Sept. 28, 2011.

By AARON SANT-MILLER
Sports Writer

After losing their first conference match of the season Sept. 4 against Trine, the Belles bounced back in their second conference fixture this weekend. Against rival Albion, Saint Mary's brought home their first MIAA victory of the season in four sets, claiming a 25-19, 24-26, 25-15, 25-20 win.

"It's definitely a good feeling, being 1-1 in the conference and 5-1 overall," Belles coach Toni Kuschel said. "It's definitely a good starting place and a win is always good."

Sophomore outside hitter Kati Schneider, who had 14 kills, led the Belles offensively. Senior captain and setter Danie Brink did her part as well, as she added 35 helpers to her growing assist total. On top of that, Schneider and Brink had a combined five aces.

Yet even with great individual performances, Saint Mary's team play was equally as prominent. A total of five players had double-digit digs, including 11 from Schneider and 10 from Brink. In that category defensive specialist outside hitter sophomore defensive specialist Samantha Grady and freshman outside hitter Katie Hecklinski, who both had 12, led the Belles in that category.

"Having all those girls with double-digit digs is awesome," Kuschel said. "Everyone contributed defensively."

For Hecklinski, it was the second match in a row that she led the team in digs. Hecklinski tallied a team high nine digs against conference rival Trine (7-1, 3-0 MIAA) in the Belles' loss.

"Hecklinski is just doing an awesome job," Kuschel said.

"For a freshman to be so composed and in control defensively is an awesome thing to see."

While the team played well as a whole, Kuschel said that the Belles performance in the match was far from flawless.

"We are continuing to have a lot of unforced errors," Kuschel said. "Serving was a big struggle for us Saturday."

Thus, there remains room to improve for this young Belles team. With only one upperclassman on the roster in Brink, Saint Mary's is younger and less experienced than almost all its opponents. Still, the Belles have improved and look to keep doing so, Kuschel said.

"We saw some things that we worked really hard on [improving]," she said. "Other things, we still need to continue to work on. It's early in the season so it's expected, but we still have things to work on."

The Belles will look to do just that this week when they Belles will host another conference rival in, Adrian (4-4, 0-3 MIAA). Kuschel said at home, the Belles would look to play even better than they did in their win over Albion.

"We need to play better than we did this weekend," said Kuschel. "We had a lot of unforced errors that we're just not really happy with that we need to clean up."

The Belles will not only look to improve, but also nab their second conference win, sliding above .500 in a competitive MIAA race.

Saint Mary's opportunity will come on Wednesday, when they host Adrian at 7 p.m.

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SMC CROSS COUNTRY | CALVIN INVITATIONAL

Saint Mary's finishes 17th

By LAURA COLETTI
Sports Writer

The Belles participated in the highly competitive Calvin Invitational on Saturday and placed 17th in a field of 22 teams.

Host Calvin won the tournament, while Division II squad Grand Valley State placed second. Junior Jessica Biek was the top finisher for the Belles with a time of 19:15.7 for 50th place overall in a field of over 300 runners. Sophomore Samee Chittenden was the next Saint Mary's runner to finish with a collegiate personal record time of 20:33.1, good for 142nd place. Belles coach Jackie Bauters said she was happy with how her team raced.

"Overall, I'm happy with our team's results," she said. "While we were hoping to race better than the results showed, especially

against some of our MIAA competitors, I think we gained a lot in the first meet."

Bauters said that while some of her runners didn't have the days they hoped

"While we were hoping to race better than the results showed, especially against some of our MIAA competitors, I think we gained a lot in the first meet."

Jackie Bauters
Belles head coach

for, as a team, the Belles felt good about how they finished out their first five-kilometer race of the year. "Several of the girls had

[personal records] in the 5K this week," Bauters said. "Not everyone had the day they hoped for, but in breaking down the race afterwards I feel like everyone gleaned something positive from the race."

Although Bauters was pleased with her team, she acknowledged that her team still has some work to do.

