

THE OBSERVER

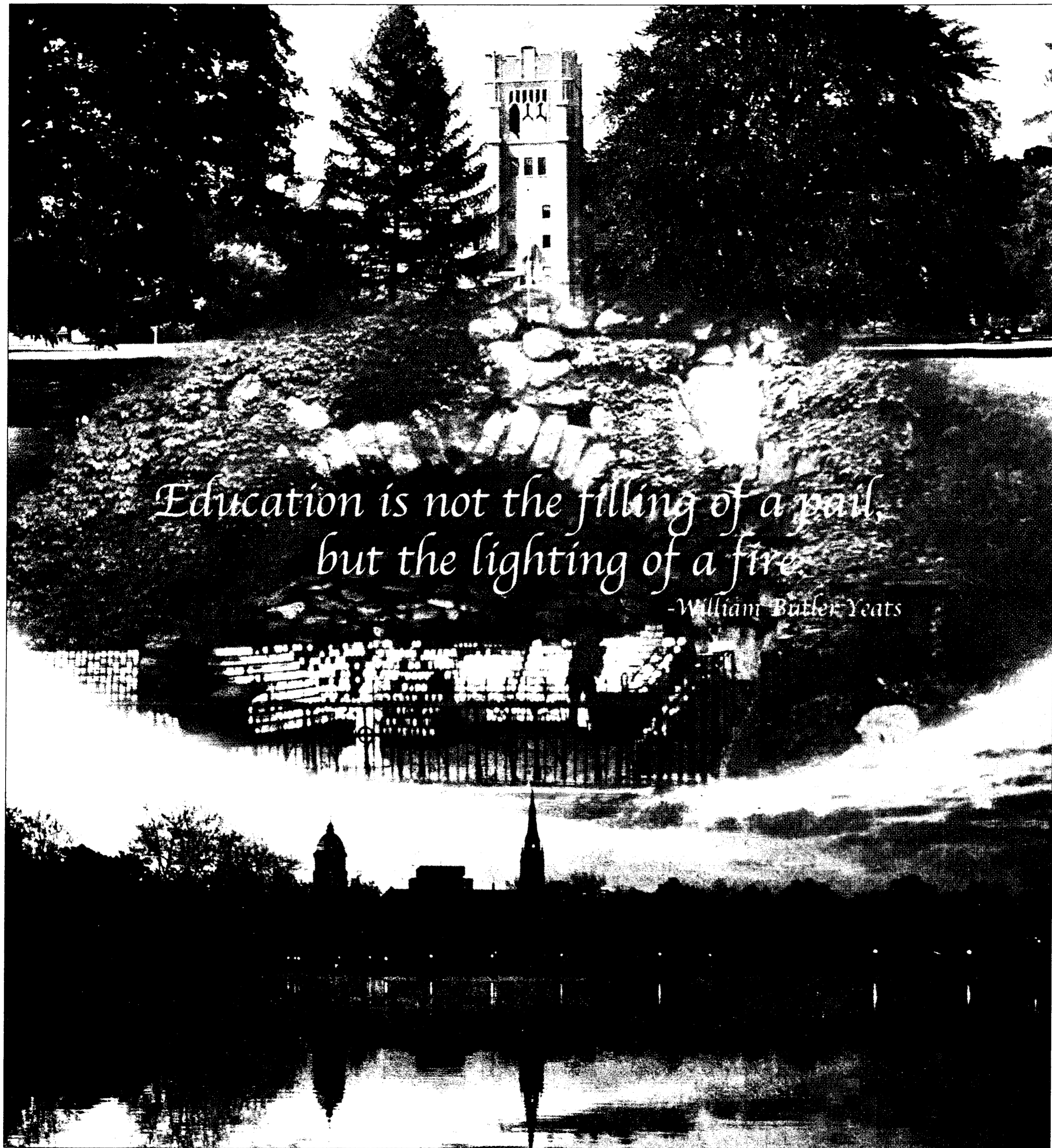
Friday May 16, 2003

The Observer
congratulates all
graduates.

The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

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*Education is not the filling of a pail,
but the lighting of a fire.*

-William Butler Yeats

Scully resigns post

Father Timothy Scully resigned as Executive Vice President on May 2. His resignation came amidst a potential leadership crisis in the University's hierarchy. The Board of Trustees were scheduled to hear a report from a committee formed to investigate Scully's behavior, including

a January incident where he confronted local television reporters. However, Scully submitted his resignation before the Trustees heard the report, which cleared him of wrongdoing. Scully will remain a member of the Notre Dame political science faculty.

SEE STORY PAGE 12

Sorin rector fired

The University removed Father Sam Peters as rector of Sorin Hall for having an inappropriate sexual relationship with an adult female. A representative from the woman's family informed the Office of Student Affairs of the relationship. The Indiana Province of the

Congregation of the Holy Cross issued a statement expressing sorrow for Peters' actions. Though Peters has not been removed from the priesthood, he is undergoing counseling for his infidelity. Peters is officially banned from Notre Dame's campus.

SEE STORY PAGE 13

INSIDE COLUMN

Nothing lasts forever

Alarm clocks go off, kegs get kicked, curtains fall, shot clocks run out, closing hymns are sung, seemingly infallible bars get busted, even kids from a creek-side town eventually surrender their WB series and this weekend, college careers conclude.

Sometimes it seems like we've spent most of the last four years trying not to finish things. We stayed up all night playing Snood and talking on IM to avoid writing papers, wished spring break would last forever and saved the last Flex points of the semester for candy at LaFortune. It's

all part of our denial as we try to forget that we're about to be forced into a place where a down economy and war can affect us a little more harshly than it could while we were under the shadow of the Golden Dome.

Four years passed by way too fast, but they didn't just happen passively. We participated in our college experiences and we learned things along the way. Whether changing majors, political views, life plans or significant others, change we did; and with each change we became a little more ready to face whatever it is we will do after Sunday.

That's why it's alright that we're leaving — even if we've been ready for years or never wanted to go. Besides, commencement technically means beginning, not end. And even though we're supposedly starting over and moving on, we've picked up some things along the way — a few inside jokes, ridiculous SYR outfits, damning photographs and best friends.

Though 22 years old feels ancient when reminiscing about our favorite episodes of "Saved by the Bell," Madonna songs and stirrup stretch pants, it is truly just the beginning. The decades ahead are guaranteed to be different, but that doesn't mean they have to be worse. In fact, post-grad life should be the fulfillment of what we've been working toward since the fall of 1999. Somewhere in between Rallies in the Alley, ResLife hearings, thesis research and road trips, we learned some useful stuff. We learned the stuff that makes Notre Dame students renowned for their compassion, hard work and spirit.

Although this week of lasts will cause tears and farewells, it also leads us to an endless number of firsts. So we'll remember Notre Dame for its traditions, those that were here long before the class of 2003 and those we initiated ourselves. Because those traditions will be here — continuing to make Notre Dame the paradox of conventionalism and perpetual change that it's always been — while we go out and commence again.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Please contact Kate Nagengast at knagenga@nd.edu.



Kate Nagengast

Managing Editor Emeritus

CORRECTIONS

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

Events of the Week

Friday, May 16
UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
2-4 p.m.
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS
HONORS CONVOCATION
Washington Hall
9 p.m.-1 a.m.
GRADUATION DANCE
Joyce Center - North Dome
Saint Mary's College
4 p.m.
BACCALAUREATE LITURGY
Angela Athletic Facility
7:30-10:30 p.m.
SENIOR RECEPTION
Century Center

Saturday, May 17
UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
9 a.m.-Noon
ROTC COMMISSIONING
Joyce Center - South Dome
10 a.m.
SERVICE SEND-OFF CEREMONY
Washington Hall
5-6:30 p.m.
COMMENCEMENT MASS
Joyce Center - South Dome
Saint Mary's College
Noon
COMMENCEMENT 2003 CEREMONY
Court of LeMans Hall

Sunday, May 18
UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
12:30 p.m.
DISTRIBUTION OF BACHELOR AND MASTER DIPLOMAS
Joyce Center - North Dome
2-4 p.m.
COMMENCEMENT AND CONFERRING OF DEGREES
Joyce Center - South Dome
4:30 p.m.
LAW SCHOOL DIPLOMA CEREMONY
Hesburgh Library Reflecting Pool
Saint Mary's College
9:45 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER MASS
Church of Our Lady of Loretto

SOURCE: University of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's College Web sites

MIKE HARKINS/The Observer

ND awards reporters with Laetare Medal

Observer staff report

Peter and Margaret Steinfelds will be the recipients of this year's Laetare Medal, which is regarded as the most significant annual award given to American Catholics and originated in 1883.

The Steinfelds are being honored for their lifelong commitment to Catholic life.

"Peter and Peggy Steinfelds live out and articulate a compelling response to the Catholic vocation," University President Father Edward Malloy said in a statement. "As married people, as intellectuals, and as children of the Church, their witness to the Kingdom has been splendid and exemplary."

Father Edward Malloy
University President

The Steinfelds were successive editors of Commonweal, an independent biweekly journal of political, religious and literary opinion published by Catholic laity. Both are considered among the foremost commentators on the Catholic Church in the United States.

Peter Steinfelds graduated from Loyola University in 1963. During graduate study at Columbia University, he became an editorial assistant at Commonweal and rose to associate editor before his

departure in 1972 for the Hastings Center, a bioethics think-tank. He continued to write columns for Commonweal during his tenure at the Hastings Center, eventually returning to become editor in 1979.

In 1988, Peter Steinfelds left Commonweal to become senior religion correspondent for the New York Times, where his "Beliefs" column still appears today. In 1994, he was a visiting professor in the American Studies department at Notre Dame.

Margaret Steinfelds also was graduated from Loyola University in 1963. She wrote film reviews for Today magazine prior to joining the staff of the National Catholic Reporter as a reporter and columnist from 1969-1971. She was editor of the Hastings Center Report, executive editor of Christianity and Crisis and editor of Church magazine before succeeding her husband as editor of Commonweal in 1988, resigning from that position earlier this year. In 1991, she gave the Commencement address and received an honorary degree from Notre Dame.

A committee headed by the University president has selected the recipient of the Laetare Medal since its inception in 1883.

Notre Dame awards nine figures with honorary degrees

Observer staff report

Notre Dame will honor nine distinguished individuals with honorary degrees, in addition to keynote speaker Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., at Saturday's Commencement ceremonies.

Senator Lugar will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree, as will seven of the nine other recipients.

Those honorees receiving doctor of laws degrees are: Kathleen Andrews, who is a member of the Board of Trustees, University fellow, and director of the Andrews McMeel Universal Foundation; Molly Broad, the president of the University of North Carolina; Roland Chamblee, a longtime South Bend family physician; Evelyn Hu-DeHart, professor of history at Brown University; Cardinal Oscar Maradiaga, archbishop of Tegucigalpa, Honduras and recognized human rights activist; Anthony Scirica, a judge on the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and law professor at several law schools; and Raul Yzaguirre, a highly respected civil rights leader and president of the Hispanic organization National Council of La Raza.

