

Judge dismisses lawsuit against HHS

By MEGAN DOYLE
Managing Editor

A federal judge has dismissed the University's religious liberty lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of a mandate that requires employers to provide contraceptive services in their minimum health insurance packages.

The lawsuit, filed last May, states the mandate would go against Church teachings and therefore violates the First Amendment, the Religious

Freedom Act and other federal laws. The mandate is part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, passed in 2010.

U.S. District Court Judge Robert Miller Jr. ruled Jan. 2 that the lawsuit should be dismissed because the University's claim is not yet "ripe," meaning it is not ready to be litigated.

Notre Dame argued the University needs to set aside significant funds for the costs it would incur in connection with the regulations, and

those budget decisions need to be made now.

But in a compromise announced last year, the federal government had granted Notre Dame and other religious employers a year-long "safe harbor" before any regulations would take effect. In Miller's written opinion on the case, he stated the defendants have announced they are working to refashion the mandate and its exemptions, and he dismissed the case because Notre Dame remains under the safe harbor for the

time they believe is needed for those changes to be made. Court documents list the defendants as Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, Labor Secretary Hilda Solis, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and their respective departments.

"Notre Dame lacks standing to attack the present regulatory requirement because it isn't subject to that requirement, and, taking the defendants at their word, never will be subject to the present

regulation," Miller wrote.

University Spokesman Dennis Brown said the administration is still examining the judge's ruling.

"We are reviewing the opinion and considering our options, but it is important to note that this is not a ruling on the merits of our claim that the challenged mandate infringes on religious liberty," Brown said.

Law professor Rick Garnett, an expert on religious liberty

see HHS PAGE 7

Championship game draws Irish faithful

Despite loss, fans cherish Miami experience

By KRISTEN DURBIN
News Editor

Despite the disappointing outcome of the BCS National Championship on Jan. 7, Notre Dame students and fans brought South Bend to South Beach for an entire weekend to support their Irish against the University of Alabama Crimson Tide.

Tens of thousands of Notre Dame fans descended on the greater Miami area in the days leading up to the game, including a star-studded Jan. 5 pep rally featuring such

see MIAMI PAGE 5



Photo courtesy of Bill Purcell

Senior David Jones and fellow volunteers plant flowers in a new community garden in Miami. Notre Dame and the University of Alabama co-hosted the service project before the BCS National Championship game.

BCS competitors partner to build urban garden

By AUBREY BUTTS
News Writer

While the Notre Dame and Alabama football teams prepared for their faceoff in the BCS National Championship, squads of volunteers from the opposing communities set rivalries aside to plant a community garden in the Overtown neighborhood of Miami.

Katie Rutledge, service programs manager for the Notre Dame Alumni Association, said the project originated from the desire of the

see GARDEN PAGE 6

Students conduct research abroad over break

By JOANNA LAGEDROST
News Writer

While many students dedicated their time off from classes to some much needed rest and relaxation, a number of them took the time to conduct research abroad.

Seniors James McClay and Tre Carden jetted off to India to work in a Tibetan refugee community called Mainpat, assisting in the development of an artisanal

handicraft business. Their work consisted of product design and development, marketing and business strategy.

McClay said the pair spent a week in the village speaking with locals about their daily routines to gain insight for the project. When not working on the business project, they spent time studying Mainpat's architecture, culture, and resources, all while living in the Mainpat monastery.

After the week in the village,

McClay and Carden traveled to Mumbai, Varanasi, Dharamsala and Jaipur in India, as well as Kathmandu, Nepal.

"We chose these cities because they are unique and offered new perspectives on handicraft, Buddhist, Tibetan and Indian design," McClay said.

McClay said he and Carden constantly interacted with local Indian people because their research required learning about local culture.

"The experience was incredibly eye opening and very beneficial for the [project]," McClay said. "I learned so much while also immersing myself in a new and different culture. My expectations were exceeded and my personal experience has changed the way I view things."

Senior Katherine Damo, an account and Italian Studies major, spent a week in Trastevere, a historic neighborhood in Rome, researching how cultural

differences between Italy and the United States affect business.

Damo said the opportunity to visit the PricewaterhouseCoopers Rome office was a highlight of the trip, having previously worked at the company's offices in Ohio and Edinburgh, Scotland.

"Researching corporate culture of the same multinational firm in three different countries

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P.O. Box 779, Notre Dame, IN 46556
024 South Dining Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556

Editor-in-Chief

Allan Joseph

Managing Editor

Megan Doyle

Business Manager

Jeff Liptak

Asst. Managing Editor: Andrew Owens
Asst. Managing Editor: Sam Stryker
News Editor: John Cameron
News Editor: Kristen Durbin
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Multimedia Editor: Sarah O'Connor
Advertising Manager: Monica McCormack
Ad Design Manager: Sara Hilstrom
Controller: Peter Woo
Systems Administrator: William Heineman

Office Manager & General Info

Ph: (574) 631-7471

Fax: (574) 631-6927

Advertising

(574) 631-6900 ads@ndsmcobserver.com

Editor-in-Chief

(574) 631-4542 ajoseph2@nd.edu

Managing Editor

(574) 631-4542 mdoyle11@nd.edu

Assistant Managing Editors

(574) 631-4541 aowens2@nd.edu

sstrykel@nd.edu

Business Office

(574) 631-5313

News Desk

(574) 631-5323 obsnews.nd@gmail.com

Viewpoint Desk

(574) 631-5303 obsviewpoint@gmail.com

Sports Desk

(574) 631-4543 observersports@gmail.com

Scene Desk

(574) 631-4540 Observer.Scene.Editor@gmail.com

Saint Mary's Desk

jbarwi01@saintmarys.edu

Photo Desk

(574) 631-8767 obsphoto@gmail.com

Systems & Web Administrators

(574) 631-8839

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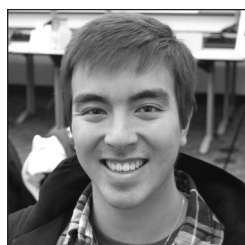
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QUESTION OF THE DAY:

What did you do over winter break?

Have a question you want answered?

Email obsphoto@gmail.com



Pablo Quan

senior
Dillon Hall

"I went on tour with the wonderful Notre Dame Liturgical Choir."



Ashley Armendariz

senior
Pangborn Hall

"I saw my newborn nephew and spent lots of time with my family."



April Adams

junior
Welsh Family Hall

"I [drove] ... to Quincy, Ill., on Christmas Day to surprise my brother."



Ashley Lawrence

junior
Farley Hall

"I played with my baby cousin and she's awesome."



Ian McGraw

freshman
Fisher Hall

"I went down to South Beach but I don't want to talk about it."



Theresa Parker

junior
off campus

"I skied in Colorado, tanned in the Keys and cheered for Notre Dame in Miami."



WEI LIN | The Observer

The University of Notre Dame Liturgical Choir performed in Albany, N.Y., at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception as part of its annual tour. The group is under the leadership of director Andrew McShane and assistant director Mary Catherine Levri.

Today's Staff

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Christian Myers
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Laura Coletti

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Grant Tobin

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Dan Brombach

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THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

Want your event included here?

Email obsnews.nd@gmail.com

Wednesday

Hula Hooping

LaFortune Ballroom
12 p.m.-1:30 p.m.
Stress relief workout.

Film: "The Third Man"

DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
7:30 p.m.-9:14 p.m.
\$7/\$6/\$5/\$4

Thursday

Zen Meditation

Coleman-Morse Center
5:15 p.m.-6:15 p.m.
All faiths welcome.

"Can Christianity the Imagination of Our Contemporaries?"

Geddes Hall
7:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
Lecture

Friday

Blood Drive

Hesburgh Library
8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Women's Tennis

Eck Tennis Pavilion
4 p.m.-6 p.m.
ND vs. Bowling Green

Saturday

Men's and Women's Indoor Track

Loftus Sports Center
10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Invitational

Hockey

Compton Family Ice Arena
7:05 p.m.-9:05 p.m.
ND vs. Alaska

Sunday

Women's Basketball

Joyce Center
12 p.m.-2 p.m.
ND vs. St. John's

Moreau Day Scavenger Hunt

Coleman-Morse Center
2 p.m.-5 p.m.
Feast day of Blessed Basil Moreau.

Instructors share fitness advice for new year

By **NICOLE MICHELS**
News Writer

Every January, enthusiastic masses flood gyms to put their new resolutions to the test — and often abandon those workout goals before swimsuit season even begins. To avoid this mid-winter funk, physical education and wellness instructor Stephanie Gaal said students should take the time to develop realistic goals.

“Every student’s goals are going to be different. ... Every person’s body is different and so everyone’s goals are as well,” Gaal said. “The biggest mistake people make is to start off too strong and they end up injured or burned out. Be progressive.”

Before starting any workout program, students need to do the research to structure their workouts properly, she said.

“For students who are beginners, a lot of times I see them doing things they don’t know how to do or trying to start a program that they have no idea how to start,” Gaal said. “They can’t be afraid to go in and do the research. Knowing what you’re doing is

really important, you have to be mindful of what you’re doing and how you’re doing it.”

Students can search for sources online but should consider potential reliability issues, Gaal said. The instructors in the Physical Education and Wellness Department are also available to help students develop a fitness or diet plan, she said. To increase their chance at sticking to a regimen, Gaal said students should choose workouts that can keep their interest.

“It’s easier to stay motivated if you are enjoying yourself,” Gaal said. “Think outside the box. Try something new. Variety keeps the body guessing and adapting. ... It’s a matter of experimenting: not everyone likes squats, not everyone likes lunges. Often students only want to do cardio, but they don’t realize how good strength training can be for the body,” she said.

Gaal said she cautions students against cutting corners in their workouts.

“If you think long term, it would be wise to incorporate as many parts of a solid workout as possible: Warm up,

conditioning, flexibility and balance work, cooling down and stretching,” she said. “Recover properly: Your body reaps the benefits of your exercise regime when you give it rest and sleep well. Hydrate, eat properly.”

Joshua Scott, physical education and wellness instruc-

“The biggest mistake people make is to start off too strong and they end up injured or burned out. Be progressive.”

Stephanie Gaal
physical education instructor

tor, said students should also evaluate their own time management abilities before beginning a fitness program.

“How many hours do students want to dedicate to whatever their goal is?” he said. “Understanding what their priorities are and how they currently spend their time will give them a much better idea of how to put that

[plan] into their daily lives.”

Knowing potential barriers to success is key to attaining that success, he said.

“If it were going to be something easy to change, you would have done it already,” Scott said. “Trying to understand and develop a plan of action for getting past those barriers ... especially developing a support system ... will help students. Sharing what you’re doing with your close friends might inspire them to do the same, or they can help you with [your goals].”

Planning ahead is crucial, he said.

“For example, if you want to eat better and you’re eating regularly in the dining hall, you have the ability to look ahead for the next month and plan what you want to eat so you can make healthy, informed decisions,” Scott said.