"As a team we are not in prime racing shape right now, but I feel confident with the work we are doing as a team," she said. "I feel like we will be prepared when the races count and take the enthusiasm this team brings every day to get us to that point."

The Belles will return to action this Friday, when they participate in Notre Dame's annual National Catholic Championship.

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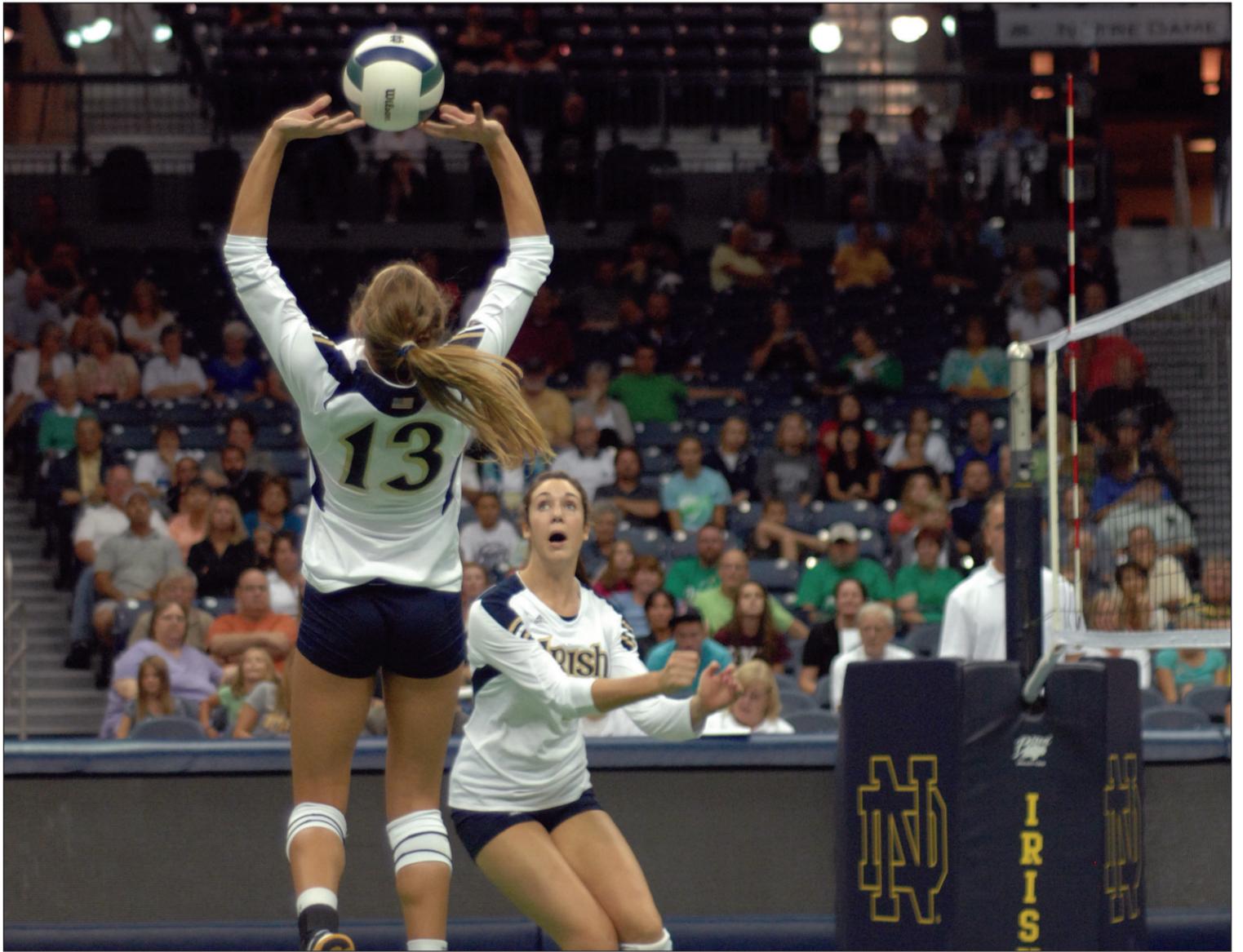
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through five sets requires a special kind of mentality.