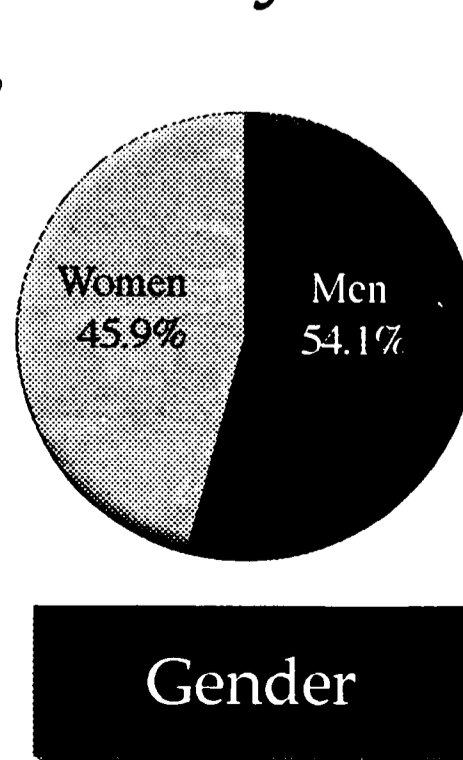
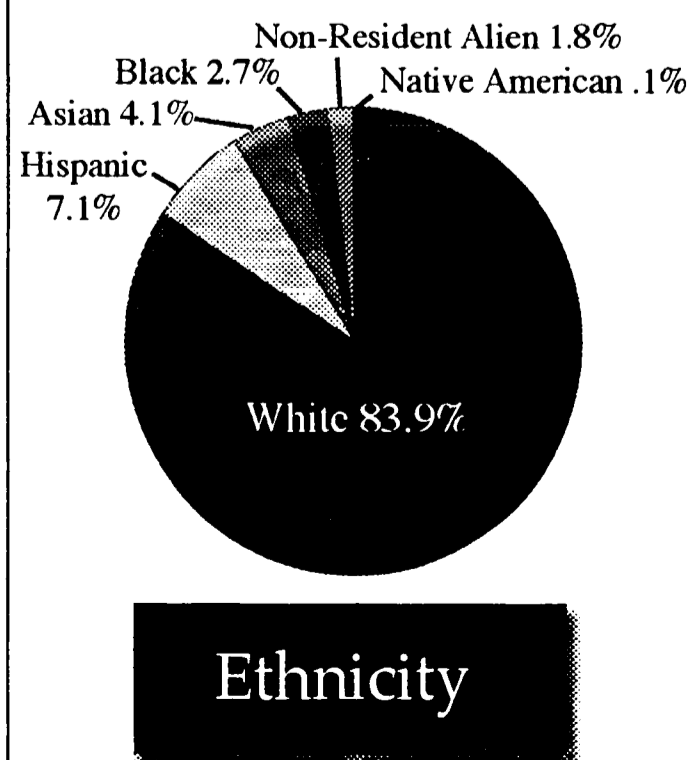
In addition, Allen Mandelbaum will receive an honorary doctor of letters degree. Mandelbaum is internationally recognized as an authority on Dante and recipient of the National Book Award.

An honorary doctor of engineering degree will be conferred upon Leslie Robertson, the lead structural engineer for the twin towers of the World Trade Center and internationally renowned expert in structural design.

"In giving honorary degrees, the University seeks to honor a variety of people who have distinguished themselves in their various fields or endeavors," Dennis Brown, a spokesman for the university, said.

The selection of degree recipients is not as simple as it sounds. "Some people have worked with various members of the University in the past," said Brown. "But the common point is that they have all made significant achievements in their selected fields."

ND Seniors: By The Numbers



Where Seniors Studied...

London, England	363
Rome, Italy	152
Toledo, Spain	71
Dublin and Maynooth, Ireland	66
Fremantle and Perth, Australia	65
Angers and Paris, France	44
Washington, D.C.	40
Innsbruck, Austria	18
Puebla and Monterrey, Mexico	17
Santiago, Chile	16
Around the World	12
Oracie, Arizona (Biosphere)	7
Athens, Greece	5
Kerak, Jordan	3
Nagoya and Tokyo, Japan	2
Shanghai, China	2
Berlin, Germany	1
Moscow, Russia	1

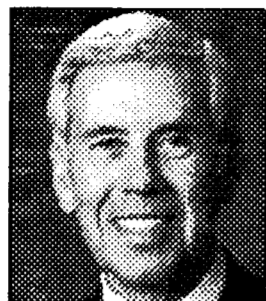
SOURCE: The Dome 2003, Department of Institutional Research

MIKE HARKINS/The Observer

Senator will deliver speech

By TERESA FRALISH
Associate News Editor

Senator Richard Lugar (R-Ind.) will deliver the commencement address to the Notre Dame Class of 2003 this Sunday. Lugar currently serves as the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and has been an Indiana senator since 1976.



Lugar

University officials said that in light of recent events they chose Lugar, who will receive an honorary doctor of laws, as the speaker because of his expertise in the area of foreign affairs.

Lugar, who previously served as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee from 1984 to 1986, helped create a bipartisan initiative in 1991 with former Senator Sam Nunn to secure and disarm weapons of mass destruction in the former Soviet Union. More recently, Lugar has argued for the expansion of the Nunn-Lugar Program in other countries with weapons of mass destruction.

As chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, Lugar has called on the president to provide more detailed information to Congress and the public about planning for American involvement in

post-war Iraq.

The senator also served as the mayor of Indianapolis from 1968-75 and oversaw the expansion of the city to include all of Marion County. After graduating from Denison University at the top of his class, Lugar received a Rhodes Scholarship for graduate study in politics, philosophy and economics at Oxford University.

Lugar follows other commencement speakers who have been involved in politics and foreign affairs, such as President George Bush and U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan who spoke in 2002 and 2001 respectively.

However, some seniors were concerned that this year's commencement speaker was not as prestigious as previous speakers.

"A lot of my friends and I were a little disappointed," said senior Kristin Baranack.

Senior Matthew Teubner said he was not very familiar with Lugar but

looked forward to the senator's talk. "I don't really know too much about the senator himself. I was maybe expecting a little higher profile speaker," he said. "I think he'll do a good job."

Despite concerns about Lugar's name

recognition, some said Lugar's talk would be relevant in light of current events.

"I think he's got a lot of expertise in international affairs," said senior Trip Foley.

"I think he's got a lot of expertise in international affairs."

Trip Foley
senior

Contact Teresa Fralish at
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Author to address graduates

By ANNELIESE WOOLFORD
Saint Mary's Editor

Traveling from New York to Saint Mary's Saturday afternoon will seem like second nature to Adriana Trigiani. However, instead of returning to the campus for a visit or book signing, the author, screenwriter and director will speak to hundreds of graduating seniors, a position she faced not long ago herself.



Trigiani

Trigiani, a 1981 alumna of the College, was selected as the 2003 commencement speaker in late March based on the request of students.

While many students were unaware of Trigiani's nomination until after her appointment, seniors said they look forward to the insight she would provide as an alumna.

"Having a Saint Mary's grad send us forth into the world is more touching than having someone who isn't as close to us as she is," senior Emily Storer said. "Her relationship with the school and her experience can really put a better perspective on commencement than having someone else as a speaker."

The Saint Mary's graduate was a featured author at Notre Dame's 2002 Sophomore Literary Festival, where students from both campuses had the chance to meet Trigiani and become acquainted with her work.

Max Westler, English department chair and Trigiani's former professor, said he and Trigiani maintain the strong friendship they developed over

20 years ago. Westler is extremely optimistic in Trigiani's ability to deliver a powerful message to the graduating class of 2003.

"She'll have something to say to this graduating class that they're going to want to hear," he said. "She's absolutely thrilled to be coming."

Trigiani's charismatic personality and personal background with Saint Mary's and Notre Dame are reflected in her novels "Big Stone Gap," "Big Cherry Holler" and "Milk Glass Moon," making them popular among members of both communities.

She visited the Saint Mary's campus for a book signing in 2000 after the publication of "Big Stone Gap," which will soon become a major motion picture, both written and directed by the author.

In addition to her work as a writer, Trigiani's credentials include work as a television writer and producer, playwright, comedian and documentary filmmaker. She has been involved with such television shows as "A Different World," "The Cosby Show," and "Good Sports."

Additionally, she served as executive producer and head writer for the film show "City Kids" and comedy special "Growing Up Funny," which earned an Emmy nomination for actress Lily Tomlin and Lifetime Television.

Trigiani wrote, produced and directed "Queens of the Bigtime" in 1996, a documentary film about her family. The film won the Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature at the 1996 Hamptons International Film Festival and at the 1997 Palm Springs International Film Festival.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2003 OBSERVER GRADUATING CLASS

THE OBSERVER

KIMBERLY BELCHER

KURT BOGAARD

LAUREN DASSO

MEGHAN GORAN

VERONICA KELLEHER

BRYAN KRONK

PAT MCELWEE

KATIE MCKENNA

KATIE MCVOY

KATE NAGENGAST

SHANNON NELLIGAN

SARAH NESTOR

HELENA PAYNE

BRIAN PUCEVICH

CHRISTINA REITANO

REBECCA STUMPF

KIFLIN TURNER

LISA VELTE

NELLIE WILLIAMS

BOB WOODS

Thank you for years of friendship, hard work and commitment to the pursuit of quality journalism. We're going to miss everything you did for us, and The Observer will never be the same. Good luck in the future.

Laracy named 2003 valedictorian



TIM KACMAR/The Observer

Margaret Laracy, a psychology major from New Jersey, is the 2003 Notre Dame valedictorian.

By **ANDREW THAGARD**
Assistant News Editor

Her commitment to academics may have earned her the honor of valedictorian, but classes are just one aspect of Margaret Laracy's experience at Notre Dame. The psychology major from Jersey City, N.J. has been active in community service and campus life.

Laracy, who earned a 3.97 grade point average, made the Dean's List each semester. She is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa undergraduate honors society and Psi Chi, the national psychology honor society, and was named a National Merit Scholar.

"It's an enormous honor," Laracy said, in reference to being named valedictorian. "I just think of all the amazing people I know at Notre Dame. I'm so excited to be addressing my class."

Laracy is scheduled to deliver an address to the student body during Commencement Sunday. She said that her speech will focus on having courage in the face of recent national and international events, especially terrorism and war. She also intends to speak on the anxiety that is characteristic of the transition from college to the "real" world and the fear of not living up to others' expectations.

"I hope to encourage my classmates and myself to really live courageously," she said. "The main focus is not to be fearful."

Laracy has worked to make the most out of her four years at Notre Dame, devoting her time to assisting in the Notre Dame Encounter Retreats, teaching English through a program at La Casa de Amistad, working at the Center for Social Concerns and studying abroad in Chile during her junior year.