Notre Dame has an abundance of resources to help students devise plans, Scott said.

“Online there are many great resources — and many horrible resources,” Scott said. “Meeting with someone here at Notre Dame can help students successfully

make a fitness and wellness plan. The Physical Education Department, Rec Sports, dieticians and counselors are all able to help students with a wide range of goals: nutrition, fitness, time management or more interpersonal goals.”

Scott said students should try more than one approach to fitness.

“Everyone is so drastically different in how they make changes in their lives; there is a sequence of things that seem to work for a lot of people but within that there are so many different things that seem to work — it’s more of a problem solving activity,” Scott said.

The key to achieving long-term fitness goals and resolutions is to stay motivated, Scott said.

“Even the most dedicated people are going to go through the ebb and flow of being super motivated and a little more unmotivated. ... The longer you’re involved you’re just going to realize that’s reality.”

Contact Nicole Michels at nmichels@nd.edu

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SMC gift planning welcomes new director

By **KAITLYN RABACH**
News Writer

Saint Mary's has named 1998 graduate Jennifer Winnett Denniston as its new director of gift planning, according to a College press release.

Denniston returned to her alma mater for the sense of community she remembers on the campus.

"There is something intangible about Saint Mary's," Denniston said. "No words can truly describe this sisterhood. I am very blessed to be back and to be working with alumnae from across the country on setting up trusts for the College."

Denniston majored in mass communications and political science at the College. After a few years working in the financial industry, she attended Indiana Maurer School of Law. Denniston also has a master's degree in business management from Indiana Wesleyan University.

In this position, Denniston

will be responsible for soliciting financial gifts from alumnae. These gifts are usually in the form of a trust and are given to the College over time.

"When I was in private practice, I actually wrote these trusts for my clients," Denniston said. "This background has really helped my transition into this new position."

Denniston succeeds former director of gift planning Jo Ann MacKenzie, who retired earlier this fall after 24 years of service to the College.

"I was able to work with Jo Ann for a couple of months," Denniston said. "She also graduated from the College and we were able to travel together to meet with other alumnae from across the country. She really set me up for success in this position."

Denniston credited much of her success to her Saint Mary's education.

"Saint Mary's helped me understand that I am truly capable of anything I put my mind

to," Denniston said. "This new understanding allowed me to take risks and jump on new opportunities as they came to me. Law school was a risk, but Saint Mary's taught me if I could find a way to get there I could handle it. I thought the same thing when I took this job opportunity and moved my family from Indianapolis to South Bend."

A former resident of Le Mans Hall, Denniston said she is happy to be back in a familiar setting.

"I love Saint Mary's College," Denniston said. "Our students are so involved with the world around them. I am always hearing of the different projects and activities they are involved in. I truly enjoy this type of work and I am thankful I can do the work I love for a college with a good cause. This job allows me to help more young women pursue some of the same educational opportunities that I did."

Contact **Kaitlyn Rabach** at krabac01@saintmarys.edu

College loses beloved spiritual leader

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

Sr. Mary Louise Gude, otherwise known as "Sr. M.L.," passed away on the evening of Jan. 9 at the Saint Mary's Convent at the age of 73. She enjoyed a rewarding career at Saint Mary's and the University of Notre Dame that spanned four decades.

Gude was a 1963 alumna of Saint Mary's College, having studied secondary education and French.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Gude spent most of her adult life serving Saint Mary's College and the University of Notre Dame in various capacities. At Saint Mary's, she worked as assistant professor of French from 1976 to 1991 and as coordinator of the French program at the College from 1977 to 1987. Most recently, she served as vice president for mission at the College.

On Monday, friends and colleagues honored Gude before she was laid to rest at the Church of Our Lady of Loretto on the College's campus.

Sr. Veronique Wiedower, who took over for Gude in 2011, praised Gude's commitment to the College's work.

"Sr. M.L. was always very supportive of the work of Campus Ministry," Wiedower said. "She was a great vice president, encouraging and affirming our efforts. We are both sisters of the Holy Cross and I have known her as a sister in the community

for over 45 years."

Wiedower said Gude had a major impact on expanding diversity at the College, including her work with the President's Council for Multicultural Affairs.

"She loved to work with students ... and was a compassionate presence to anyone in need," Wiedower said. "[Gude] facilitated the 'Friend to Friend' program about sexual orientation and Church teachings for first-year students. She chaired the Going Green group, a sustainability committee on campus, and also the Joint Sustainability Group between the College and the Sisters of the Holy Cross, looking at best practices that would support campus-wide sustainability."

Wiedower described her fellow sister's personality as full of life and fun.

"She had a brilliant mind and loved to pass on her knowledge and insights," Wiedower said. "She contributed her translation skills and knowledge of all things French with Holy Cross programs in Le Mans, and helped to translate for Congregation chapters and international events."

"She loved her local community and continued to share life with them even when her illness necessitated her move to Saint Mary's Convent," she said. "[Gude] loved getting to know our newer members from around the world and was a great mentor and teacher to

them."

For Wiedower, Gude's passing meant the loss of a sister, friend and mentor.

"She knew who she was and always accepted others for who they were," Wiedower said. "Although we are very different personalities, we worked well together and I always enjoyed spending leisure time with her. I will miss her wit, humor and deep spirituality."

Sr. Rachel Anne Callahan, another friend of Gude's, remembered the time she spent with the sister before she was "M.L."

"My memories of Mary are a mosaic of special times and ordinary times — walking around the lake, her great gourmet cooking, people watching in Paris, sharing great family stories, laughing at everything and nothing," Callahan said.

Although they had been friends for 53 years, Callahan said she wishes she could have spent more time with Gude.

"[We] have spent our lives in different parts of the country depending on 'live' visits as frequently as possible and phone and email," Callahan said.

While she may be gone, Callahan said she will cherish the time she was able to spend with Gude.

"[I will remember] most especially having a window into her beautiful soul," she said.

Contact **Jillian Barwick** at jbarwi01@saintmarys.edu



Photo courtesy of Ellen Carroll

Sophomore Patrick Power and senior Ellen Carroll pose at a tailgate outside Sun Life Stadium in Miami Gardens, Fla. on Jan. 7.

Miami

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Irish legends as Lou Holtz, Joe Theismann and Mike Golic that attracted an estimated 20,000 fans to South Beach.

Junior Pat Wall said the Notre Dame presence in Miami was impossible to miss.

"Walking up and down the main street in South Beach ... was just like walking through the quad on campus," Wall said. "You knew someone everywhere you would go. The amount of Notre Dame fans in Florida that week was unreal. It seemed as if we moved South Bend to South Beach and I had the time of my life."

Senior Ellen Carroll, who spent a week in Florida with her friends, said Irish spirit was rampant throughout the greater Miami area.

"It was like the entire school had an extra spring break in Miami," she said. "The crowd was huge everywhere you went and the number of Notre Dame fans was overwhelming. I hadn't realized before going down to Miami just how large the Miami area is ... but you couldn't go anywhere without running into people you knew and Notre Dame fans who wanted to talk to you."

Carroll said she and her friends attended the Jan. 6 concert on South Beach featuring country group Dierks Bentley and hip-hop artist Flo Rida.

"They shouted out to the crowd to see if there were more Notre Dame or Alabama fans in the audience, and the Notre Dame fans were easily twice as loud as the Alabama fans," she said. "It was pretty incredible to be able to travel so far from our school ... and feel the same sense of family and school pride that we always have here on campus."

Sophomore Christian Knight said the beachside concert was a highlight of his trip to Miami.

"While Flo Rida isn't exactly the most musically talented artist, just being on the beach with over half the Notre Dame student body was unforgettable," he said.

Carroll said the experience of supporting the Irish in

Miami reinforced her love for the University and the members of its family.

"I never thought that I would have the chance to [watch Notre Dame play in the national championship] as a student here, and I was so proud to be able to tell people I met that we were students at Notre Dame," she said.

Knight, who received a ticket to the game as a birthday present, said his favorite part of the championship experience was the gameday activities leading up to the ultimately ill-fated matchup against Alabama.

"Being able to sleep on the beach, attend several Notre Dame tailgates and attend the national championship game all on the same day ... was one of the most unforgettable experiences I will ever have," he said.

Wall said the extended gameday allowed more time to tailgate with friends and Notre Dame alumni.

"It was impossible to move 10 feet without running into someone I knew, had class with or just recognized from around campus," he said. "There were so many alumni tailgating who loved to talk ... about their experiences at Notre Dame, and I loved getting to hear about their college experience."

Regardless of the final outcome of the game, Knight said he "would relive that weekend 100 times over."

"There is nothing better than treating winter break 'domesickness' with a weekend in South Beach with all my closest friends from all across the country," he said.

Carroll, who attended the game after receiving the ticket her younger sister won in the student lottery, agreed the experience was memorable whether the Irish football team was victorious or not.

"I've never experienced such an exciting pre-game atmosphere before," she said. "The game itself was pretty painful to watch after the first couple minutes, but I would 100 percent go again if given the chance."

Contact **Kristen Durbin** at kdurbin@nd.edu

Garden

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

student and alumni community to demonstrate the Christian values of charity and gratitude.

"It puts a proper perspective on life," Rutledge said. "Talking to the volunteers, [University President Fr. John] Jenkins said that the project was a victory for both sides. This rings true, especially now after the loss. The service project and impact will be a win for the community and those who spent time in service during their Miami trips."

Planting season only began recently, so volunteers could not immediately plant a full garden in Overtown.

"Talking to the volunteers, [University President Fr. John] Jenkins said that the project was a victory for both sides. This rings true, especially now after the loss. The service project and impact will be a win for the community and those who spent time in service during their Miami trips."

Katie Rutledge
Alumni Association
service programs manager

However, the timing did not stop the group from leaving a mark in the community.

"Only a few vegetables were planted in the beds — lots of parsley," Rutledge said. "However, a subset of volunteers planted seedlings into tiny vessels, and once the seedlings are strong enough, they will be transplanted to the raised beds. We also planted flowers to beautify the lot. Roots in the City procured red and white and blue and yellow flowers to represent the two schools."

Around 300 Notre Dame and Alabama fans, alumni and students participated in the planting activities

Sunday in addition to the volunteers provided by Roots in the City, the Miami-based organization dedicated to community development, healthy eating initiatives and inner-city beautification as stated on the non-profit's website.

"We had a lot of help from guests at the Camillus House, a shelter which also partners with Roots for a work program," Rutledge said. "Many of the men work in the gardens on-site at Camillus, and I think their presence added to the experience for everyone. The men were very welcoming and understanding of people like me without green thumbs. They did a lot of backbreaking work, moving 3000 cement blocks and more."

Inspired by the service initiative's success, Rutledge said she hopes the alumni organization will continue its partnership with Roots in the City.