"The toughest part about playing five-set matches is staying mentally and physi-

"We hit really well against high-caliber teams and improved our out-of-system play ... Some of the things we still need to work on, though, are finishing games, consistently communicating on and off the court and making fewer errors altogether."

Andrea McHugh
Junior opposite side hitter



ASHLEY DACY | The Observer

Irish freshman setter Hannah Muzzonigro prepares to make a pass during Notre Dame's victory over Eastern Kentucky on Sept. 2. The Irish traveled to Los Angeles over the weekend to compete in the USC Tournament and compiled a 1-2 record at the event.

cally tough, because by the fifth set, your body tends to slow down a little bit," she said. "Personally, I love playing five-set matches because I love playing in pressure situations."

While the Irish were unable to take the Trojans to five sets, they managed to pull ahead in the first two sets and forced USC

to fight back. McHugh said that there were good things to take away from both matches on Saturday, but that there were aspects of play the Irish need to work

on.

"We hit really well against high-caliber teams and improved our out-of-system play," McHugh said. "Some of the things we still need

to work on, though, are finishing games, consistently communicating on and off the court and making fewer errors altogether."

The Irish will look to

bounce back when they host the Golden Dome Invitational next weekend.

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Shipp

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

"That was the key goal for us to win the game."

Fouls flowed in the second half, which led to Notre Dame's two other goals. With 23 minutes left in the second half, Irish junior forward Harrison Shipp was tripped up right outside of the box. Senior captain forward Dillon Powers took the kick and bent the ball over the

the ball in the net. It seemed an eternity to me waiting, but it was a great goal when it did come."

Like in Sunday's contest, Brown was a catalyst in Friday's game when in the 81st minute he dished a through ball to streaking sophomore defender Max Lachowecki, who put the ball just inside the post for the game-winning goal.

"Leon played me a great ball, and that's really my bread-and-butter; the left-

"It says a lot about our team this year, the fact that we can get down in the game with 10 minutes left in the game and still just keep playing and keep working and keep pushing for that goal, and we finally got it."

Max Lachowecki
Irish sophomore defender

wall, out of the reach of Zips junior keeper David Meves and into the side of the net. The insurance goal came on a penalty after senior forward Ryan Finley was tripped up chasing down a through ball from Powers. A scuffle broke out between both sides and shoving ensued. Finley took the penalty kick and placed it low in the corner.

"It was a growing up game for us," Clark said. "These were the games we would have ended up tying last year."

Friday's game against Oregon State was also one that tested Notre Dame's resiliency. The Irish dominated the game, but were unable to finish until late in the second half.

"I thought we handled [Oregon State's] athleticism very, very well," Clark said. "I thought the whole game we bossed the game, we controlled the game, there's no question. But we didn't put

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footed shot and trying to hit it as hard as I can far post and put it on goal," Lachowecki said. "I think it's a big goal at that time of the game. It says a lot about our team this year, the fact that we can get down in the game with 10 minutes left in the game and still just keep playing and keep working and keep pushing for that goal, and we finally got it. And I think that's the big difference between our team this year is that we've got that mindset, we're gritty."

Notre Dame was able to capitalize on opportunities this weekend. Oregon State's leading scorer, sophomore forward Khiry Shelton, went down in the 10th minute and did not play for the remainder of the game.

"That's a big loss," Clark said. "He's a big-time player for them. For him not to be out there, that blunted their offense. I was sorry to see that happen. We were going to control the game, but I think that would have made their transition that more potent if he had been on, because he is definitely a top-class player."

The Irish look to remain undefeated against Michigan State at home this Friday with a 7 p.m. start.