"It was really different than a lot of abroad experiences," she said of her semester in Chile. "I got the opportunity to not only live with a family but to do

some service in the community. I love Chile and the Chilean people. I could see myself going back to Latin America."

Next year, Laracy will devote time to service, but it won't be in Chile. She plans to volunteer for at least a year through a L'Arche Community program, living in a house that assists people with special needs in Washington, D.C.

"It's really an incredible community that has a wonderful philosophy and spirituality," she said.

Eventually, Laracy said she hopes to continue her education in psychology and use what she learns to help others.

"I've always had an interest in working with other people," she said. "Academically it's very interesting to learn about [them]."

Laracy, the first Domer in her family, was attracted to Notre Dame because of its sense of community and Catholic identity.

"I think that Notre Dame, among Catholic universities with a good academic program, really seems to value its Catholic identity," she said. "It wasn't just Catholic in name. It seemed like a perfect package for me."

Notre Dame begins the selection process for valedictorian in February when the Register's Office determines the two students in each college with the highest grade point averages. Selected candidates then complete an application process that includes a recommendation from the college's dean and a peer and a draft of their commencement speech. A selection committee then nominates a valedictorian and the second place candidate is invited to deliver an invocation at graduation.

This year, Meridith Runke, a science preprofessional studies major from Batavia, Ill. will deliver the Commencement invocation.

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Robinson No. 1 at Saint Mary's

By **EMILY BRAMMER**
News Writer

Meghann Robinson said that she is not the type of student who spent all of her time studying in the library, but her love for her studies helped her to achieve a 4.0 grade point average and the title of Saint Mary's 2003 valedictorian.

Graduating with a bachelor of arts in music and a minor in mathematics, Robinson will deliver the valedictory address at Commencement May 17.

"I attribute much of my success to support from my family, especially my parents," said Robinson. "And I found something to study that I really enjoyed. When you study something that you love, it hardly seems like work sometimes."

After graduation, Robinson will serve for The Alliance for Catholic Education, a two-year service program allowing college graduates to serve as full-time teachers in under-resourced Catholic schools across the southern United States in return for a tuition-free master of education degree from Notre Dame.

Robinson will spend two summers studying at Notre Dame and two school years teaching in Nashville. She said she wants to keep her options open upon completion of the ACE program, and considers pursuing graduate work in music theory.

"I'm more interested in teaching than performing academic research," said Robinson. "I appreciate the value that Saint Mary's places on educating; and,



CHIP MARKS/The Observer

Meghann Robinson's 4.0 GPA helped her be named the valedictorian of 2003 at Saint Mary's. Robinson is graduating with a bachelor of arts in music and a minor in mathematics.

after benefiting from a school where the focus is on teaching, I realized that I also want to be an educator. But I don't want to just teach. I want to be good at it."

Originally Robinson applied to Xavier University, University of Dayton, and Saint Mary's and Notre Dame — all Catholic universities. But after visiting South Bend one summer, she finally made her decision to go to Saint Mary's.

"I really wanted to attend a smaller school," she said. "One of the greatest aspects of the music department here is that it's so small, and as a result there are so many

opportunities that I wouldn't have gotten elsewhere. If I could make the decision again, I'd definitely come to Saint Mary's."

Robinson belonged to the Women's Choir and served as a member of the Choir Board. She was elected to represent the music department in the Student Academic Council her junior and senior year and volunteered with Campus Ministry.

Robinson grew up in West Chester, Ohio and attended Mount Notre Dame High School there.

Contact Emily Brammer at
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FOUR YEARS IN REVIEW

Friday, May 16, 2003

The top 10 Observer news stories from the 1999-2003 academic years

page 5

1



Campus responds to terrorist attacks

September 11, 2002

The campus responded in a dramatic fashion to the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and rural Pennsylvania.

Classes were cancelled mid-session as representatives from the registrar's office visited individual classrooms. Seven thousand students and faculty attended a mass on South Quad at 3 p.m. on the day of the attacks, which was concelebrated by all campus priests and Auxiliary Bishop John D'Arcy. Throughout the day, students streamed to the grotto and students took advantage of free cab service to

donate blood.

Phone lines and Internet connections at both Notre Dame and Saint Mary's were overwhelmed as students called home to check on their family and friends.

Like all athletic events nationwide, Notre Dame's football game against Purdue on the following Saturday was cancelled as the nation mourned the loss of thousands of citizens. At the September 22 home football game against Michigan State, the entire stadium paused as University President Father Edward Malloy said a prayer

and fans raised printed American flags into the sky in an event televised nationwide by NBC Sports.

Four alumni were killed in the attacks: Robert Ferris, class of 1962, who worked on the 102nd floor of the south tower of the World Trade Center; Army Lieutenant Colonel S. Neil Hyland Jr., class of 1977, who worked at the Pentagon; and Peter Batacan, class of 1983, and Dora Marie Menchaca, class of 1977, who were killed on American Airlines Flight 77, which crashed into the Pentagon.

2

New alcohol policy unveiled



Father Mark Poorman introduced sweeping changes to the alcohol policy including a ban on hard liquor, a cancellation of in-hall dances and a revision of the tailgating policy to allow of-age students to host tailgate parties in specified lots. The decision sparked much controversy amongst students and within student government.

March 18, 2002

3

Freshman's death stuns University



Chad Sharon, a freshman from Fisher Hall, disappeared Dec. 12, 2002 after attending a party on Corby Street. After an extensive two-month search headed by Notre Dame Security and Police, construction workers found his body floating in the St. Joseph's River under the Angela Bridge.

February 12, 2003

4

Boat Club busted by Excise Police

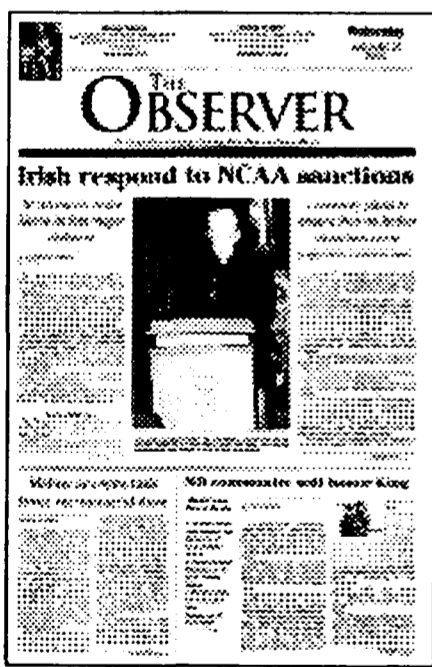


Police raided The Boat Club early in the morning Jan. 24. Over 200 citations were issued to Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students. The bar was known as a popular underage drunken haven for students on both campuses. Those who were cited are now being sued by the owner of the club.

January 24, 2003

5

NCAA sanctions ND for violations



The NCAA handed Notre Dame its first ever major violation in connection with Kimberley Dunbar's gifts to a number of Irish football players. Dunbar's membership in the Quarterback Club made her official University representative, said the NCAA.

The University lost two scholarships and received a two-year probation.

December 19, 2000

6

Student alleges gang rape



A 20-year old Notre Dame student alleged that three current and one former football player gang-raped her at an off-campus house. The University expelled the four students and University President Father Edward Malloy denied their appeals. The quartet are still waiting for their criminal trials to begin.

April 10, 2001

7

Scully resigns as executive VP



Executive Vice President Father Timothy Scully resigned May 2 due to an apparent power struggle in the University's leadership. A report investigating Scully's behavior, including his confrontation with a reporter, was to be delivered to trustees and would have cleared him of wrongdoing.

May 2, 2003

8

Eldred announces retirement



Saint Mary's President Marilou Eldred announced her retirement March 5. She will remain as president until the College completes its search for a replacement. Eldred has been president at the College since 1997. The College plans to form a search committee to choose a replacement by Dec. 2003.

March 5, 2003

9

Bush speaks at commencement



President George W. Bush spoke at Class of 2001 commencement, becoming the fifth President to speak at a Notre Dame commencement. House Representative and Notre Dame alumni helped to court Bush, whose visit was generally welcomed but protested by some who objected to his policies.

May 20, 2001

10

First female pres. elected



Two years ago, Brooke Norton accepted a position no female before her had held — student body president. Norton and her vice president Brian Moscona won 56 percent of the votes.

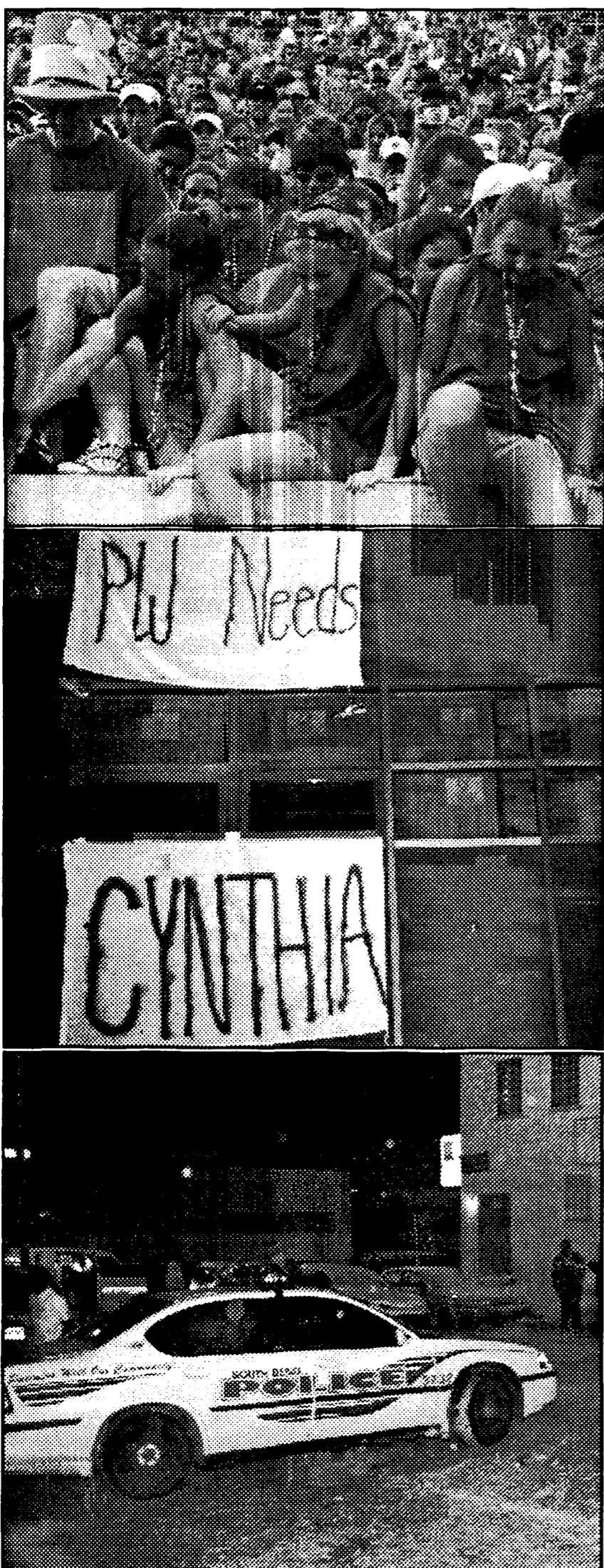
Norton is also the first incumbent vice president to win the role of president since 1973.