"The CEO of Camillus House is a Notre Dame graduate, so he was very supportive of the project," she said. "We hope to start a [Summer Service Learning Program] for students at the Camillus House."

While the event required extensive planning, Rutledge said the opportunity to have an impact of the community made it worthwhile.

"We knew that we would have a great turnout," she said. "Keeping 300 people busy for three hours — especially Domers who always come ready to work — takes a lot of preparation."

This year's urban garden initiative continues an Alumni Association tradition to sponsor a service project preceding bowl games, Rutledge explained. She said she hopes the service work will continue going forward regardless of where Notre Dame finds itself in the postseason.

"It's an honor to be in charge of providing service opportunities for alumni at these big athletic events," she said. "There's an obvious desire to serve among alumni and students, as evidenced by the turnout."

Contact Aubrey Butts at
abutts@nd.edu

Abroad

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

has allowed for a side-by-side comparison which will be the foundation of my research project," Damo said.

Although busy, Damo said she still had some time for fun while in Italy.

"I conducted informational interviews throughout the week to obtain research but still had time to enjoy Italy — the sights, the food and the culture," she said.

Senior Kalyn Fetta also traveled to Italy and conducted research on non-profits and non-governmental organizations in Italy.

Damo said she and Fetta had several chances to interact with local Italians.

"One person I interviewed later invited Kalyn and me out to dinner," Damo said. "He picked a local restaurant and gave us a truly authentic Italian dinner experience. It was a wonderful opportunity to talk to him about life in Italy, and not just about the research project."

Damo said she was happy to pursue a topic that interested her for the project.

"I'd say my trip exceeded my expectations because I was asking people questions about a topic I was genuinely interested in and I really enjoyed myself," she said. "It wasn't like most school projects."

Senior Ellen Brandenberger spent a week in the United Kingdom to complete research for her history thesis. Despite



Photo courtesy of Katherine Damo

Seniors Katherine Damo, left, and Kalyn Fetta, right, each conducted research in Italy during winter break.

the vast array of information available online, she had to go to the source for certain resources.

"I needed to access primary documents from U.K. archives that are unavailable elsewhere," she said.

Brandenberger said she was productive during her trip, largely thanks to extensive planning.

"I'd say my research experience went very smoothly," she said. "I spent a lot of timing planning, and as a result knew exactly where I was going and what I was looking at."

Because she was sourcing her information from documents rather than interviewees, Brandenberger said she did not have many chances to interact with the locals beyond the confines of her hotel.

"I had little free time because of time limits placed on me by my grant budget," Brandenberger said. "Therefore I was overwhelmingly at libraries and archives working alone."

Although her trip was a busy one, Brandenberger said she enjoyed the experience and would recommend research abroad to other students.

"Though research requires a lot of hard work, it is very rewarding to produce a large project as an undergrad. Notre Dame does a great job of making these opportunities available to students," she said. "We just need to be smart enough to take advantage of the opportunity."

Contact Joanna Lagedrost at
jlagedro@nd.edu

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Climate trends continued in 2012

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — While the U.S. was smashing heat marks last year, the world as a whole barely slipped into the top 10 hottest years on record, two American science agencies said Tuesday.

The global average temperature for last year would have been a record 15 years ago, an indication that what used to be unusual heat is more commonplace.

Now it merely ranks 10th, something climate scientists shows man-made climate change in action.

Last year's average was 58 degrees Fahrenheit (14.5 degrees Celsius), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said. That's a full degree above the 20th

century average of 57 F (13.9 C).

The hottest was 2010 when the average temperature was 58.2 degrees (14.6 degrees Celsius). NOAA records go back to 1880.

"We're playing in a new neighborhood as far as global temperatures go, compared to even the late 20th century and especially the mid-20th century," said Deke Arndt, head of monitoring for NOAA's National Climatic Data Center.

A weather pattern called La Nina — the flip side of El Nino — and mildness in Alaska, Canada, the United Kingdom and parts of Asia moderated the globe's average temperature. The Lower 48 states in the U.S. recorded its hottest year last year with an average of 55.3 F (12.9 C).



Six-year-old Alexander Merrill cools off at the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, Neb., as temperatures reached triple digits on July 6, 2012.

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HHS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cases, explained the judge's reasoning based on the fact that the mandate has not yet begun to directly affect Notre Dame's operations.

"Simply put, the district court concluded that because the mandate has not yet actually been applied to Notre Dame — and because the mandate might be changed or revised before it is applied to Notre Dame — the legal challenges to the rule are premature," he said in an email interview. "If Notre Dame is not yet being harmed by the mandate, the reasoning goes, it is not yet time for Notre Dame to challenge its legality."

Garnett said he respectfully disagreed with the judge's ruling.

"There is no 'Trust us, changes are coming' clause in the Constitution," Garnett said. "The mandate, in its current form, is the law and Notre Dame is facing substantial financial costs associated with preparing to comply with that law, if and when the mandate goes into effect."

While protecting everyone's right in such a diverse society is challenging, Garnett reiterated the Constitution commits the government to passing laws placing a burden on religious freedom only when necessary.

"In this case, the burden is not necessary and my hope is that this case will both vindicate the religious freedom rights of the various challengers, but also inspire current and future officials to be more mindful of our foundational commitment to religious freedom that the [federal court] was here," he said.

In an interview with The Observer last fall, University President Fr. John Jenkins explained he felt Notre Dame's case would eventually be successful as it moves through the legal system.

"I saw a few headlines after we filed, 'Catholic bishops, Notre Dame and 62 other institutions file lawsuit,'" Jenkins said. "That Notre Dame is picked out, and I don't say this with arrogance, but it just shows I think people look to us for leadership on these issues. If I didn't feel it was a fundamental issue, an issue of the limits of government as against religious organizations, I wouldn't have done this."

As an outside observer, Garnett said he expected the ruling to be reviewed and reversed, but the University's lawyers and administrators are responsible for deciding their next step. The ruling does not preclude another lawsuit after the issue has become ripe.

Contact Megan Doyle at mdoyle11@nd.edu

INSIDE COLUMN

The award goes to...

Brendan Bell
Sports Writer

Christmas time is one of the peak seasons for movies at the box office. I was able to spend time going to the theaters this break. Here are my thoughts on which actors, actresses and movies will win awards at the Oscars next month:

Best Actor: Daniel Day-Lewis, "Lincoln." A method-actor, Daniel Day-Lewis has been known to go to great lengths to master a role. Director Steven Spielberg wanted to make "Lincoln" three years earlier, but Daniel Day-Lewis insisted that he perfect the voice of President Lincoln before filming. One of the most selective actors in Hollywood, he has starred in only seven movies since 1997, and yet he has won two Best Actor awards at the Oscars during that period. I think this year Daniel Day-Lewis will add a third to his shelf, as he is extremely convincing in his role as President Lincoln during the legislation process of the 13th Amendment.

Best Actress: Jennifer Lawrence, "Silver Linings Playbook." Jennifer Lawrence alongside Bradley Cooper in a romantic comedy shot in the suburbs of Philadelphia. Between Cooper, Lawrence and Robert De Niro, the film has plenty of star power. "Silver Linings Playbook" follows the life of Cooper's character, ex-teacher Pat Solitano, as he leaves a mental hospital and returns home to live with his parents. Solitano tries to find a way to get in contact with his ex-wife who has left him, but instead meets Tiffany, played by Lawrence.

Best Supporting Actor: Christoph Waltz, "Django Unchained." In Quentin Tarantino's "Django Unchained," Waltz is the driving force behind the plot and the never-ending action that ensues. Waltz has worked in movies with Tarantino before, and in this western he plays a bounty hunter and helps Django (Jamie Foxx) find his lost wife.

Best Supporting Actress: Anne Hathaway, "Les Misérables." As Fantine in "Les Misérables," Hathaway set the tone for the movie even though she only managed to be on screen for a short period of time. Her rendition of "I Dreamed a Dream" and her overall take on the character Fantine were memorable for viewers.

Best Picture: "Les Misérables." "Les Misérables" had high expectations before it reached the box office, and it was able to deliver on many levels. It is difficult to put together an onscreen adaptation of Victor Hugo's work, but the combination of performances between Hathaway, Hugh Jackman as Jean Valjean and Amanda Seyfried as Cosette among others provided beautiful music and talented acting. Collectively, it was the most powerful performance on screen this year, and should be awarded Best Picture.

Contact Brendan Bell at bbell2@nd.edu

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

Rays of compassion

Scott Boyle
The Sincere Seeker

Chances are you've probably seen a sunrise or a sunset that has stopped you in your tracks. There's just something memorizing about the colorful hues that blanket the sky as the sun creeps up over a distant horizon or sets over a vast ocean.

I used to love these moments as a child. And while I still appreciate the beauty of these moments now, I can't help but realize these scenes often do not capture creation as it really is. As the sun's light shines the least at the beginning or end of a summer day, it causes dark reds and golds to blanket a landscape that is traditionally lush and green. Shadows lengthen too, making our paths perilous and unsure.

At the peak of the day, however, the sun is at its brightest and shadows are at their shortest. Trees stand tall and flowers bloom in true hue. The sun's rays reach far and wide and illuminate the horizon in its true color.

Those who know me well know that I am fascinated by the sun and all its metaphors. This fascination began last year after I enrolled in a class on "Purgatorio" and "Paradiso," the final two books of "The Divine Comedy" by Dante Alighieri. Metaphors ooze from every page in "The Divine Comedy," just when you think you've identified them all, one or two more appear.

My professor, Christian Moevs, loved to talk about these metaphors. Although he would give beautiful descriptions of the symbolism and intricacies of these images in class, perhaps his greatest teaching

moments came outside of class when he would write emails to us.

Professor Moevs always made sure to tell us that while the Comedy described Dante's journey away from sin to God, it was applicable to all of us, too. So, when he began these emails with salutations from the words of Dante, salutations like "Gentle rays of divine light" or "Gentle embodiments of divine love," we were reminded that we too are these "gentle rays," created extensions of God, the ultimate sun whose rays of light and love guide all of our paths.

Since finishing his class last spring, I have tried to consistently remind myself of these truths. To do this, I have gotten in the habit of taking pictures of these "gentle rays" in nature. While I like taking pictures of the sunrise or sunset, my favorite pictures come at the peak of day. I'll point my camera at the sun and snap away. The brilliance of the sun at those moments reminds me that the more I let God's light illuminate my path, the more I'll begin to see things for the way they truly are.

I've come to call moments of clarity like these "gentle ray" moments. I had one of these moments this summer when I lived and worked at a Catholic Worker community here in South Bend.

I was working at Our Lady of the Road, a drop-in center that provides clean clothes, breakfast and conversation for the underprivileged of South Bend from Friday through Sunday. One particular day, I happened to be working the laundry machines. It was a particularly busy day and we were running low on detergent. One man — I'll call him "Tom" — brought his clothes to me to be washed. You can imagine my relief when I discovered a large bottle on a

shelf immediately adjacent to the washer I was using. I threw it in quickly and closed the lid. There was only one problem — it was bleach.