Contact Isaac Lorton at
ilorton@nd.edu

Waldrum

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

rocky start two days later at Husky Soccer Field in Seattle, as Washington (7-0-0) junior midfielder Lindsay Elston drilled an 18-yard shot past Hight in the 29th minute to put the Huskies on the board. Washington wasted little time widening its lead, as sophomore forward Jaelyn Softli knocked down Hight's clearance attempt and boot-ed the ball past two defenders to score Washington's second goal in the 38th minute.

A halftime goalie switch, with sophomore Sarah Voigt relieving Hight, made little difference for the Irish, as the team struggled to find the net. A late goal by Washington in the 89th minute pushed the Huskies' margin of victory to three.

"We just came out really flat against Washington and got down in the first half, which made it really difficult to come back," Waldrum said.

Waldrum said he made the decision to switch out Hight for Voigt because Hight had been limited in practice last week due to a slight shoulder injury.

"Elyse was not able to do much training this week because of a shoulder injury," Waldrum said. "Although she played well, she made some slight mistakes Friday, and I contemplated making a change then, since the fact that she was out during



MACKENZIE SAIN | The Observer

Irish junior midfielder Elizabeth Tucker dribbles during Notre Dame's 1-0 loss to North Carolina on Sept. 2.

the week hurt her. Sarah did a nice job in the second half, and we have two goalkeepers we feel are capable of handling the job."

With the grueling non-conference portion of its schedule over, Notre Dame will look toward its Big East conference slate, which begins Friday with a nationally televised contest against No. 12 Louisville. Waldrum said his team's nonconference competition, which included four ranked opponents, strongly prepared the Irish for the rigors of the conference schedule.

"We had a tough schedule early with a lot of our young players playing, and we hope it makes us better," Waldrum said. "I think we're in a good place as we head into

conference games."

Notre Dame will be bolstered in its conference games by the addition of junior midfielder Mandy Laddish and freshman all-purpose player Cari Roccaro, who helped the United States capture the FIFA Under-20 Women's World Cup title with a 1-0 triumph over Japan on Saturday. Waldrum said both players should be available to face Louisville on Friday.

"It will depend on how much practice they get this week, but I expect them to play next weekend," Waldrum said.

Notre Dame will take on Louisville Friday at 4 p.m. at Alumni Stadium.

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MEN'S SOCCER | ND 1, OREGON STATE 0 | ND 3, AKRON 1

Irish topple ranked teams over weekend

By ISAAC LORTON
Sports Writer

No. 13 Notre Dame beat all comers to win the Mike Berticelli Memorial Tournament this weekend, topping Oregon State 1-0 on Friday despite wild weather, and winning a chippy and aggressive game on Sunday over No. 4 Akron, 3-1.

Sunday's game was a colorful one, as both sides were issued two yellow cards and one straight red was issued to Akron junior midfielder Aodhan Quinn. Coming into the matchup, both the Irish (5-0-0) and the Zips (3-1-1) were undefeated.

The Irish went down early when Zips senior midfielder Scott Caldwell received a pass at the top of the 18-yard-box and put it by Irish junior keeper Patrick Wall in the fourth minute. In the 30th minute of the game, Quinn took down Irish sophomore midfielder

Nick Besler with an elbow to Belser's head away from the play. The referee issued a straight red card with no hesitation to Quinn. With a man advantage, Notre Dame immediately took control of the game.

"Once they lost the player, that tilted the field in our favor," Irish coach Bobby Clark said. "It was a statement win, but we will keep it in perspective. We were 1-0 down and then they get the red card. With a man up, I would be disappointed if we didn't win. I would have been happier if we had won on a level playing field."

"Having said that, [Akron] definitely brought that on themselves. [Akron] is a very good team and they move the ball as well as any team in the country. So it was a good test for us."

The Irish seemed passive in the first half, Clark said, but they came out strong



SARAH O'CONNOR | The Observer

Irish senior midfielder Dillon Powers maneuvers during Notre Dame's 3-1 victory over Akron on Sunday. It was the first loss for the No. 4 Zips.

in the second and struck quickly. In the 49th minute, Irish junior forward Leon Brown connected with

a hard-driven cross from freshman midfielder Patrick Hodan and volleyed the ball into the back of the net.