February 14, 2001

Sea of Green overtakes the Stadium. Assistant rector terminated. Saint Mary's security scandal. Boat gets bust-

The Year

2002 ♦



By MEGHANNE DOWNES
News Editor

Sea of Green

The winning enthusiasm and spirit of the Sea of Green flooded Notre Dame last fall. Students, alumni and fans followed the Notre Dame football team as they returned glory to Notre Dame Stadium under Tyrone Willingham's guidance.

At the beginning of the season, several sports analysts dismissed the team and Notre Dame entered many games as the underdog. But Willingham and his players made the Irish a force to be reckoned with and climbed the polls by winning their first eight games before falling to Catholic rival Boston College.

Though the season was a roller coaster of emotions for many fans with careless fumbles, unexpected victories, losses to Boston College and USC, fluctuations in poll standings and the possibility of a BCS berth, the spirit on football Saturdays and weekends did not disappear. Fans donned this year's green Return to Glory shirt and waved their green signs and football players wore green jerseys against Boston College as Willingham requested that the sea of green take the Stadium by storm. As enthusiasm for the season built up, students and fans took the Sea of Green on the road and followed the team to games against Michigan State and Florida State.

As December approached, fans waited anxiously while praying that winter break would include a trip to Tempe, Ariz., Miami, Pasadena, Calif. or New Orleans. However, hopes of a BCS berth were dashed with late season losses. With the team headed to the Gator Bowl against North Carolina State, the spirit seemed to have run out, but loyal fans supported their team and cheered in Jacksonville, Fla. as Irish fell to North Carolina State 28-6.

PW assistant rector dismissed

The abrupt departure of Pasquerilla West assistant rector Cynthia Phillips left many lingering

questions for Pasquerilla West residents and other assistant rectors who wondered about their job security.

Sister Sue Bruno, Pasquerilla West rector, asked Phillips to leave in October. Though Bruno declined to comment, Phillips said she was removed after Bruno requested they have a "closer relationship." Phillips maintained she supported Bruno's leadership and never had a conflict with her.

The Office of Residence Life formally removed Phillips as AR in November, following a series of meetings, but she retained her employee benefits.

Phillips, a second year law student, was honored with the Distinguished Notre Dame Woman Award in April for her contributions to the Notre Dame and South Bend community.

ResLife changed the AR contracts for next year after reviewing the events that occurred in the past academic year, said Bill Kirk, vice president for Student Affairs. The new contracts, which are renewed by semester and provide a more detailed definition of the AR's role, state that contracts may be terminated with or without cause and disputes between an AR and the University will be settled via arbitration. ARs who are terminated without cause will receive benefits for the remainder of the semester.

Saint Mary's Security

Amidst security department changes and improvements, Saint Mary's suspended security officer Belinda Rathert because her college transcripts were reportedly not on file.

The College suspended and banned Rathert from campus while it investigated whether she misrepresented herself to the College. Rathert questioned the professionalism of the manner in which the situation was handled and maintained that she contacted College officials in order to turn over her transcripts. At the time, College officials stated that Rathert had not turned over her transcripts.

In November, the suspended offi-

cer said she filed a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and intended to sue the College for sexual harassment and discrimination, unequal wages and a hostile work environment.

Police flood The Boat Club

On a chilly January morning, the underage drinking haven for students, The Boat Club, faced a similar fate as Finnigan's Irish Pub in 2000, as Excise Police and South Bend Police busted the bar.

Over 200 Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students waited in line for hours as police, assisted by Notre Dame Security Police officers armed with student directories, verified the identification of patrons and issued citations.

Though Saint Mary's students did not receive punishment from the College, Notre Dame students were fined monetarily and ordered to complete service hours in addition to the fines and service hours they had to complete for Saint Joseph County.

While many cited students believed they had put The Boat Club bust behind them, Millennium Entertainment Inc., owner of The Boat Club, sued every cited student in small claims courts for damages of \$3,000. The suits alleged that the defendants misrepresented themselves to the nightclub in order to gain entrance.

In an unrelated bar bust, Excise Police raided The Library Irish Pub in April and issued 51 citations, many to Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students. The Library was raided two years ago when it was called Finnigan's and has changed ownership since the previous bust. It is unclear whether the owners of The Library will also file suits against cited individuals as Millennium Entertainment did this April.

Freshman dies

Freshman Chad Sharon was found dead Feb. 12 under the Angela Bridge after being reported missing Dec. 12 by Fisher Hall staff because he did not return to his residence hall. Friends said they last saw Sharon around 2 a.m. at a



Oct. 5: "Sea of Green" at Stanford game

Dec. 12: Notre Dame Freshman Chad Sharon reported missing by Fisher Hall staff



Jan. 25: Police bust The Boat Club and over 200 citations are issued

October

December

February

November

January

Feb. 12: Construction workers find Chad Sharon's body under the Angela Bridge

Nov. 7: Saint Mary's Security Officer Belinda Rathert suspended

Jan. 16: Father Scully confronts reporters at a Mass for Chad Sharon

Jan. 17: Four assailants mug a Keenan freshman three blocks south of campus returning from The Boat Club

October: Cynthia Phillips terminated as PW Assistant Rector



Freshman drowns. Students participate in protests. Saint Mary's reading day passed. Saint Mary's president retires.

in Review

♦ 2003

party on Corby Street.

Sharon did not show up for any of his finals, and state and local police began an extensive search for the freshman.

During their search for Sharon, police discovered a Madison Center employee who may have talked to Sharon outside the hospital around 4 a.m. the night of his disappearance. The employee said that an individual closely matching Sharon's description asked for directions to the nearest convenience store. The hospital worker directed the student to the nearest 7-Eleven.

The investigation expanded to include searches of the area using dogs and helicopters as well as searches of the river but turned up few additional leads.

University officials offered a \$25,000 reward, which was later increased to \$50,000 with the help of local businesses, to encourage anyone with information about Sharon to come forward.

Sharon's parents visited campus in January to meet with investigators and students who might have been unwilling to speak with police.

The search ended when local construction workers found a body floating under the Angela Bridge that was later identified as Sharon's. Though the river had been searched, police speculated that the body had been dislodged from the river by high winds the day before. An autopsy and blood tests later revealed that Sharon's blood alcohol content was 0.224, although it could have been lower at the time of death, and that foul play was likely not involved. For Sharon's family and friends, these unfortunate developments finally brought some closure to months of uncertainty.

Saint Mary's president retires

Saint Mary's President Marilou Eldred officially announced her retirement March 5.

Eldred became the 10th president and first laywoman president of the College upon her inauguration in 1997.

Since then, she helped to improve

Saint Mary's itself, along with its relationship to the local community.

With Eldred's supervision and initiative came the development of the College's Strategic Plan to improve the curriculum, technology and diversity on campus.

Eldred also headed the development of the Master Plan, a renovation and construction effort to update facilities and meet the needs of the college community at large.

Eldred secured a \$12 million grant loan from Lilly Endowment, Inc., which provided crucial funding for the Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership that opened in 2001. The Center is believed to be the only of its kind in colleges and universities across the country.

Efforts such as these helped Saint Mary's earn the reputation as the nation's premier Catholic women's college. The College has received a number one ranking for Midwest Liberal Arts Colleges by "U.S. News and World Report" five years of Eldred's six year term.

"My experience at Saint Mary's has been fantastic," Eldred said. "It has been a privilege to lead this College to the next level; to work with our faculty and staff to provide the highest quality education possible for the talented students who come to [Saint Mary's]."

Eldred agreed to hold her position at the College until the Board of Trustees names her successor, which is expected to be at some point well into the 2003-2004 academic year.

Saint Mary's Reading Day

After a 10-year student government lead struggle, Saint Mary's Academic Affairs Committee finally approved the reading day proposal.

The approval will now allow Saint Mary's students the opportunity to work on projects, meet with professors and prepare for exams the Friday before finals week.

War in Iraq

While New York, Chicago and London erupted in anti-war and peace protests, Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students voiced their

opinions as well.

Several students traveled to New York and Chicago to participate in protests in addition to organizing forums and demonstrations on campus.

Hundreds of students and faculty members, including Father Theodore Hesburgh, president emeritus of Notre Dame, signed an anti-war petition started at Notre Dame.

Pro-war, anti-war, pro-troops and pro-peace voices could be heard on both campuses.

Though it is unclear whether anyone from the Notre Dame or Saint Mary's community died in Operation Iraqi Freedom, several Notre Dame professors were sent to fight. A 2000 Notre Dame graduate, Dustin Ferrell, was severely injured in a humvee accident in Iraq and is recovering in the United States. He was awarded a purple heart.

Scully resigns

Following a reported leadership crisis in the University, Father Scully resigned as executive vice president, at the May Board of Trustees meeting. A committee formed to investigate Scully's behavior was scheduled to deliver a report at the meeting.

His resignation followed a January incident where he accosted a reporter and cameraman from WNDU-TV before a Mass for then missing freshman Chad Sharon at the Fisher Hall parking lot. WNDU-TV is owned by the University and Scully was director of operations for the station. The cameraman said Scully smelled of alcohol when he approached them and told them to move their vehicles. Druker filed a report with NDSP and later withdrew her complaint after Scully apologized.

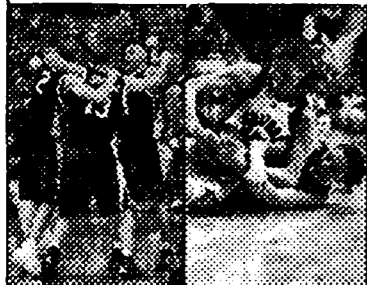
Scully will remain as a political science professor at Notre Dame.

Teresa Fralish and Anneliese Woolford contributed to this article.

Contact Meghanne Downes at mdownes1@nd.edu



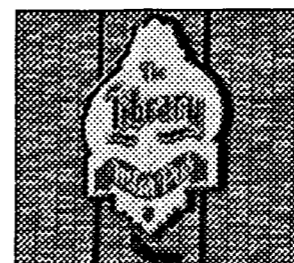
March 22 and 25: Mens and Womens basketball reach Sweet 16 of NCAA Tournament



March 5: Saint Mary's president Marilou Eldred announces her retirement



Apr. 22: Owners of The Boat Club sue cited students



May 2: Father Scully resigns as executive vice president



Apr. 25: Police raid the Library Irish Pub, 75 citations are issued

April

March

March 22: Notre Dame 2000 grad Dustin Ferrell is injured in Iraq



March 4: Saint Mary's approves Reading Day proposal

March 19: The nation goes to war in Iraq as students voice their opinions

Apr. 19: Server crashes and officials are forced to change Web registration times

May

May 1: University removes Father Sam Peters as Sorin rector due to an inappropriate sexual relationship



Saint Mary's grads continue legacies

◆ Several seniors are following in the footsteps of their mothers and grandmothers

By EMILY BRAMMER
News Writer

By graduating Saturday, 24 Saint Mary's graduates will continue the legacies of their Alumnae mothers and in some instances, their grandmothers as well.