It didn't take me long to realize my mistake. I rushed back over and immediately grabbed his clothes out of the washer. The damage, however, was done. A couple of shirts and pants had large orange marks running along their sides. As I put the clothes back in with detergent, my heart was pounding. I knew I would have to tell Tom the bad news.

I was ready for him when he wandered over to pick up his clothes. "Tom," I mumbled, "I accidentally used bleach instead of detergent on your clothes! I am so sorry!" In place of the anger and frustration I expected, however, I found a smile: "That's okay," he said, "They're just my work clothes anyway!" He walked away without another word.

Chances are these were some of the only clothes that Tom owned. But Tom simply brushed my mistake aside with a smile. In that moment, I could not help but think of Helen Keller's apt observation: "The best and most beautiful things in this world cannot be seen or even heard, but must be felt with the heart." In that moment, Tom was a "gentle ray" for me, echoing God's love and compassion to the depths of my heart.

Scott Boyle is a graduate of Notre Dame and intern in the Office of Campus Ministry. He can be reached at sboyle2@nd.edu

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Every one of us gets through the tough times because somebody is there, standing in the gap to close it for us."

Oprah Winfrey
Talk show host

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How we remember

Matt Miklavic
The Maine Idea

For some Notre Dame students, it represented their first day of winter break. For others, their last day of finals. For 26 students and staff of Sandy Hook Elementary, Dec. 14 was the final day of their lives. Thousands of laughs and millions of moments short, that was it. For them, there is no more. For the 26 families forever shaken by the Newtown massacre, the reminders will be frequent. At every birthday, Christmas and would-be milestone, that day will be remembered and that pain will be felt. Their challenge is to find a way to overcome this tragedy. For the rest of us, the challenge is to remember it.

In the aftermath of the shooting there has been much discussion about the horrors of that day. Some have claimed America has a gun problem. Others will contend it is our culture, not its weapons, which cause our seemingly insatiable appetite for violence. The truth is it is both.

Momentarily ignoring the gun part of the issue, America remains a violent and impulsive country. Our intentional homicide rate lies between those of Turkmenistan and Belarus, above those of Palestine and Yemen. Impressive company, to be sure. Beyond homicides, America's

pendant for destructive activities manifests itself through an array of statistics, including embarrassingly high levels of incarceration and drunk driving. This societal dedication to devastation gnaws at the country and weakens it from within. Perhaps it comes from our apparent comfort with violence in entertainment. Perhaps it has roots in America's increasing problem with poverty and a growing gap between the haves and the have-nots. Perhaps it starts in our schools, which, while educating millions, also fail millions more. Whatever the cause, surely this is one of the areas we must seek to improve in our society. Surely we can build a consensus that our culture needs some change.

As for guns, there is little question that it is a highly emotional and contentious issue. This fervor, however, should not distract nor deter us from confronting our addiction to violence and openly debating its remedies. Homicides by firearm in recent times have exceeded 10,000 per year. We suffer a Newtown each and every day, then allow it to perpetuate. We accept more deaths each year than in the War in Afghanistan and the Battle of Gettysburg combined — and continue on as though nothing happened.

So long as we can agree with the Supreme Court's conservative wing

that, "like most rights, the right secured by the Second Amendment is not unlimited," we can see that like the other freedoms afforded by the Constitution, the rights afforded by the Second Amendment have limits. Our debate, then, is not whether we can restrict and regulate guns but to what extent they can be restricted. Can states and cities ban handguns? The Supreme Court has said no in the case of both Chicago and Washington D.C. bans. These decisions must be treated as precedent. It is noteworthy, however, particularly in light of Notre Dame's upcoming role in the March for Life on the 40th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, that while precedents carry weight, they can also be overturned.

Can we ban assault rifles, large capacity magazines and similar weapons of little use for self-defense but great use for mass violence? I believe we can, and should. These weapons are many times more powerful than the handguns favored for self-defense. They're also responsible for many of the most notorious mass shootings, as legally acquired weapons of these varieties were used in the Columbine, Newtown and Aurora shootings. They belong on the battlefield, not on our streets.

Can we enforce our current laws? Irrespective of new laws, what if we simply enforce what is already

agreed upon regulation? What if the federal agency responsible for the enforcement of these laws had a confirmed director for the first time in six years? What if we closed loopholes that prevent the common-sense, agreed upon restrictions that exist from taking full effect? It wouldn't eliminate the problem, but I'm pretty confident it would help.

Ultimately, we remember Newtown by working to prevent it from happening again. It will not be a singular action or effort. It requires cooperation, political courage and genuine action. It will take action in state capitals, in Washington, in our communities and in our schools. It will take society deciding to finally step against violence, and refusing to leave the safety of our children to the hope that our kid won't be the one at that school on that day. We remember Newtown by refusing to settle for failure. We remember Newtown not by resigning ourselves to another massacre, but by seeking to recapture the exceptional society for which we once strove.

Matt Miklavic is a sophomore studying political science and business from Cape Elizabeth, Maine. He can be reached at mmiklavi@nd.edu

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Stretching toward a more meaningful life

Sitting in Dillon Hall Chapel on a late April morning, we the 16th cohort of the Alliance for Catholic Education's Service through Teaching program waited for Mass to begin, which would officially kick off the next two years of our lives. As we sat in silence, our attention turned toward the pitter-patter of sandals hitting the South Quad pavement outside the chapel walls, as three Notre Dame men jogged toward the pearly gates of South Dining Hall for breakfast. That is, until one of them stopped short, clearly in discomfort. "Ahhh," he screamed, "I think I just pulled a butt muscle!"

We all just let out some nervous laughter at the time, but in retrospect I can think of few more fitting expressions than this exclamation to describe teaching in ACE.

The ACE Service through Teaching program is extremely challenging. I am confident that no ACER would tell you otherwise. Being a full time teacher and a full time graduate student (as you earn a free master's in education degree from Notre Dame) is simply not easy. I am just as confident, though, that most former ACE teachers would identify their time in the program as two of the most formative and rewarding years of their lives, a 24-month period in which they experienced incomparable

personal and professional growth.

ACERs are thrust into leadership positions that few 22 to 23 year olds occupy. Leading the school's Campus Ministry program, planning all of the school's retreats, serving as the student council moderator, overseeing the Homecoming Dance and acting as one of two school chaperones on a 20-hour trip to Washington D.C. for the March for Life are not responsibilities typically entrusted to recent college graduates. Neither is assuming the position of head coach for a varsity sport. Yet, it's a reality in ACE that schools need these important roles filled for the students.

As an athlete, I attended hundreds of practices. Like many other athletes, my questions about practice never extended much further than asking what time it started and ended. In ACE, though, I was now the person responsible for crafting the practice and devising ways to help players elevate their game. I was the one delivering the pre-game motivational speech and offering suggestions for mid-match adjustments to my players, who looked to me with the expectation that I had all the answers. I certainly didn't have all of them, but, as a team, we made strides. In the first year, we won a handful of matches. In the second

year, we won half. I certainly do not anticipate my enshrinement in the Tennis Hall of Fame, or any other one for that matter, in the near future, but it wasn't too bad for a team that had not won a single match in the previous five years.

ACERs undoubtedly have many demands on their time, but one reason they are able to retain their sanity is the built-in support that comes from living in an intentional faith-based community. I cannot enumerate all the instances in which a housemate generously offered his or her care to another community member, but there are few notable ones that immediately come to my mind. There was the time my housemates took me out for a birthday dinner and then kept on driving to New Orleans (about two hours away) to pick up my girlfriend, whom they flew in to surprise me. There was the time our community threw a surprise "Live-abetes" party during National Diabetes Month for our housemate Brock, who has dealt with Type I diabetes since he was a child, inviting ACERs in nearby cities to come celebrate with us and eat sugarless treats. There was also the time a couple of housemates stayed up until 3 a.m. on a school night so that Drew, who was returning from a family member's funeral, would not

return to a dark and quiet house. The people with whom I shared this time of challenge and growth became and remain very dear friends, our bond permanently forged through this incredibly meaningful experience.

But above all else, it was the relationships with students that infused my time in ACE with purpose and truly changed my life. The great trust they gave me, inviting me into their lives, was humbling. I felt challenged and compelled to become better than who I was for them. Because of my students, I believe I am a better man today and a better husband to my wife, and when my wife and I (God-willing) start a family, I believe my students will make me a better father to our future children. I can never fully express my gratitude for this unanticipated transformation.

Much like that unnamed jogger, in ACE you will be stretched in ways still unimaginable. You may experience some major strains and perhaps even a tear or two, but I strongly encourage you to take this opportunity; you will never be the same.

Matt Gelchion
Associate director
Program for K-12 Educational Access
Alliance for Catholic Education
Jan. 15

GOLDEN GLOBES FASHION: BEST AND WORST

By **MARIA FERNANDEZ**
Scene Writer

With very entertaining hosts and unexpected winners, Sunday's Golden Globes were a successful and perfect start to this year's much-awaited awards season. But not all was movie talk Sunday.

Film awards are also special occasions for fashion, and these Golden Globes were no exception.

Nominated actors, actresses and presenters walked down the glamorous red carpet to show off their unique designer suits and gowns, sparking new fashion trends for the public to imitate, critique and enjoy.

As always, some wardrobe selections were good — even great — and some not so good.

These year's fashion hits were all about black, white and red silhouettes. Fashion misses were truly all over the place. Here are these year's Golden Globes best and worst dressed.

The Best

For these special occasions, simplicity is key and Anne Hathaway's ensemble for Sunday's festivities definitely exemplified this. Her white strapless Chanel gown and jewelry looked simply elegant and contrasted impeccably with her black pixie haircut.

Jennifer Lawrence, winner for best actress in a musical or comedy, also followed suit with a pristinely beautiful look. She looked naturally sophisticated in a simple red strapless Christian Dior Haute Couture dress.

If the "Silver Linings Playbook" star looked great in bright red, actress and presenter Jessica Alba rocked another lighter tone of the color. Her melon strapless Oscar de la Renta gown and Harry Winston diamond jewelry were a perfect combination and choice for the occasion.

Actresses Kerry Washington, Kate Hudson and Olivia Munn also looked flawless in their fashionable selections. Washington wore a delicate nude and crystal-white beaded Mui Mui dress, while Hudson and Munn both opted for very elegant beaded black gowns from

Alexander McQueen and Giorgio Armani respectively.

All of these actresses' outfits were definitely Golden Globe material, but one star stood out. Nominated for her lead role in "Salmon Fishing in the Yemen," Emily Blunt's gold cut-off Michael Kors dress and Lorraine Schwartz jewels were a bold but perfect choice for the big night. She was definitely the best dressed for the event.