"It was a great goal by Leon Brown," Clark said.

see SHIPP PAGE 14

ND WOMEN'S SOCCER | ND 1, PORTLAND 1 | WASHINGTON 3, ND 0

Notre Dame splits contests

By BRIAN HARTNETT
Sports Writer

It was a tale of two games for Notre Dame this weekend, as the young Irish squad showed its inconsistency in a West Coast road trip that featured an encouraging tie followed by a deflating loss.

The Irish (3-3-1) started their road trip with a 1-1 tie against No. 18 Portland on Friday, but experienced some first-half struggles en route to a 3-0 loss to No. 22 Washington two days later.

"We took a couple of steps forward Friday and a couple of steps backwards Sunday," Irish coach Randy Waldrum said. "We have to put together a full 90 minutes of soccer."

In front of a packed crowd of 4,932 fans at Merlo Field in Portland, Ore., the Irish fell into an early hole, as Portland (4-1-1) freshman forward Rebekah Kurle scored off an uncleared free-kick 30 minutes into the game. Notre Dame countered less than nine minutes later, as sophomore defender Sammy Scofield drove home a header off a corner kick by freshman forward Anna Maria Gilbertson.

The Irish looked poised to take the lead at the end of the first half, but junior



MACKENZIE SAIN | The Observer

Irish freshman forward Anna Maria Gilbertson jostles for position during Notre Dame's 1-0 loss to UNC on Sept. 2.

midfielder Elizabeth Tucker's shot boomed off the inside of the post in the 41st minute. Notre Dame experienced a similar missed opportunity midway through the second half, as sophomore forward Lauren Bohaboy's strong attempt from 22 yards out struck the underside of the crossbar. Buoyed by freshman goalie Elyse Hight's nine saves, the Irish defense kept Portland at bay and 120 minutes of action resulted in a 1-1 tie.

Waldrum said he was pleased with his team's performance against the Pilots, a perennial power in women's soccer.

"We were really good against a good team in a tough place to play," Waldrum said. "We handled pressure really well and played a really entertaining game that could have gone either way."

Notre Dame got off to a

see WALDRUM PAGE 14

ND VOLLEYBALL | USC TOURNAMENT

Houser paces team in California

By LAURA COLETTI
Sports Writer

The Irish had a competitive weekend as they defeated Cal Poly on Friday night and dropped two tough matches to No. 17 San Diego and No. 5 USC on Saturday at the USC Classic Tournament in Los Angeles.

Notre Dame (5-4) came out strong against the Mustangs (1-7) and were led by sophomore opposite side hitter Jeni Houser's 17 kills and junior tri-captain and setter Maggie Brindock's 31 assists. It was Houser's seventh double-digit kill performance of the season. Brindock also chipped in nine digs and six kills over the three sets. The Irish were dominant as they held Cal Poly to a .000 attack percentage over the last two sets, and the win extended the Notre Dame's team's unbeaten streak to four games.

After their stellar performance against the Mustangs, the Irish turned their attention to two top-20 opponents. While both

matches were competitive, they fell short against both the Toreros (5-2) and the Trojans (9-0). Junior captain and right-side hitter Andrea McHugh said the squad was not happy with the outcome of these matches.

"Overall, coaches and teammates included, we were pretty dissatisfied with the outcome of this tournament this weekend," McHugh said. "We didn't just come to Southern California to beat Cal Poly — We came to beat top-20 teams. It's a good sign that we can hang with top-20 teams, but that's not our goal. Our goal is to beat highly-ranked teams and most importantly get that [win]."

The loss to San Diego snapped Notre Dame's win streak, which had been its longest since September 2011. The Irish played the Toreros tough, forcing a decisive fifth set for the first time this season. McHugh said playing a match

see MCHUGH PAGE 13