One third-generation graduate, Shaun Russell, will carry on an impressive legacy. Russell's grandmother graduated from Saint Mary's in 1946, the same year her husband graduated from Notre Dame. All eight of their children also earned degrees from either Notre Dame or Saint Mary's.

Russell will become one of 10 grandchildren to have graduated from either of the two schools. Additionally, six of Russell's cousins are currently enrolled, and one more cousin will be starting next spring.

"My grandparents are ecstatic, because they're the root of the legacy, and they stay so young because of it," Russell said. "My grandmother knows more about football than most sportscasters."

Their family get-togethers are quite the Irish extravaganza, and they gather near the Loftus Center to tailgate every home football game.

"We're so lucky, because our family's so big, that we have a place like this to get together," Russell said. "And I wouldn't have it any other way. If I hadn't gone to Saint Mary's, I'd feel so out of the loop."

Bridget Horne is also a third-generation graduate. Her grandmother graduated from Saint Mary's in 1953 and her mother graduated in 1980.

The legacy began by her grandmother and mother, and the life-long friends that they made, greatly influenced Horne's decision to apply to Saint Mary's. She especially admires her moth-

er's lasting relationships with her roommates. They still meet once a year.

"I was looking for somewhere I would leave with great girlfriends," she said. "And after seeing how my mother still keeps in touch with her friends, I knew that Saint Mary's was where I would find that."

Most daughters of alumnae tell similar stories, but the memoirs of some legacies include a very pivotal time in both Saint Mary's and Notre Dame's histories — the near merging of the two schools in 1971.

Saint Mary's senior Meganne Hoffman continues the legacy of her mother who has a degree from Notre Dame but is an alumna of Saint Mary's. Her mother came to Saint Mary's in 1969 and declared her major in modern languages as the

"My mother understands a lot about my college experience because she lived it. She can relate to the philosophy of Saint Mary's College and the spirit here."

Meganne Hoffman
graduating senior

unification of the two schools moved forward. Fully anticipating the merger, Saint Mary's and Notre Dame began to consolidate administrations and academic departments and

divided majors among the schools.

But after the merger was called off, the students who enrolled in major programs at Notre Dame finished the departmental requirements and graduated with degrees from Notre Dame. Consequently, even though Hoffman's mother applied to Saint Mary's, she graduated with a degree in modern languages from Notre Dame.

But her mother is considered a Saint Mary's alumna, and she even served as President of the Saint Mary's Indianapolis Alumna Club.

Hoffman feels that the experiences that she and her mother have shared have strengthened the bond between them.

"My mother understands a lot about my college experience because she lived it," said Hoffman. "And she can relate to the philosophy of Saint Mary's College and the spirit here. That still hasn't changed in 30 years."

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"There are 364 days when you might get unibirthday presents... and only one for birthday presents, you know."

-Lewis Carrol

Thanks for the Sunshine
Love,
Mom, Dad & Erin

ND, SMC students add world view

◆ International students provide new perspectives on campus

By TERESA FRALISH
Associate News Editor

For all students, college represents a journey marked by learning and growth, but it seems even greater when they start on the other side of the world. This year's seniors hail from locales across the world — as far away as China and Argentina.

Though enrollment numbers for international students have been on the rise at both schools over the past four years, foreign students are in a definite minority, as only 38 will graduate from Notre Dame and two from Saint Mary's.

But these students say they have come to love academic and student life here and will take important lessons about life with them as they travel back to their native countries or choose to remain in the United States.

"I was amazed at how wonderful people are here," said Saint Mary's senior Kremi Angelova, who is from Stara Zagora, Bulgaria.

Senior Carol Tushabee, who transferred to Saint Mary's from Holy Cross College as a sophomore, said she chose to come to the United States because Holy Cross actively recruited her. Tushabee, who is from Uganda, was attracted to Saint Mary's small size and academic reputation.

"Overall, my experience has been good. The students and teachers have been really friendly," she said.

At Saint Mary's, Tushabee, a philosophy major and women's

studies minor, was involved in a myriad of activities but focused on service in the South Bend community. Tushabee worked with adult literacy programs, was a member of the Around the World Club and volunteered at the Chapin Street Clinic and St. Margaret's House, a shelter for battered women. Saint Mary's also sent Tushabee and two other Saint Mary's students to Uganda to attend the International Interdisciplinary Conference on Women.

After graduation, Tushabee hopes to carry with her the lessons she has learned about women and leadership. Next fall, she will attend Texas Women's University to earn a masters degree in women's studies. Eventually, Tushabee hopes to earn a doctorate in public policy and then work for a non-governmental organization, preferably at the United Nations.

"I would like to find a job with the U.N. that focuses on women in developing countries," she said.

Notre Dame senior Maria Richa, who is from Panama, said that the academic excellence of American schools was a major factor in her decision to come to the United States. "There's a lot of Panamanians that go to college in the U.S.," she said. "My father graduated from [Notre Dame]."

At Notre Dame, Richa, who is a psychology major, said that adjusting to culture differences posed a challenge at first, but she soon began to feel at home at the University. Richa participated in foreign student programs through the Office of International Students Services and Activities and helped plan international student banquets her freshman, sophomore and junior years.

After leaving Notre Dame, Richa intends to return to Panama and eventually attend

graduate school for clinical psychology in either Europe or the United States.

"I want to practice [as a psychologist] and probably open a kindergarten for children with mental deficiencies," she said.

Like Richa, Angelova, a computational mathematics major, said she choose to attend school in the United States because of the academic reputation of American colleges and the influence of another Bulgarian friend who attended school in the United States.

When Saint Mary's offered her an academic scholarship, Angelova decided to leave her family and friends behind for a new experience.

"It was my first time going abroad," she said. "It was difficult to cross over the barrier of coming from another country."

But once at Saint Mary's, Angelova found a welcoming community and a variety of activities to participate in. An active member of the Math Club and a founding member of the Around the World Club, Angelova said her presence and that of other international students helped to change the dynamics of student life at the College.

"[International students] broaden everyone else's point of view," she said.

After graduating, Angelova said she would attend a graduate program in computational finance at Purdue University. After completing her masters degree, Angelova said she will consider earning a doctorate and eventually may return to Bulgaria or live in western Europe but will always remember her time at Saint Mary's.

"I'm going to miss this close knit community," she said.

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2003 Commencement

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Diversity in Saint Mary's seniors

By NATALIE BAILEY
News Writer

Approximately 350 women will make the transition from students to alumnae Saturday, May 17.

While facing an increasingly tough economy, an estimated 70 percent of the class of 2003 are going into the work force full time.

According to Mary Regan-Kubinski, professor and chair of the nursing department, the market for nurses is excellent.

"Our graduates are not only getting jobs, they are getting jobs in the fields that they want to go into," she said.

Of the 14 graduates receiving a bachelor of science in nursing, most either have jobs or are entering the field. Graduates are entering diverse clinical specialties from mid-wifery to oncology.

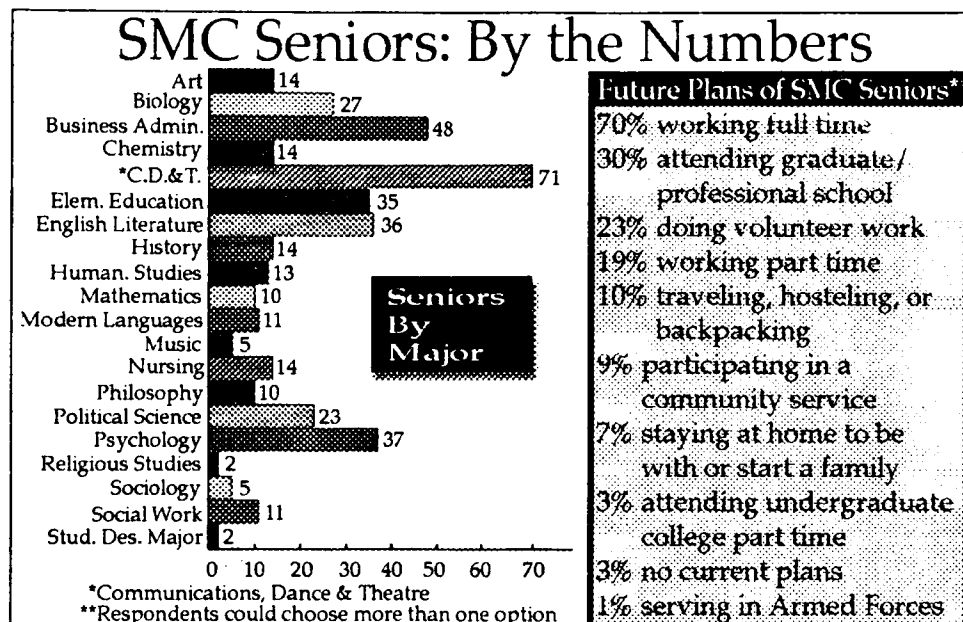
The outlook is not as certain for students graduating with bachelor of arts and bachelor of business administration degrees.

"It looks like it will take three to four months for a lot of seniors to find a job," John Pauley, professor and department chair of communication studies, said.

Many students are moving to the area of the country where they want to relocate and then starting a job search from there. Also, 30 percent of the class is looking to enter graduate or professional schools.

Kerry O'Reilly, one of the 35 graduates receiving a bachelor of arts in elementary education, plans to enroll in Marquette University's top ranked speech pathology program.

"After taking a couple of classes in the speech pathology



Source: Saint Marys Academic Affairs

department and working at a local school for deaf children I decided I wanted to explore options other than elementary education," O'Reilly said.

The majority of education majors are planning on going directly into the field. In the past, 40 percent of education majors enter teaching in Parochial schools.

"Right now the suburban setting is very difficult area to get placement," said Helen Doyle, associate professor and chair of the education department. "Luckily most of our graduates are willing and able to go to under-served populations, including urban and Catholic, but it is difficult, very difficult."

The biology department is graduating 27 students, most of whom will go onto higher learning.

"Generally our students aren't looking for a job," Thomas Platt, professor and chair of the biology department, said. "They are generally looking to continue their education."

Platt reports that students are doing the same, if not better, than past years with acceptance to professional and graduate programs. Based upon the

information provided to them, eight students plan to attend medical, dental or graduate school; five enter the work force and three enter into service for a year.

Catherine Roche, graduating with a bachelor of science in biology, is part of the 23 percent of graduates who will be spending the next year doing service. She will be volunteering with the Jesuit Volunteer Core in Yakima, Wash. Her duties will include working as a volunteer coordinator for high school students who would like to work with the elderly.

"I just figured that after four years of receiving an excellent education I want to give back what I have received," Roche said.