The women usually take the spotlight when it comes to fashion in film awards. However, some very stylish actors that walked down this year's Golden Globes red carpet are also worth noting.

"Homeland" star Damian Lewis rocked a Burberry tuxedo, while actors George Clooney, Bradley Cooper and Leonardo DiCaprio looked handsome and slick in their ensembles. They never disappoint.

The Worst

Although the majority of this year's Golden Globe nominees and attendees made great fashion statements with their ensembles, some chose looks that were too over-the-top or too boring for the occasion.

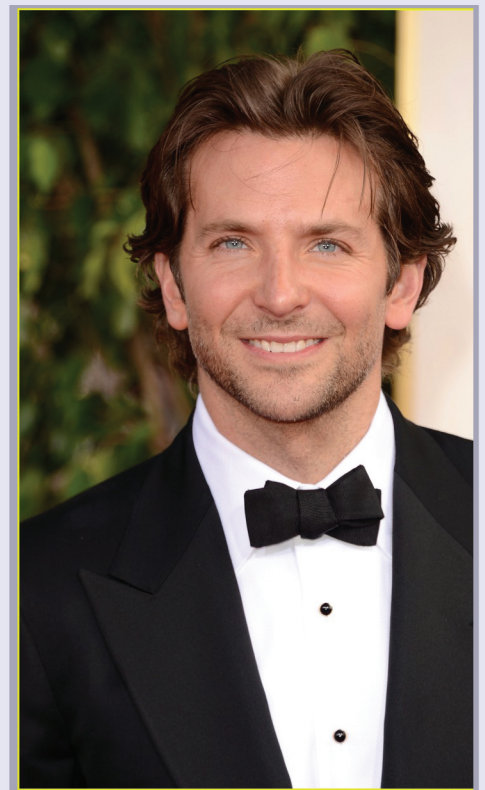
Damian Lewis' co-star Claire Danes has worn jaw-dropping gowns for past years' award ceremonies, but her bright red Atelier Versace gown did not favor her Sunday night. The dress' ordinary halter silhouette and her loose middle parted hairstyle were definitely not what viewers are used to seeing the actress wear.

"Girls" Lena Dunham's plum off-the-shoulder Zac Posen gown did not flatter her either. With such a fun and unique style, she could have opted for a brighter and bolder look.

Actress Halle Berry was also in Sunday night's worst dressed list. Her printed one-shoulder Versace dress looked tacky for the occasion. It showed too much leg and the fabric's pattern was confusing.

Overall, this year's Golden Globes were a fashion do. Stay tuned for the Oscars — and the new stylish trends they might bring.

Contact Maria Fernandez at mfernan5@nd.edu





“THE AWARD FOR BEST HOST GOES TO... FEY AND POEHLER”

Courtney Cox
Scene Editor

The matriarchs of comedy, Tina Fey and Amy Poehler, shined Sunday night when they hosted the 70th annual Golden Globe Awards. The duo should have been a natural choice for NBC, which houses some of the greatest comedians on television at SNL, but it wasn't until this year that they finally got their shot.

Unlike many hosts on the award show circuit, Poehler and Fey seemed comfortable and witty. The ever-frightening prompter didn't trip them up and their natural banter was the highlight of the otherwise sedate show.

Opening the show with a lengthy monologue that quelled any fears about whether or not they would flop, they acknowledged the strangeness of the Golden Globes format as Amy Poehler so poetically noted, “Only at the Golden Globes do the beautiful people of film rub shoulders with the rat-faced people of television.”

The women had no fear the fate of former host Ricky Gervais might befall them when Poehler said, “We want to assure you that we have no intention of being edgy or offensive tonight because as Ricky learned the hard way ... when you run afoul of the Hollywood Foreign Press they make you host this show two more times.”

But they didn't shy away from good-hearted jabs at some of Hollywood's heavy hitters.

When mentioning Kathryn Bigelow, the Golden Globe-nominated director of “Zero Dark Thirty,” they even went so far as to reference her ex-husband, “Avatar” and “Titanic” director James Cameron.

“I haven't really been following the controversy over ‘Zero Dark Thirty,’” Poehler said, “But when it comes to torture, I trust the lady who spent three years married to James Cameron.”

Tina Fey, who is best known now for her work on “30 Rock” as the loveable but aloof Liz Lemon, used some of that “imperfect but

endearing” shtick by talking about how tough it was to get into her couture gown.

Most people consider the Golden Globes to be a warm up for the Academy Awards in February, but the setting at the Globes is distinctly more relaxed while all the nominees and presenters are dining and drinking throughout the night. Poehler and Fey were able to feed off that relaxed energy and let their chemistry run the show.

After hosting the Globes with such ease, they made other hosts who had fallen flat in the past seem that much worse. They even had a few laughs at the expense of former Oscars host Anne Hathaway.

“Anne Hathaway, you gave a stunning performance in ‘Les Misérables.’ I have not seen someone so totally alone and abandoned like that since you were on stage with James Franco at the Oscars,” Fey said.

As hosts, Fey and Poehler seemed casual — but not sloppy. They worked on their timing and had every joke down perfectly. Their

training on “Saturday Night Live” was clearly formative in preparing them for the gig.

Both Poehler and Fey received nominations for their roles in “Parks and Recreation” and “30 Rock” respectively, but when Lena Dunham beat them out, they ran with it and riffed off her endearing acceptance speech.

“Julia, Tina, Amy and Zoey have respectively gotten me through middle school, mono, a ruptured ear drum and the acute anxiety that populates my entire life,” the 26-year-old Dunham said.

The hosts responded with joking rage that the newcomer was so young that their work got her through middle school.

It wasn't the freeform, slightly nerve-wracking style of a Ricky Gervais Golden Globes, but I'd take Tina and Amy any day.

Contact Courtney Cox at ccox3@nd.edu

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



GOLDEN GLOBE WINNERS

By MADELINE DALY
Scene Writer

This year's Golden Globe awards show contained a mixture of surprising upsets and obvious winners.

As anticipated and definitely as deserved, Daniel-Day Lewis went home with the award for best actor in a drama for his convincing role as Abraham Lincoln in the film “Lincoln.” Relative newcomer Jennifer Lawrence took the award for best actress in a comedy or musical for her part in “Silver Linings Playbook,” a more mature role for the “Hunger Games” star.

The award for best actress in a drama went to Jessica Chastain from “Zero Dark Thirty,” a film that showed up in several other categories, including best motion picture. Best actor in a comedy or musical went to Hugh Jackman in “Les Misérables,” a fairly uncontroversial choice. The film also unsurprisingly won best motion picture, musical or comedy, and cast member Anne Hathaway earned the award for best supporting actress.

However, the crowd seemed taken aback when the award for best screenplay went to Quentin Tarantino for “Django Unchained,” soaring above films like “Lincoln” and “Argo.” Despite this upset, “Argo” was still able to capture the best motion picture award for drama. The film also received the best director award because of Ben Affleck's work.

During the television segment, shows like “Homeland,” “Downton Abbey,” and “Girls” went home with big wins. “Homeland” was named best television show, drama, while “Girls” received the award for best TV show, comedy or musical.

Best dramatic actor and actress awards went to stars of “Homeland,” Damien Lewis and Claire Danes, while Lena Dunham from “Girls” snagged the award for best performance by an actress in a musical or comedy television show.

As always, the awards were all well deserved and hard earned, but surely several people went home unexpectedly empty-handed due to the upsets.

Contact Madeline Daly at mdaly6@nd.edu

SPORTSAUTHORITY

NHL lockout may be a blessing



Jack Hefferon
Sports Writer

Santa was a little late for hockey fans in America, but the gift of sanity finally arrived in the form of a new NHL Collective Bargaining Agreement about two weeks after Christmas and after several months of missed games — 510 in all.

The lockout, which was the league's second such labor dispute in eight years, caused all sorts of changes in the way the league is run, mostly at the expense of those actually playing hockey. Team owners were able to wrangle a further seven percent of league revenue away from the players, put new caps on contract lengths and institute one-time "amnesty buy-outs" on expensive deals.

In return, the players got some improvements to their pension fund. Fans got less. And in eight years, the owners have the option to opt out of the CBA again, which means we're staring down another season of lost games in 2022.

But in the meantime, the players will lace up and play a shortened 48-game season, one missing the Winter Classic, the NHL Premiere series in Europe and more than 500 other nights worth of national anthems, one-timers and final buzzers.

But while the entirety of this drawn-out lockout has been an absolute travesty, the shortened season may be a blessing in disguise for both players and fans.

For the players, who often are ground into pieces by the September-to-June marathon of a schedule, a shortened season should cut down on wear-and-tear injuries and extend careers. The short schedule has also forced the league to cut inter-conference play entirely, which means no more exhausting cross-country road trips (I don't think the Vancouver Canucks will miss their mid-season trips to Florida).

Fans will benefit as well

from fewer games, as each takes on further significance in the sprint to the playoffs. Winning or losing streaks will double in importance, as a team that comes out of the gates slowly or loses five straight might fall out of the running entirely. And matchups against divisional rivals, which make up 18 of the 48 games, will be more crucial and more heated than ever.

Shortening up the season is a concept that can help other sports too, as we saw in the wildly exciting 66-game NBA season eventually won — as The Observer's associate sports editor Matt DeFranks has probably already told you — by the star-studded Miami Heat.

It will never happen because another night of games is another night to fill stadiums and make money, but play would benefit from trimming back overlong seasons.

Baseball was never meant to be played in November, and back when Lord Stanley handed out his first Cup, you can bet it wasn't in June. Cut the MLB schedule to 120 games and the NHL and NBA to 60 apiece. You can add in more midseason off days, and still cut down on some of the most brutal road trips, as well as the whole last month of the season.

And if you think fewer games are less fun, just look up to the king of American sports, the NFL. It runs circles around the other leagues, thanks to 16 do-or-die matchups that define our weekends.

So enjoy this frantic NHL season, and hopefully it can spur our sports to embrace the saying, as old as Lord Stanley himself, "Less is more."

I just hope it doesn't take more mindless lockouts to do it.

Contact Jack Hefferon at jheffer@nd.edu

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

NFL

McCoy heads to Chargers

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Mike McCoy's interview with San Diego went so well that both sides felt he was a perfect fit to become the Chargers' new coach.

McCoy had one thing to do, though, before accepting the Chargers' offer, so it was a good thing Chargers President Dean Spanos' private plane was at his disposal.

"There was no doubt in my mind when I got back on that plane to go back home," said McCoy, the former Denver Broncos offensive coordinator who was introduced Tuesday as Chargers' new coach. "They wanted to keep me here last night. But I said, 'I've got to talk to my wife about this before. If I made the decision without talking to my wife, I might get in a little trouble.'"

So McCoy flew back to Denver to talk it over with wife Kellie. McCoy, his wife and their two children were back on the same plane Tuesday morning, flying back to San Diego to take the job.

"Without a doubt we knew this was the place we wanted to be," said McCoy, who signed a four-year contract.

McCoy replaces Norv Turner, who was fired along with general manager A.J. Smith after the Chargers finished 7-9 and missed the playoffs for the third straight season. The move comes three days after the top-seeded Broncos were eliminated from the playoffs in a double-overtime home loss to the Baltimore Ravens.

The 40-year-old McCoy is the same age as Tom Telesco, who was hired as general manager last week. He interviewed after the Chargers already had talked to Seattle defensive coordinator Gus Bradley, fired head coaches Lovie Smith and Ken Whisenhunt, and Bengals offensive coordinator Jay Gruden.

"Once he came in and once we saw how good he was, we just felt we had to have him now," Telesco said of McCoy. "We had to get it done or we'd lose him."



Former Denver Broncos offensive coordinator Mike McCoy accepts head job with San Diego Charger at a press conference Tuesday.

"He was polished, prepared, had great questions, which I think is big, too, that he had a lot of questions for us," Telesco said. "It's a partnership between the GM and the head coach, through and through. We spend more time with each other during the season than we do with our own family so it's got to be a tight relationship. When he came in, after a little bit of time you could tell he was the right guy for us. We went after him hard."

San Diego was scheduled to interview Indianapolis offensive coordinator Bruce Arians on Wednesday. Telesco, previously the Colts' vice president of football operations, called Arians on Tuesday morning and told him the Chargers had hired McCoy.

"It was a tough phone call," Telesco said. "I have so much respect for Bruce. He's an excellent football coach. He's going to be a great head coach in this league. I was honest with him. I said, 'There's different situations, different fits, and right now, this is a fit for Mike McCoy.' He understood."

McCoy inherits a team that hasn't won a playoff game since after the 2008 season.

He thanked all the coaches and players he's worked with over the years for helping him get to this point. He also said he knew just a few minutes

into his interview that San Diego was the right place.

"They all laughed at me when I walked in yesterday with this big ol' bag with all these books and binders and everything," McCoy said. "Well, that's my life's work. We've got a detailed plan that Tom and I are going to put together. ... There's going to be some change. There's a reason for change. And change is good sometimes in organizations. We've just got to make the most of the opportunity we have moving forward."

The Broncos have won consecutive AFC West titles. McCoy tutored quarterbacks Kyle Orton and Tim Tebow in 2011, and had Peyton Manning behind center in 2012.

McCoy, who interviewed with the Miami Dolphins last year after retooling Denver's offense to the read-option for Tebow at midstream in 2011, burnished his head coaching credentials this season while blending the power formations the Broncos used in leading the league in rushing last year with Tebow and some of the spread formations that Manning ran in Indianapolis.

"I think he's going to be a great head coach. Very detail-oriented, knows the game, relates with players very well," Broncos wide receiver Brandon Stokley said.

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CYCLING

Anti-doping officials call for Armstrong oath

Associated Press

A televised confession by Lance Armstrong isn't enough.

Anti-doping officials want the disgraced cyclist to admit his guilt under oath before considering whether to lift a lifetime ban clouding his future as a competitive athlete. That was seconded by at least one former teammate whom Armstrong pushed aside on his way to the top of the Tour de France podium.

"Lance knows everything that happened," Frankie Andreu told The Associated Press on Tuesday. "He's the one who knows who did what because he was the ringleader. It's up to him how much he wants to expose."

Armstrong has been in conversations with U.S. Anti-Doping Agency officials, touching off speculation that he may be willing to cooperate with authorities there and name names.

Interviewer Oprah Winfrey didn't say if the subject was broached during the taping Monday at a downtown Austin hotel. In an appearance on "CBS This Morning," she declined to give details of what Armstrong told her, but said she was "mesmerized and riveted by some of his answers."

Asked whether the disgraced cyclist appeared genuinely contrite after a decade of fierce denials, Winfrey replied, "I felt that he was thoughtful, I thought that he was serious, I

thought that he certainly had prepared for this moment. I would say that he met the moment."

She was promoting what has become a two-part special, Thursday and Friday, on her OWN network.

Around the same time, World Anti-Doping Agency officials issued a statement saying nothing short of "a full confession under oath" would cause them to reconsider Armstrong's lifetime ban from sanctioned events.

The International Cycling Union also urged Armstrong to tell his story to an independent commission it has set up to examine claims that the sport's governing body hid suspicious samples from the cyclist, accepted financial donations from him and helped him avoid detection in doping tests.

The ban was only one of several penalties handed to Armstrong after a scathing, 1,000-page report by USADA last year. The cyclist was also stripped of his seven Tour de France titles, lost nearly all of his endorsements and was forced to cut ties with the Livestrong cancer charity he founded in 1997.

The report portrayed Armstrong as the mastermind of a long-running scheme that employed steroids, blood boosters such as EPO, and a range of other performance-enhancers to dominate the tour. It included revealing testimony from 11 former

teammates, including Andreu and his wife, Betsy.

"A lot of it was news and shocking to me," Andreu said. "I am sure it's shocking to the world. There's been signs leading up to this moment for a long time. For my wife and I, we've been attacked and ripped apart by Lance and all of his people, and all his supporters repeatedly for a long time. I just wish they wouldn't have been so blind and opened up their eyes earlier to all the signs that indicated there was deception there, so that we wouldn't have had to suffer as much.

"And it's not only us," he added, "he's ruined a lot of people lives."

Armstrong was believed to have left for Hawaii. The street outside his Spanish-style villa on Austin's west side was quiet the day after international TV crews gathered there hoping to catch a glimpse of him. Nearby, members of his legal team mapped out a strategy on how to handle at least two pending lawsuits against Armstrong, and possibly a third.

The AP reported earlier Tuesday that Justice Department officials were likely to join a whistleblower lawsuit against Armstrong by former teammate Floyd Landis, citing a source who works outside the government and requested anonymity because he was not authorized to speak on the record about the matter.

The lawsuit by Landis, who



In an interview with Oprah Winfrey on Monday, former cyclist Lance Armstrong confesses to using drugs while still a competitive athlete.

was stripped of the 2006 Tour de France title after testing positive, alleges that Armstrong defrauded the U.S. government by repeatedly denying he used performance-enhancing drugs. The deadline to join the False Claims Act lawsuit, which could require Armstrong to return substantial sponsorship fees and pay a hefty penalty, is Thursday.

Landis is hardly the only one seeking money back from Armstrong.

During his long reign as cycling champion, Armstrong scolded some critics in public, didn't hesitate to punish outspoken riders during the race, and waged legal battles against

still others in court.

The London-based Sunday Times has already filed a lawsuit to recover about \$500,000 it paid Armstrong to settle a libel case, and Dallas-based SCA Promotions, which tried to deny him a promised bonus for a Tour de France win, has threatened to bring another lawsuit seeking to recover more than \$7.5 million awarded by an arbitration panel.

In Australia, the government of the state of South Australia said it will seek the repayment of several million dollars in appearance fees paid to Armstrong for competing in the Tour Down Under in 2009, 2010 and 2011.

NFL

Colts eager to chase willing free agents

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Now that general manager Ryan Grigson has money to spend in free agency, he's devising a new game plan.

If he can find a big-named, high-priced free agent that could get Indianapolis to the Super Bowl, he's willing to pay top dollar. If he can find a lesser-known player for a bargain, he's willing to roll the dice, too.

Either way, Grigson finally has the flexibility to do whatever it takes to make the 2013 Colts better than they were last season.

"I don't have to rub two nickels together to find a key position. Now, if there's something that I really want that I feel is going to get us over the hump in a certain area, I could at least take a crack at him," Grigson told a small group of reporters Tuesday at the team complex. "I feel almost in a sense like I don't want to go after a name just because that's easy. There's guys

out there, that to me, that if you really scout this league and you really know this league, you can find guys that are under the radar that are right under people's noses, just because you dig a little harder and you have a better feel for some guys than the next team does."

It's a far cry from the financial mess Grigson inherited when team owner Jim Irsay hired him last January.

Indy wound up releasing Peyton Manning, cutting a handful of other fan favorites and letting several more key contributors leave in free agency just to scrape enough money together to start rebuilding. Then Grigson had to go bargain-shopping to fill in the gaps, all the while looking ahead to Year 2 as the season Indy could make the big jump.

Somehow, though, Grigson cobbled together a unit that went 11-5 and wound up in the playoffs.

Now, he's going back to work

with an opportunity to give Andrew Luck & Co. more talent. Indy heads into this offseason with 58 players already signed to contracts and more than \$40 million available under a salary cap that is expected to come in at about \$121 million

With that much available room, Grigson can go after almost any player he covets in free agency — even if he's not ready to say what he'll do.

Grigson declined to identify specific plans, players or areas he hopes to improve in free agency though it is widely believed the two areas Indy will try to upgrade are the offensive line, which allowed 41 sacks, and a secondary that continually gave up 100-yard games to receivers throughout the second half of the season.

"Andrew has to get hit less, we know that," said Grigson, a former offensive lineman. "Andrew took a lot of shots this year but also keep this in mind, and I say this with a lot of conviction,

there was only I believe four games this year where our starting offensive line played together. How can you have a cohesive unit?"

The list of offensive tackles that could be available in free agency includes Jermon Bushrod, Ryan Clady, Jake Long and Andre Smith. Cornerbacks such as Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie and Cary Williams also could become free agents.

Grigson always has the draft, too, something that seems to be looking better by the week.

On Tuesday, Grigson acknowledged that the Colts will keep two conditional picks they originally traded to Philadelphia and Miami during the preseason, and that he's hoping to get some additional supplemental picks, after losing Dallas Clark, Pierre Garcon, Jeff Saturday and Jacob Tamme in free agency last year.

That's not all.

Grigson also confirmed that the Colts are in strong pursuit of 300-pound defensive tackle

Armond Armstead, who has been playing in the Canadian Football League.

"He was here on a visit, he's a talented guy, I feel he fits this defense nice and had some versatility with this defense," Grigson said.

Irsay is content to let Grigson do pretty much whatever he deems necessary to make Indy a Super Bowl contender.

"It's going to be an exciting offseason," Irsay said. "Ryan really understands how in putting a team together you don't just go to the board and pick a player. He has a naturally intuitive ability to see how all the components come together and complement each other."

And for Grigson, who is still trying to figure out whether Bruce Arians will be back as offensive coordinator and who will coach special teams next season, he can't wait to get started on what could be Indy's biggest move into free agency in years.

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles look to continue win streak against Hope



COURTNEY ECKERLE | The Observer

Belles sophomore Ariana Paul goes for a rebound in Saint Mary's game against Alma on Dec. 3, 2011.