After the year of service from August to August, Roche plans on going into health care.

"I realize this is somewhat unconventional and people might see it as delaying entry into the real world," Roche said. "But we are going to be dealing with social injustice first hand and will be very much a part of the real world."

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Saint Mary's has plan to replace Eldred

By ANNELIESE WOOLFORD
Saint Mary's Editor

The Saint Mary's College Board of Trustees outlined its plan April 25 for selecting a replacement for Marilou Eldred, who announced her retirement March 5 but said she would remain as college president until her successor was hired.

The plan, which the Board presented to College faculty, staff and students in a letter in early May, calls for the establishment of a special search committee and sets a December goal or naming a replacement.

"The goal of the Saint Mary's College Board of Trustees and the entire College community is to attract an outstanding individual to serve as President," Sister Joan Marie Steadman, the chair of the Board of Trustees, wrote in the letter. "This person should embody the core values of Saint Mary's, a commitment to its mission and its continued growth as a nationally recognized and ranked Catholic, women's, residential, liberal arts college."

At its April 25 meeting, several days prior to the letter's writing, the Board of Trustees approved the search committee's development, along with the process employed to search for a presidential candidate.

Also at the time, Colleen Ryan was selected as chairperson of the committee and John O'Connor as vice chair. Both are members of the Board.

The remainder of the Search Committee will consist of five Trustees, one member of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, two faculty members, two administrative members (one academic and one non-academic), one member of the student body, one alumna, one member of the Parents Council and one member from the South Bend community.

As stated in the letter, those individuals chosen to fill the positions

"will operate in an environment of mutual respect and cooperation, focused solely on the best interests of the College as a whole."

"I believe the Search Committee well represents all Saint Mary's constituencies," Eldred said in response to the Board of Trustees' decision. "When I came here, the search was not open and I did not have the opportunity to meet many of the campus groups. I think that made it difficult for both me and the College."

Once formed, the Committee will attempt to attract a broad range of candidates, both traditional and non-traditional along with qualified graduates of Saint Mary's.

"The search will be proactive, reaching out to possible candidates who are not currently seeking a new position, but who would be excited about leading a nationally ranked college," Steadman said.

Members of the Search Committee are required to sign a confidentiality agreement once appointed. While they will maintain consistent communication with the College community regarding the search process, the Committee's activities, discussions, materials and decisions will be kept confidential.

When at least three candidates have been submitted to the Board, they will then be invited to campus for the purpose of meeting with key figures of the College prior to the Board of Trustees' appointing of the president.

The Board will hold a meeting in December 2003 at which time it expects to name a president-elect.

"I think December 2003 is an aggressive schedule, particularly for someone coming from higher education," Eldred said. "If the president is selected from the corporate world or is not in higher education, then perhaps it is a more possible schedule."

Overall, Eldred is confident in the approach that the Board is taking to the presidential search.

She's not alone. "The next President of Saint Mary's College will build on the strong legacy of Dr. Marilou Eldred and her predecessors," Steadman said.

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Eldred

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Student finishes degree in 3 years

♦ Computer science major took several AP classes in high school

By ANDREW THAGARD
Assistant News Editor

Students often remark that their time under the Dome goes by quickly, but for Dan Brunner the college years have passed by even faster. The computer science major will graduate with the class of 2003 after just three years at Notre Dame.

Brunner managed to shave a year off of his undergraduate education by taking a heavy load of advanced classes during high school. In total, he enrolled in 11 advanced placement courses that resulted in over 50 hours of college credit when he arrived at Notre Dame in the fall of 2000.

The large number of college credit hours afforded Brunner several options, including more leeway in his semester schedules and more choices in the classes he could take. He also had the possibility of declaring a second major. Brunner, however, opted to graduate early instead.

"I knew computer science was all I wanted to do," he said. "I wasn't interested in another field or another major."

But that doesn't mean that Brunner hasn't taken the time to enjoy his years at Notre Dame. The Knott Hall resident played inter-hall soccer.

Brunner said that his advisers were supportive of his decision.

He said that his parents were also pleased with the choice, especially because the early graduation will save the family over \$30,000.

While he is happy with his decision, Brunner said he will miss his friends and the Notre Dame experience.

"I'm planning on coming back for all the football games next year and hanging out with my friends," he said.

Over the summer, Brunner will work for a small consulting firm in Cincinnati.

During the internship, he will primarily focus on designing web pages. Next fall, Brunner may continue to work for the same company full-time or search for a different job.

"I'm not sure what I'll be doing long-term but I've got the [internship] lined up for right now," he said.

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Two rectors leaving residence halls

♦ Rectors of Zahm Hall and St. Edward's Hall departing

By MELISSA LOU
News Writer

The Notre Dame community is bidding farewell to two residence hall rectors who will not return in the fall, John Mojzisek of St. Edward's Hall and Father Tom Bednar of Zahm Hall.

Mojzisek, a Notre Dame alumnus, leaves St. Edward's

Hall after one year there.

He said that although he has enjoyed his experience, his heart is in counseling and teaching. He plans to return to Baltimore, his hometown, to continue work in these areas.

"The students have been very supportive of my decision," he said. "[They are] exceptional young men who are creative and very energetic."

Mojzisek will also leave his position with the Masters in Divinity Program where he taught pastoral counseling, and his job as a leader in the Notre Dame Encounter retreats.

Bednar of Zahm Hall will also not return next semester after three years there. He is unsure of his assignment for next year.

"It's been a great experience here," said Bednar of his time at Notre Dame and Zahm Hall. "There's a great sense of community and service among the guys."

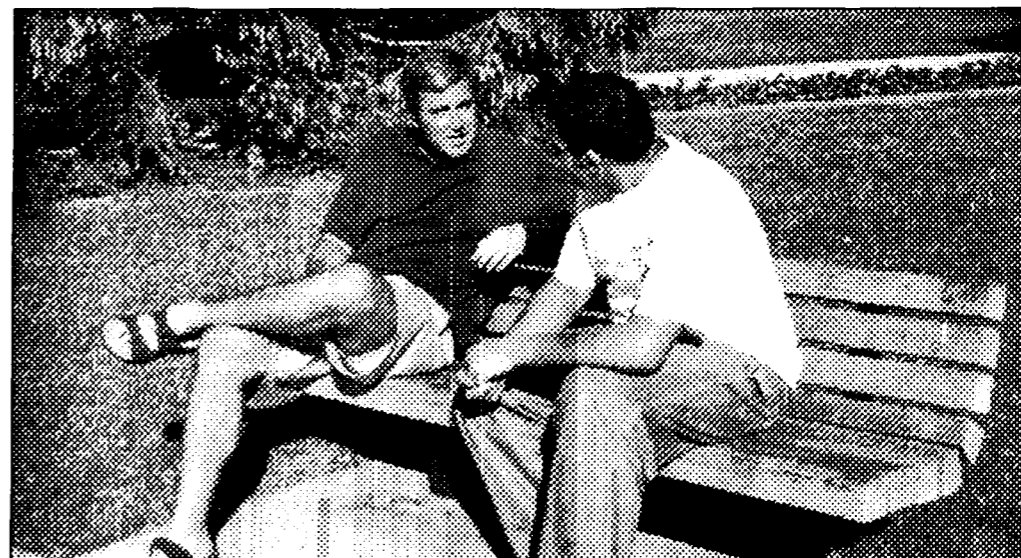
The Office of Student Affairs has named Daniel Parrish as Bednar's replacement.

Parrish is a University of Portland graduate who is completing his masters of divinity at Notre Dame. He will be ordained a priest next April.

Father Tom Eckert will succeed Mojzisek as rector at St. Edward's Hall. The Notre Dame alumnus from Huntington, Ill was ordained a priest on April 26.

Andrew Thagard contributed to this article.

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CHIP MARKS/The Observer

Rector John Mojzisek talks with a student. Mojzisek will be leaving St. Edwards Hall at the end of this year.

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- CANDACE, KATIE AND "THE FAM"

University cuts force colleges to look at budgets

Admissions increases and construction project cuts among options for colleges

By KATE NAGENGAST
Senior Staff Writer

Since the University Board of Trustees called for budget cuts in March as a result of losses to the endowment and a down economy, each college is now working to finalize its 2003-04 budget and determine the effects of a 5 percent cut to academic and student life expenditures mandated by the Board.

Although the cut represents only a small portion of the University's estimated \$600 million in annual expenses, it's significant at Notre Dame where the Board has not curtailed spending in nearly two decades.

Coupled with a 6.5 percent tuition increase, which will bring 2003-04 tuition and room and board costs to \$34,100, University budget cuts could affect student life — though University officials said they aim to avoid changes that would have a direct impact on students, especially student finances.

"There's been a rigorous attempt to hold down tuition increases with wise decision making in the budget," said Matt Storin, University spokesman. "We want to arrive at a budget figure that will do the least damage to our University missions."

Storin said preserving financial aid at its current levels is among the University's highest priorities. But the endowment, which provides financial aid for students, ranks 18th among U.S. colleges and universities and is the largest at any Catholic institution, dropped \$200 million last year.

"The budget cuts are not entirely based on the endowment drop, there have been additional rising costs ... but the economy certainly affects things on the revenue side adversely," said Storin.

More than half of Notre Dame's operating budget revenues and roughly 81 percent of the educational and general revenues come from tuition and fees, according to the strategic plan, thus even a small percentage increase in tuition or in the number of enrolled students assists with budgeting — and in 2003 the University plans to attempt both.

Notre Dame plans to admit 25 more students, making 1,960 the target size for the class of 2007.

Eileen Kolman, dean of First Year Studies, said her office will plan for 1,980 students, however, she also questioned Notre Dame's continued ability to attract a surplus of students during an economic downturn.

"I think the economy is in a bad way and Notre Dame is expensive — so we may not see the confirmation rate of past years again," Kolman said, in reference to the class of 2005 enrollment swell of over 2,000 students.

First Year Studies was also asked to make a 5 percent budget cut, but Kolman said that could be accomplished through fewer summer mailings and relying more on Internet communication, without adversely affecting students.

According to Ava Preacher, assistant dean in the College of Arts and Letters, Arts and Letters will increase the number of transfer stu-

dents it admits and decrease the number of student leaves of absence it grants, a scenario she believes will be problematic.

Preacher said Arts and Letters typically admits 60 to 70 sophomore and junior transfer students per year, but for 2003-04 it has been asked to admit 90 students.

"It means we'll have to look at compromising quality," said Preacher. "With 90 students accepted you may actually be taking students who won't fare well in the classrooms here."

Arts and Letters will also allow only 16 leaves of absence in 2003-04, roughly eight per semester, after allowing up to 40 this year. This cut could hinder study abroad opportunities for students who want to take a leave of absence to travel through programs outside of Notre Dame's International Studies and London Program offerings and want to receive credit for their time away.

Preacher said her office would now prioritize leave request based upon whether applicants had already had an abroad experience and if they were interested in participating in programs where Notre Dame had no existing offering, such as Africa.