By KIT LOUGHRAN
Sports Writer

After defeating Trine 59-43 on Jan. 9, Saint Mary's will look to follow up strong tonight against sixth-ranked Hope. The Belles (5-11, 3-4 MIAA) enter the game on a

two-game winning streak. The Belles' victories over Albion (3-12, 1-6) and Trine (9-7, 3-4) put the Belles back on track after a five-game losing streak.

Belles coach Jennifer Henley said the team is working one game at a time and

not getting caught up in losing or winning streaks.

"Each time we compete, we are getting better," Henley said. "This is such a young team and we understand that it is going to take some time to develop."

While the Belles are still a young team, they face a veteran Hope squad. To shut down a team like Hope (14-1, 6-1) that can go very deep into its bench, the Belles will turn to their defense, Henley said.

"We need to play great defense," Henley said. "Hope has a lot of offensive threats, and we need to play solid team defense the entire game."

Whereas the Belles are coming off a solid win over Trine, the Dutch are entering this game after their first conference loss to No. 2 Calvin (13-1, 7-0).

Saint Mary's sophomore forward Ariana Paul led the Belles with 18 points and 20 rebounds in the win over Trine. In the preceding game, Belles junior guard Shanlynn Bias scored 19 points in the win over Albion.

Henley recognizes the great games these two players had offensively in recent matchups, but she looks to clinch another win over Hope

"This is such a young team and we understand that it is going to take some time to develop."

Jennifer Henley
Belles Coach

by concentrating on the defensive side of the game.

"It's always about defense," Henley said.

Despite Hope's national ranking, Henley is confident in her team and her players.

"When it comes time to

play, anything can happen," Henley said.

Saint Mary's will travel to Hope to play Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the DeVos Fieldhouse.

Contact Kit Loughran at
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NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Hartley leads Huskies

Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — Bria Hartley showed no ill effects from an ankle injury, playing one of her best games of the season.

Hartley had 16 points and seven rebounds to help No. 3 Connecticut beat 15th-ranked Louisville 72-58 on Tuesday night.

"When she's playing like she played tonight and has the attitude she played with tonight, she makes a huge difference," UConn coach Geno Auriemma said.

The junior guard sprained her left ankle — the same one she hurt over the summer while playing for USA Basketball — in the first half of Saturday's game against Marquette.

"It felt a lot better than it did the last couple days," Hartley said. "Getting out there, getting moving was good."

Auriemma admitted he wasn't exactly sure what he was going to get out of Hartley.

"I didn't have any expectations going in," he said. "One

of those, let's see what happens. She played a lot of minutes. I figured why not. She played like the old Bria. With the stretch we got coming up, I don't worry about her."

UConn will host Syracuse on Saturday then play No. 4 Duke on Monday.

While Hartley was able to play, UConn was missing freshman Breanna Stewart for the second straight game. The budding star sprained her left ankle in practice Friday. She did partake in pregame warmups, but didn't get into the game.

"I think she's come along a lot faster than we initially thought when she first got hurt," Auriemma said. "She looks good. If it was an emergency she could have played tonight. I'm expecting her to be fully ready on Saturday."

The Huskies (15-1, 3-1 Big East) didn't need her. They built a 14-point halftime lead behind Hartley and Stefanie Dolson and Louisville could only get within 11 the rest of the way.

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TRACK & FIELD

Notre Dame takes 11 events at Open

By GREG HADLEY
Sports Writer

In a final tune-up before this weekend's Notre Dame Invitational, the Irish track squad travelled to Grand Valley State in Michigan for a successful showing in the Bob Eubanks Open, winning 11 events over the course of the two-day meet.

Returning from winter break, senior captain and pole vaulter Chrissy Finkel had high expectations both for the meet and for the rest of the season.

"Coming back from winter break, there's an expectation to be fresh and not to waste all the hard work we put in before the break, so the meet was great for testing that," Finkel said. "We're trying to win the Big East title for both men and women, indoors and outdoors."

Fourteen schools competed at

the meet, ranging from Division I to NAIA institutions, including Michigan and Michigan State.

"There was a pretty big range of competition all around," Finkel said. "Still, there was definitely enough to spur us to that next level."

Finkel praised the performance of the sprinters. Senior Brendan Dougherty, sophomore Chris Giesting and juniors Patrick Feeney and Jarrod Buchanon all contributed to the winning 4x400-meter relay and won the 400-meter, 600-meter, 300-meter and 60-meter hurdles, respectively. The Irish women were just as dominant, with freshman Margaret Bamgbose and juniors Michelle Brown and Megan Yanik sweeping first place in the 200-meter, 300-meter and the 400-meter. The women also placed two teams in the top four of the 4-by-400-meter relay.

In addition to the sprints, sophomore Mary Esther Gourdin and junior Jessie Christian, placed first and second, respectively, in the triple jump, while sophomore Keith Mesidor placed third in the long jump for the men. Sophomore Emily Morris also contributed a second-place finish in the shot put.

In the multi-events, sophomore Carly Loeffel and junior Meghan Moore took the top two spots in the pentathlon, while senior Ted Glasnow won the heptathlon.

The Irish compete this weekend at the Notre Dame Invitational at the Loftus Center. The field events will start at 10 a.m. with the long jump and the track events will follow at 12 p.m., beginning with the 60-meter hurdles.

Contact Greg Hadley at ghadley@nd.edu



MACKENZIE SAIN | The Observer

Juniors Bryce Wood, left, and Jarrod Buchanon compete in the 60m hurdles at the 2012 Blue & Gold Invitational at the Loftus Center.

ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Reaney breaks records, leads Irish in tri-meet

By KATIE HEIT
Sports Writer

Sophomore Emma Reaney led the Irish to victories against No. 24 Michigan and

unranked Northwestern, breaking two records held by current Olympic swimmer Rebecca Soni in the process.

The Irish grabbed the 185-to-115 victory over the

Wolverines and crushed Northwestern 205-95. Reaney and senior Kim Holden each won three individual events and one relay. In the 100-yard breaststroke, Reaney

broke the pool record at Rolfs Aquatic Center with a time of 59.79. Soni previously set the record in 2007 as a swimmer for USC. Reaney beat Soni's record by over a second.

Reaney said breaking the record taught her just how much she can push herself.

"For me personally, I think it was realizing no matter how tired you think you are, you can always put together a good race if you do it exactly

top spot in the 200-yard butterfly and sophomore Allison Casareto took first in the one-meter dive.

Reaney said Michigan proved to be the toughest competition of the weekend and was a big win for the Irish.

"We have not taken Michigan down since around 2007 and to beat both them and Northwestern by such large margins is a great confidence boost for us," Reaney

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"For me personally, I think it was realizing no matter how tired you think you are, you can always put together a good race if you do it exactly like you have practiced it."

Emma Reaney
Sophomore Irish swimmer

like you have practiced it," Reaney said. "We had a really tough week and a half of training down in Miami and we were all [exhausted], but it was so awesome to see our team pull together and win that double dual for the first time in a long time."

In the 200-yard breaststroke, Reaney broke another of Soni's records with a time of 2:10.75.

Holden earned big points for the Irish with first place finishes in the 100 and 200-yard backstrokes, finishing with times of 54.93 and 1:59.14, respectively.

Other top performances included junior Kelly Ryan's individual victory in the 200-yard freestyle. Sophomore Bridget Casey claimed the

said. "I think knowing we have those under our belts will only help us heading into [the Big East] conference."

Reaney said Irish coach Brian Barnes works every practice to make sure the team is ready and eager to win.

"Brian reminds us every day after practice to stay motivated," Reaney said. "I think that's what we're doing. We have exactly six weeks until Big East [championships] and if we keep pushing ourselves and each other, I have a feeling we will be really successful."

The Irish are back in action Saturday when they take on Indiana in Bloomington at 11 a.m.

Contact Katie Heit at kheit@nd.edu

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Wisconsin upsets Indiana

Associated Press

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Wisconsin is making Indiana its second home.

Even in basketball.

Ryan Evans scored 13 points, Traevon Jackson added 11 and the unranked Badgers used their typically deliberate, safe style to upset the second-ranked Hoosiers 64-59 and take sole possession of the conference lead.

Surprised? Not the Badgers.

"It's huge you know," Jackson said. "We'll celebrate for 24 hours and then we got to get ready for Iowa. Just got to get ready for another one."

The numbers tell the tale.

Wisconsin has won 11 consecutive games in this series, matching the second-longest streak of any school Indiana has played. The Badgers also won 11 straight over Indiana from 1912-19 and Purdue won 12 straight from 1908-14.

That's not all.

The Badgers (13-2, 4-0) are the first team since 1923 to win

a fifth consecutive game in Bloomington, matching a record achieved only three other times, most recently by Purdue, and they still have not lost to Indiana coach Tom Crean since he arrived in Bloomington in 2008.

And they got this win on a night that coach Bo Ryan was not feeling well and in the same state the Badgers have won their last two league championships in football.

"I really liked how hard our guys played, the adjustments our guys made on the court, I thought our assistant coaches did a great job in practice, getting us ready for this game because the head coach is a little under the weather," Ryan said. "It' like whoa! I feel like someone just took me in the corner and worked me over."

If that's not enough to convince the detractors, Wisconsin now has seven straight wins and two victories over Top 15 teams in the last four days by doing the same thing — slowing the pace, taking advantage of opportunities and limiting the turnovers.

MEN'S SWIMMING

Irish take first at Copa Coqui Meet

By MEGAN FINNERAN
Sports Writer

The Irish escaped the winter weather for a trip to Puerto Rico, where they competed in the Copa Coqui Meet in Trujillo Alto on Jan. 5. The team took first place, gathering 64 points to beat out a variety of opponents, including Army, Connecticut and schools from Puerto Rico.

"We were happy with the results," senior Chris Johnson said. "We thought Army was going to win overall."

Many members of the squad contributed to the top finish in their individual events. First place finishes earned nine points, second place earned four, third place took three, fourth place took two and fifth place added one point to the team total.

Irish junior Frank Dyer kicked off the day by taking second in the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 54.14 seconds, while freshman teammate Michael Hudspith finished third with a time of 54.68.

In the 100-yard butterfly, Irish

senior Bill Bass took second with a time of 57.79, closely followed by Irish sophomore John Williamson with a time of 1:00.16.

"We were very focused on the 10-by-50 relay," Johnson said. "We've never lost it."

Notre Dame took first place in

"We were happy with the results. We thought Army was going to win overall."

Chris Johnson
Irish senior swimmer

Sophomore Cameron Miller gathered a first place for the Irish, finishing the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:06.04.

Irish freshman Bogac Ayhan won the 100-yard backstroke in 1:01.17, followed by junior teammate Bertie Nel in fourth place in 1:03.31.

The Irish performed strongly in the 200-yard individual medley, with junior Colin Babcock and sophomore Patrick Olson finishing first and second, respectively.

The most exciting and anticipated event was the 500-yard freestyle relay, the final event of the day.

the event.