Preacher said increasing enrollment through the combination of larger incoming classes, more transfer students and fewer leaves of absence could increase class size, limit course availability, or even risk students' ability to graduate in the expected four to five years with a semester abroad and mounting scheduling conflicts.

The College of Science and the

College of Business typically offer larger classes and encounter fewer scheduling dilemmas, but nonetheless find themselves with contrasting budget issues.

According to accounting professor Bill Nichols, the Mendoza College of Business will have little trouble making their required budget cuts for 2003 by reducing their publications, entertainment and alumni relations budgets.

"We approached the budget cut with the objective to retain faculty slots, maintain course offerings and maintain funding for faculty research," Nichols said.

These goals are similar to those set by the College of Science, but the College of Business results are enviable for Marvin Miller, chair of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

Miller said his department likewise prioritized faculty retention and therefore allowed for a 1.5 percent increase in faculty salaries to "keep morale up."

"To cut faculty and staff salaries would be imprudent," said Miller. "The worst thing we could do is lose faculty to competing academics or industry. The last thing we want to do is make it attractive for them to leave."

But, according to Miller, 90 percent of the Chemistry and Biochemistry budget is salaries, thus forcing its supply budget to take a 30 to 35 percent cut to meet next year's University budget requirements. He said there has been double digit inflation in the cost of scientific supplies, but his department budget has not increased in five

years.

"Teaching science is relatively expensive," said Miller. "My biggest fear is that come February or March of next year, we'll walk into the labs and have to tell the students, 'Sorry, we're out of supplies.' Needless to say we'll be frustrated in our teaching efforts without supplies."

Various campus construction projects have also been delayed or halted as a result of budget restraints, Jim Lyphout, vice president for business operations, told The Observer in April. Delayed projects include a new science and learning building to be built north of the Joyce Center for \$70 million, a new post office and security building near the Stepan Center, and improvements to the Loftus Center. Projects that were completed or are still on schedule despite cuts include the Marie P. DeBartolo Center for Performing Arts, the Stepan Chemistry Hall, O'Shaughnessy Hall renovations and Hesburgh Library renovations.

Preacher said an additional faculty concern related to building projects is parking as teachers will for the first time be charged for parking beginning in the fall of 2004.

"The University is tightening the budget and in many ways they've needed to do it," said Preacher. "Every now and then it seems the University should cut back on certain luxuries. You look at the grounds and wonder when they lay down and tear up sidewalks repeatedly. Money seems to flow to some places more than others."

Contact Kate Nagengast at
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NOTRE DAME CLUB OF NEW YORK CITY

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE 2003 GRADUATES!

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Check out our webpage at www.ndnyc.com for membership info, events, service activities and other helpful information. Upcoming events include:

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- ♦ Monthly meetings the 4th Tuesday of each month
- ♦ Boat cruise around NYC on July 30

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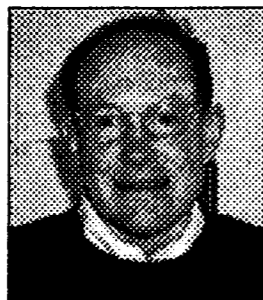


Scully resigns as executive VP

By ANDREW SOUKUP
News Writer

The University's third-ranking official announced May 2 he would resign his position as executive vice president but remain a member of the faculty.

Father Timothy Scully informed the University's Board of Trustees that his resignation would take effect June 30. The Trustees met on campus May 2 to discuss business that was scheduled to include a report from a four-person committee formed to investigate Scully's behavior, including a Jan. 16 confrontation with two local television reporters and a cameraman.



Scully

However, University spokesman Matt Storin said Scully's resignation was tendered to the Board before the report was discussed. The report, Storin said, cleared Scully of any wrongdoing.

A South Bend Tribune report on May 3 said Scully's resignation averted a possible crisis in the upper echelon of the University's leadership, according to unnamed sources in the University's administration quoted by the Tribune.

A majority of top administrators — including University President Father Edward Malloy — wanted Scully out, according to the Tribune, which also cited sources as saying Malloy was prepared to resign if Scully remained.

In a prepared statement, Scully did not provide a reason for his resignation. Malloy, in the same University-issued statement, said, "His tenure has been marked by his creative thinking, his wise business sense and his enduring commitment to the University community."

A committee established by the Board of Trustees will lead a search to find Scully's successor, but Storin said he did not know when the Board of Trustees would name

Scully's successor.

"It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as an officer of the University for the past nine years," Scully said in his statement. "My first love has always been teaching, research and pastoral ministry. I'm excited at the prospect of returning full time to those pursuits."

Neither Scully nor Malloy were available for comment, and the only official University response came in the form of a statement that cited many of Scully's achievements. "The statement largely speaks for itself," Storin said.

"The fruits of his dynamic decision-making and high standards for performance will continue to influence this University long into the future," said the chairman of the Board of Trustees, Patrick McCartan, in a statement. "We respect the personal nature of the decision he has made to step down but look forward to a continuing relationship with him as a member of the Board of Fellows and the Board of Trustees and as a valued member of the faculty."

Scully, who was initially scheduled to teach a class entitled "Leadership and Social Concern" in the fall semester, is instead taking what one member of the political science department called an administrative leave. Typically, when administrators return to the faculty ranks, they can receive at least one semester off from teaching. No students were affected by the decision to cancel class because permission was required to register, and Scully had not approved any students before the class was cancelled.

In a voice mail message left with The Observer Tuesday, Scully said he looks forward to the challenge of returning to the teaching and research field.

A member of the political science department, Scully said he intends to teach one of three courses: comparative politics, Latin American politics and Leadership and Social Concern.

He will continue to chair the advisory board for the Helen Kellogg Institute for International Studies, to serve as the director of the Institute for Educational Initiatives and to chair of the board of the

Alliance for Catholic Education, which he founded.

"I can't wait to be able to spend more time in my beloved Fisher Hall [where Scully lives] and celebrate Mass," said Scully, who was leading a retreat in Chile when he called. "That, combined with a very heavy teaching agenda and working as a Fellow and Trustee will keep me very busy."

Scully did not talk about what made him decide to resign in the message. He could not be reached for further comment.

Named executive vice president in July 2000, Scully was in charge of human resources, campus construction and oversaw the University's financial matters — which included administering a University operations budget that topped \$500 million and an endowment over \$2.6 million. Prior to his appointment, he had served since 1994 as the University's vice president and senior associate provost.

In January, Scully was involved in a confrontation with a reporter and cameraman from the University-owned television station WNDU-TV who were covering a Mass for missing freshman Chad Sharon at Fisher Hall. Sharon's body was discovered Feb. 12 in the St. Joseph River.

According to the cameraman, who said he smelled alcohol on Scully's breath during the incident, the executive vice president grabbed reporter Bonnie Druker by the arm and angrily told the pair to move their van, which he said was parked in the wrong spot behind Fisher. Scully later apologized for the incident, but it was unclear what role — if any — the confrontation had in Scully's decision to resign.

Under Scully's nine-year tenure as a University administrator, the number of Notre Dame students studying abroad doubled and Notre Dame established academic programs in Chile, Mexico and Washington, D.C. The University also made significant progress on its master plan for campus construction.

Contact Andrew Soukup at
asoukup@nd.edu

Father Malloy honored with 14th degree

Special to The Observer

University President Father Edward Malloy received an honorary doctor of divinity degree from Saint Leo University in Saint Leo, Fla., during its commencement ceremonies May 10. It was his 14th such honor.

Malloy also delivered the commencement address to a record 495 students who were receiving their bachelor's degrees.

Notre Dame's 16th president, Malloy was elected by the Board of Trustees in 1986, and he has led the University at a time of rapid growth in its reputation, faculty and resources. During his tenure, Notre Dame's faculty has increased by more than 350, the academic quality of the student body has improved dramatically, and the number of minority students has more than doubled.

The University's \$2.6 billion endowment is among the top 20 in higher education, and its recently completed "Generations" capital campaign raised \$1.1 billion, by far the most successful in the history of Catholic higher education and just the twelfth billion-dollar campaign ever for a private university.

Malloy has been a driving force behind efforts to promote community service and combat substance abuse. A member of the advisory board of AmeriCorps and the National Civilian Community Corps, he also is a founding director of the Points of Light Foundation, a member of the board of governors of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America and a member of the Indiana Community Service and Volunteer Committee and the Indiana Commission on Community Service.

Ceremony to honor graduating volunteers

Special to The Observer

Some 185 Notre Dame graduating seniors who are embarking on a year or more of service in this country and abroad will be honored at the University's annual Senior Service Send-Off at 10 a.m. Saturday in Washington Hall.

University President Father Edward Malloy will address the seniors, speaking about the importance of service in education and throughout life, and reflections on postgraduate service will be offered by Charles Kenney, assistant professor of political science at the University of Oklahoma and a 1980 Notre Dame graduate. Kenney, who served in the Holy Cross Associates program in Hayward, Calif., from 1980-81, received master's and doctoral degrees in government and international studies from Notre Dame in 1997 and 1998, respectively. He and his wife, Caridad Marchand, have four children.

At the ceremony, each of the participating seniors will be recognized on stage and will receive a journal with favorite quotations and advice from various members of the Notre Dame community. A blessing of the seniors will be led by Father William Lies, executive director of the Center for Social Concerns; Andrea Smith Shappell, director of senior transition programs at the cen-

ter; and representatives of the Holy Cross Associates and the Alliance for Catholic Education.

Among the seniors will be Margaret Laracy, Notre Dame's 2003 valedictorian, who will serve with L'Arche, a community for developmentally disabled people, in Washington, D.C.

Programs in which this year's Notre Dame graduates have enlisted include the Holy Cross Associates, which serves the poor in six U.S. cities and Chile, and Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education, which provides teachers for understaffed parochial schools in dioceses across the United States.

Forty-two graduates will serve in programs abroad, including the Holy Cross Missions in Jinja, Uganda; the Dominican School in Johannesburg, South Africa; the Power of Love Foundation and The Master's Mission in Kenya; the Health Development Program in Tanzania; and the Peace Corps in several African countries. Most of these students became involved in community service through the Center for Social Concerns, in whose programs and courses some 3,000 students annually participate.

Music for the ceremony will include songs chosen by the graduates and led by the Notre Dame Folk Choir. Following the ceremony, there will be a reception at the Center for Social Concerns.

You Will Always Be Farley's Finest!

Kathryn Anderson
Araceli Bonilla
Meagan Call
Julie Davis
Kaitlyn Dudley
Jill Fitzgerald
Elizabeth Goodhue
Diana Hlavac
Christy Lindemann
Allison Lovelace
Kathleen McAdams
Katharine Mosesso
Nicole Ortega
Elisa Pond
Michelle Smith
Elizabeth Van Westen

Veronica Berger
Nichole Boreson
Kristin Capece
Ashley Dryer
Malia Durand
Allison Hepola
Cameesha Gordon
Katherine Jeter
Kaylene Landon
Bianca Martinez
Colleen Moran
Jane Ong
Jennifer Plasterr
Elba Serrano
Jennifer Stoner
Caroline Wagner

Colleen Weigle



Farley Hall
University of Notre Dame

Sorin Hall rector fired for 'sexual relationship'

♦ Father Sam Peters dismissed following allegation

By MEGHANNE DOWNES
News Editor

The rector of Sorin Hall, Father Sam Peters, was fired after University officials said he had an "inappropriate sexual relationship" with an adult female, a school spokesman said May 7.