Overall, the team saw the meet as a success and good opportunity for a diverse range of competition.

"This meet serves as a good break during our training trip," Johnson said. "It gives us a chance to compete against local teams from Puerto Rico as well as other teams on their training trips."

The Irish next head to Cleveland for a dual meet against Cleveland State on Jan. 18.

Contact Megan Finneran at mfinnera@nd.edu

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SUZANNA PRATT | The Observer

Junior center T.J. Tynan, left, skates towards the puck during Notre Dame's 6-1 win over Lake Superior State on Dec. 1, 2012 at the Compton Ice Arena.

Jackson

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

killed us."

Despite the loss, Notre Dame still sits atop the CCHA with 33 points, and will look to extend that lead when it hosts

Alaska this weekend. The Compton Family Ice Arena, where Notre Dame has won its last five contests and scored 22 goals in that span, should be a sight for sore eyes this weekend, and Jackson hopes the goals will return as well.

"We have to do a better job with the puck offensively, and we have to have more discipline," he said. "We have to do a better job of competing as a team."

Contact Jack Hefferon at whiffero@nd.edu



MICHAEL KRAMM | The Observer

Irish senior guard Skylar Diggins looks for an open teammate during Notre Dame's 79-64 home win over Georgetown on Tuesday.

Loyd

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

on a 13-2 run to put an end to any thoughts of an easy Irish win.

"I think the press was working, we got some steals, we

were running the floor, and that's when we hit the wall, right after that," McGraw said. "And then [senior guard Skylar Diggins] got the two fouls and we had to take her out, and I don't think any of the point guards were particularly ready today. I thought [sophomore guard] Whitney Holloway did a pretty good job, but we need some work with Skylar not in the game."

The Hoyas' aggressive play did pay off in the turnover battle. They forced the Irish into 28 giveaways — the most of the season and well above the season average of 15 turnovers.

But McGraw promised that this one aberration wouldn't keep her up at night.

"The turnovers I thought were a lot of good ideas that we didn't catch," McGraw said. "Or maybe it was deflected but it was a good idea. The ones that bother me are the ones that are a result of poor decisions. And out of the 28 there were maybe eight, so we can fix that really easily."

The Irish are now 4-0 in the Big East. They opened conference play with a 73-72 win over then-No. 1 Connecticut on Jan. 5, but needed overtime to put away South Florida three days later, finally winning 75-71. Notre Dame then beat Rutgers at home last Sunday, winning 71-46.

The Irish aim to remain undefeated in conference play when St. John's visits Purcell Pavilion for a 12 p.m. tip-off on Sunday.

Contact Vicky Jacobsen at vjacobse@nd.edu

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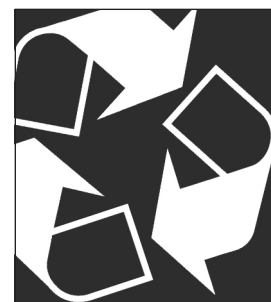
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Storm

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

with 17 points and sophomore forward Amir Garrett provided 11 points, two steals and three blocks off the bench.

"I thought they were very good offensively at key times," Brey said. "We needed a little more offensive efficiency for longer periods of time, like we had at times. But you've got to be more efficient to get out of here with a win."

The Irish, who entered the game ninth in the nation in three-point field goal shooting at 42 percent,

made just one of nine attempts from beyond the arc.

The teams went back-and-forth throughout the first half, with St. John's entering the break up 32-21. The Red Storm exploded on an 18-4 run early in the second half to take a 55-43 lead with 10:52 remaining in the game.

Notre Dame then went on an 18-4 run of its own to claim a 61-59 lead with 4:32 left in the game. But Harrison and the Red Storm tightened up defensively from there and held the Irish to just one field goal for the remainder of the game.

The Irish came out strong and led

for the first 16 minutes of the first half behind the all-around play of Atkins. The Irish asserted their dominance down low — despite playing without foul-ridden senior forward Jack Cooley for the majority of the first half — and buried their first 10 field goals from inside the paint.

Knight buoyed the Irish front-court in 17 minutes of action. The Dixfield, Maine native recorded six points, three rebounds and four blocks while Cooley played just 18 minutes total for the Irish and finished with three fouls. Senior center Garrick Sherman played just five minutes.

"I think that's really something to build on with [Knight]," Brey said. "He gave us energy and bounce and he'll be the first big off the bench [against Rutgers] on Saturday and we've got to cultivate that."

Brey said the Irish need a strong week of practice leading up to their suddenly important tilt with the Scarlet Knights at Purcell Pavilion.

"Our backs are against the wall," Brey said. "You lose two in a row. We're coming home. We need three good days of hard practice to get ready for Saturday."

Although the Irish have fallen on tough times after starting the

season 14-1, Brey said he is confident in his team.

"I think this group has a great sense of itself and ownership of itself so I think more than half of [the key to improvement] will be them wanting to do better," Brey said. "We've got to help them and put them in some better positions and look at our rotations at times."

The Irish look to avenge their recent losses when they battle the Scarlet Knights on Saturday at Purcell Pavilion.

Contact Mike Monaco at jmonaco@nd.edu

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MEN'S BASKETBALL | ST. JOHN'S 67, ND 63

Storm damage

No. 20 Irish overcome 12-point deficit but can't hang on; lose second straight game

By **MIKE MONACO**
Sports Writer

The No. 20 Irish failed to exorcise their Madison Square Garden demons as St. John's upset Notre Dame 67-63 on Tuesday night in New York and handed Notre Dame its second consecutive loss.

"They guarded us," Irish coach Mike Brey said in a postgame interview with UND.com. "We weren't able to get into a consistent offensive flow. You've got to probably score more to get out of here with a win."

Notre Dame (14-3, 2-2 Big East), which had lost its previous four games against the Red Storm (10-7, 2-3) inside Madison Square Garden and fell to Louisville in the Big East semifinals last season, battled back from a 12-point deficit in the second half to take a 63-61 lead with 2:50 left to play.

But Red Storm sophomore guard

D'Angelo Harrison drilled a three-pointer from NBA range to give St. John's a 64-63 lead that held up until the waning moments of the game. With 22 seconds remaining, the Irish had a chance to win, but Harrison blocked a layup attempt from Irish senior forward Tom Knight and the Red Storm pounced on the loose ball and held on for the upset victory.

The Red Storm, who entered Tuesday leading the nation in blocks, had nine blocks in total.

Irish junior guard Eric Atkins poured in a season-high 21 points and added four assists and six steals to propel the Notre Dame attack while playing all 40 minutes. Fellow junior guard Jerian Grant chipped in 14 points.

St. John's freshman forward JaKarr Sampson led the Red Storm

see STORM **PAGE 18**



Irish freshman forward Cameron Biedscheid tussles with St. John's freshman forward Chris Obekpa for control of the ball during Notre Dame's 67-63 loss at Madison Square Garden on Tuesday night.

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL | ND 79, GEORGETOWN 64

Irish win on the foul line

By **VICKY JACOBSEN**
Sports Writer

Notre Dame entered Tuesday's game against Georgetown as the nation's best free-throw shooting team, making just over 81 percent of their foul shots. But the Irish (15-1, 4-0 Big East) outdid themselves against the Hoyas (10-7, 1-3), converting 35-of-38 free throws on their way to a chippy 79-64 victory.

Those 35-made foul shots — the third-most in program history — came courtesy of 26 Hoya fouls, 16 of which came in the first half. Georgetown junior forward Andrea White fouled out with just over a minute left in the second half. Senior center Vanessa Moore was issued her first technical for elbowing Irish sophomore guard Madison Cable in the mouth and had to leave the game when she was given a second for comments made during a tussle with Irish junior forward Natalie Achonwa. Achonwa herself also fouled out with almost two minutes left in the second half, but not before registering a double-double with 12 points and 10 rebounds.

Georgetown coach Keith Brown said he thought the referees issued technical fouls that would not be called in a men's game.

"I think that we have to get to the point in the girls game that they are in the boys game,



KIRBY MCKENNA | The Observer

Irish junior forward Natalie Achonwa looks to pass during Notre Dame's 79-64 home win over Georgetown on Tuesday night.

where the referee talks to the players before you quickly 'T'-them up," Brown said. "Emotions are high. Things that are said in the women's game, if it was said in the boy's game, wouldn't be a technical foul."

Irish coach Muffet McGraw joked about her team's composure despite the rough play.

"We were [on our best behavior]," McGraw said. "Our emotions were under control today."

The Irish held Georgetown senior guard Sugar Rodgers, the nation's top scorer, to just

14 points on the night.

"I'm really pleased with our defense on Sugar," McGraw said. "She's a great player, obviously. [Freshman guard] Jewell Loyd did an outstanding job covering her. She covered her the majority of the minutes, held her to a season-low, and she scored one or two when Jewell went out. So I'm really, really happy with the defense on her."

The Irish jumped out to a 35-11 lead in the early minutes of the game, but the Hoyas went

see LOYD **PAGE 17**

HOCKEY | BOWLING GREEN 4, ND 2

Squad ends road trip with loss

By **JACK HEFFERON**
Sports Writer

No. 5 Notre Dame will be more than happy to return to campus this week, as its stretch of four road games in eight days ended with a 4-2 loss at Bowling Green on Tuesday night.

The loss to the Falcons (7-10-5, 4-7-3-1 CCHA) was just the latest in the team's road blues, as the Irish (15-7-0, 11-3-0-0) lost 4-1 at No. 1 Minnesota on Jan. 8 before splitting a weekend series against Michigan State. Scoring, or a lack thereof, was much of the issue for the team over the four-game trip, as Notre Dame scored just five times in that span.

"We've had some injuries that have forced us to shuffle our lines, and that ruins any chemistry that we've had," Irish coach Jeff Jackson said. "That's something that develops over time. Hopefully, we'll be able to get guys back, but until then we have to work on rushing the zone, and hopefully getting some of that chemistry back."

Tuesday's game looked to be different early on, as junior winger Bryan Rust tipped home a shot from junior center T.J. Tynan — his sixth goal of the year — to

give the Irish a quick lead. But Bowling Green fired right back in the second, getting two pucks past senior goaltender Mike Johnson, who earned a rare start. Johnson made his fair share of saves, including a few spectacular ones to keep the Irish in it, and Jackson said that his performance was up to par.

"[Johnson] played well enough to help us win," Jackson said. "We just gave up too many decent chances. It wasn't about him, it was about being unable to capitalize on our power play, and playing too loose defensively."

The Falcons pushed the lead to 3-1 in the third period, but the Irish didn't stop fighting. With just over three minutes remaining, Tynan created another goal on the power play to cut the lead to one. But the Irish surrendered a five-on-five goal seconds later, which put the game out of reach and cemented the win for Bowling Green.

"That wasn't a good goal," Jackson said. "That was a big momentum goal, because we had just cut it to a one-goal game to get some of that momentum back. That goal

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