The University first learned of the relationship between Peters and the woman when a family member of the woman notified school officials, said University spokesman Matt Storin, who declined to comment on whether the female was a student.

"The family has requested that we do everything to guard the privacy of this woman," Storin said, adding that the woman was not a minor.

It is unclear how long the relationship lasted. However, Storin said the relationship occurred during this school year.

The University removed Peters from his position as rector

May 1 and officially fired him a few days later, Storin said.

Peters, who had served as Sorin's rector since 2001 and was ordained a Holy Cross Priest

last Sept., is no longer allowed on Notre Dame's campus. It is unclear if he will be removed from the priesthood for his inappropriate sexual relationship.

A statement from the Indiana Province of the Congregation of Holy Cross expressed concern for the woman's family and regret for Peters' actions.

"We are deeply sorry and apologize for the betrayal of the trust that the People of God place in those whom we ordain for sacred duties," the statement said.

According to the statement, Peters is still a priest at this time but is not permitted to exercise public ministry in the immediate future.

"It will be important for him to re-examine his life priorities and his fidelity to them," the statement said.

ine his life priorities and his fidelity to them," the statement said.

The statement said Peters agreed to the Province's offer of professional assistance to help him in his assessment.

Father Mark Poorman, director of Student Affairs, officially notified Sorin residents of Peter's dismissal May 6. A replacement for Peters has not yet been named.

Before becoming Sorin's rector in 2001, Peters taught at St. Joseph's High School in South Bend and served at Christ the King Catholic Church in South Bend and St. Pius X in Granger.

Peters made his perpetual profession of the religious vows of poverty, chastity and obedience on Sept. 1, 2001 and was ordained a priest exactly one year later. His ordination was delayed because Peters, who

told Notre Dame Magazine in an interview that he was a recovering alcoholic, was initially prevented from drinking wine at the altar — a problem the Vatican corrected by granting him a special dispensation.

"It will be important for him to re-examine his life priorities and his fidelity to them."

Congregation of Holy Cross statement

"We are deeply sorry and apologize for the betrayal of the trust that the People of God place in those whom we ordain for sacred duties."

Congregation of Holy Cross statement

"The family has requested that we do everything to guard the privacy of this woman."

Matt Storin
University spokesman

Notre Dame Magazine — the University's alumni magazine —

profiled Peters' journey to the priesthood in its Spring 2003 issue, at one point likening him to a Holy Cross recruiting poster. According to

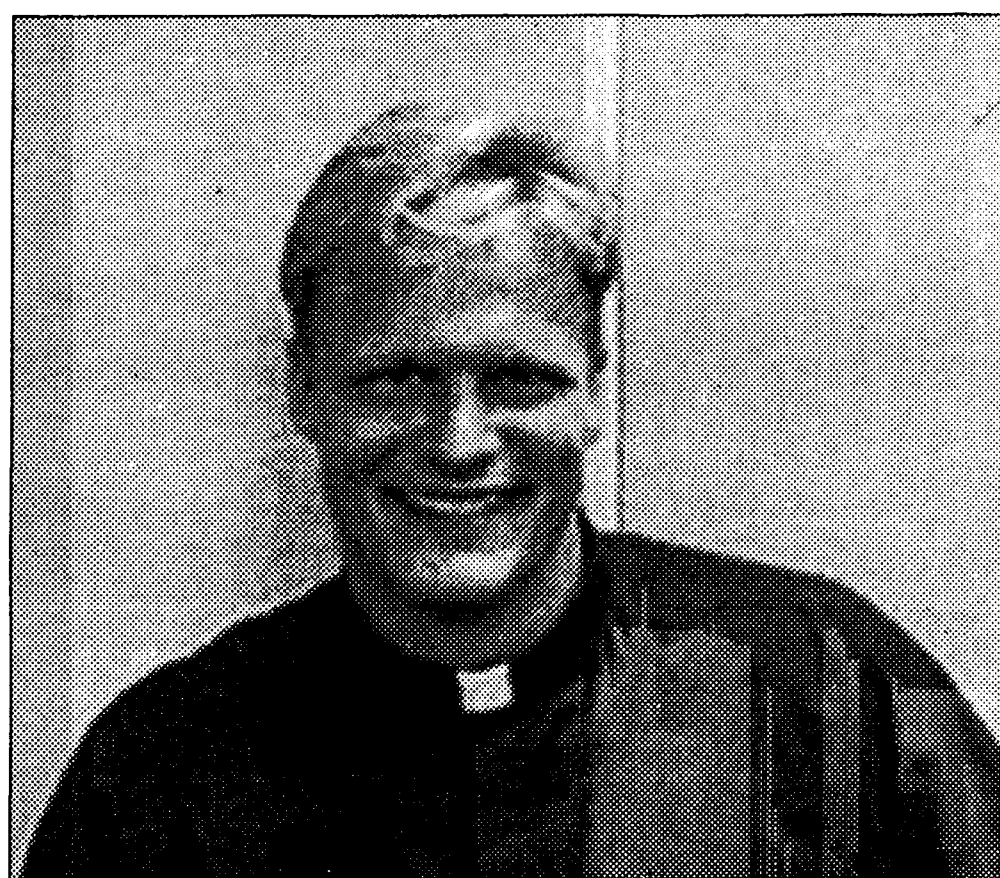
the article, Peters frequently welcomed students into his

room and wanted to avoid insinuations of impropriety — given the recent sexual scandals in the Catholic Church — when he made a potentially suicidal student sleep on his couch.

Sorin residents said Peters was known for talking about how happy he was with his celibacy.

"I'm the happiest guy you've ever met who's poor, celibate and obedient," Peters told the magazine.

Contact Meghane Downes at mdownes1@nd.edu



Father Sam Peters was fired as rector of Sorin Hall after allegations surfaced that he had engaged in an "inappropriate sexual relationship."

The Notre Dame chapter of Phi Beta Kappa congratulates and welcomes its new members of the class of 2003

Miss Kathryn Elizabeth Anderson
Ms Kimberly Jane Berg
Mr Richard Tobias Biebl
Mr Daniel David Birk
Mr Andrew Adam Borden
Ms Tona Maria Boyd
Mr Zachary Neal Burkhart
Ms Molly Corinne Byrnes
Mr Timothy James Callan
Ms Marguerite Elizabeth Clemency
Mr Joshua Francis Coleman
Ms Stephanie Diane Collins
Ms Gina Marie Cora
Ms Jessica Lee Daues
Miss Julie Lynn Davis
Mr Gerard DeGregoris, III
Mr Leonard James DeLorenzo, II
Miss Lisa Charlotte Demidovich
Ms Catherine Mary DiSipio
Ms Ann Therese Effinger
Mr Todd Randall Engstrom
Ms Christine Therese Ferrara
Ms Jennifer Jean Fibuch
Miss Margaret Ann Fitzpatrick
Mr John Joseph Foley, III
Ms Mary Colleen Ganey
Miss Amy Katherine Gnaster
Mr Eric William Gobel
Ms Annette Marie Gonzalez
Ms Jennifer Diane Guintu
Mr Jason Jeffrey Halvorson
Mr Kevin Michael Hansen
Ms Jessica Clare Higgins

Ms Kathleen Anne Higgins
Mr Nicholas Gaston Holovaty
Mr Daniel Scott Hoople
Ms Amanda K. Horvath
Ms Megan Elizabeth Horvath
Mr Jared Christian Jodrey
Mr Matthew Sweeney Johnston
Miss Elizabeth Anne Kahling
Mr Charles Stewart Kamen
Miss Ann Kellog
Ms Laura Clare Kelly
Ms Maura Elizabeth Kelly
Ms Erin Lynn Kennedy
Ms Patricia Ann Keppel
Ms Elizabeth Anne Kessler
Mr Jason Andrew Kloczek
Mr Elias J. Koliopoulos
Ms Kirstin Frances Krueger
Ms Margaret Rose Laracy
Miss Kristin Mary Laraja
Ms Beth Ann Lewinski
Ms Ashlee Mary Logan
Ms Rebecca Lucy Luckett
Mr Michael Charles Madigan
Miss Lori Kathryn Madlinger
Ms Katherine Marie Malmquist
Ms Amy Kiyoko Marshall
Mr Jason Scott Mathias
Mr Patrick Melia McElwee
Mr Donovan Clark McFeron
Mr Luke Anthony McLaurin
Ms Katherine Marie Mercy
Ms Cassandra Wearne Murphy

Mr Adam Michael Nicholson
Ms Kelly Rose Ninneman
Miss Christina Rose Noetzel
Mr David Andrew Nordin
Mr Matthew Joseph O'Rourke
Ms Stephanie Frances Pall
Miss Rebecca Marie Reilly
Ms Ellyn Elizabeth Rideout
Ms Meridith Anne Runke
Mr Nicholas Edward Salazar
Mr Joel Robert Schaffer
Miss Amy Beth Scheck
Ms Amy Marie Schill
Mr Daniel Benjamin Schmid
Ms Jessica Marie Schmidt
Mr Patrick Edward Sluka
Mr Brian Thomas Smith
Miss Marlayna Ann Soenneker
Ms Kathryn Louise Solic
Ms Jennifer Suzanne Spanbauer
Mr Robert Peter Stachecki
Mr Brian Albert Staub
Ms Maggie Marie Stoecker
Mr Glenn Loyd Strycker
Ms Carolyn Alicia Tampe
Ms Jennifer Josephine Theis
Ms Alexandra Vanessa Torres
Ms Alison Christine Troy
Ms Meghan Christine VanDeventer
Ms Erica LaMonaca Walter
Miss Allison Louise Werner
Mr Matthew Gerard Wysocki
Ms Stephanie Ann Zabela

Commencement Weekend 2003

Dear Graduates,

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my prayers and best wishes to the members of the Class of 2003. I also want to express my gratitude for the rich contributions you have made to the University during your time here.

For those of you who are graduating seniors, I hope that we have achieved our goal of providing you with an education that your commitment to your faith in God and to the service of God's people match your dedication to your chosen vocation and profession. We have high expectations of our graduates. The tremendous contribution that our alumni make to society and to the Church is a testament to the importance of these high expectations.

For those of you leaving with graduate and professional degrees, I hope that you will carry with you the best of our traditions as they relate to your discipline. If you bring to your chosen field a strong set of ethical convictions and a commitment to justice, you will represent the very best of Notre Dame.

May Our Lady, Notre Dame, continue to watch over you in the years ahead. We are blessed to have you as members of the Notre Dame family.

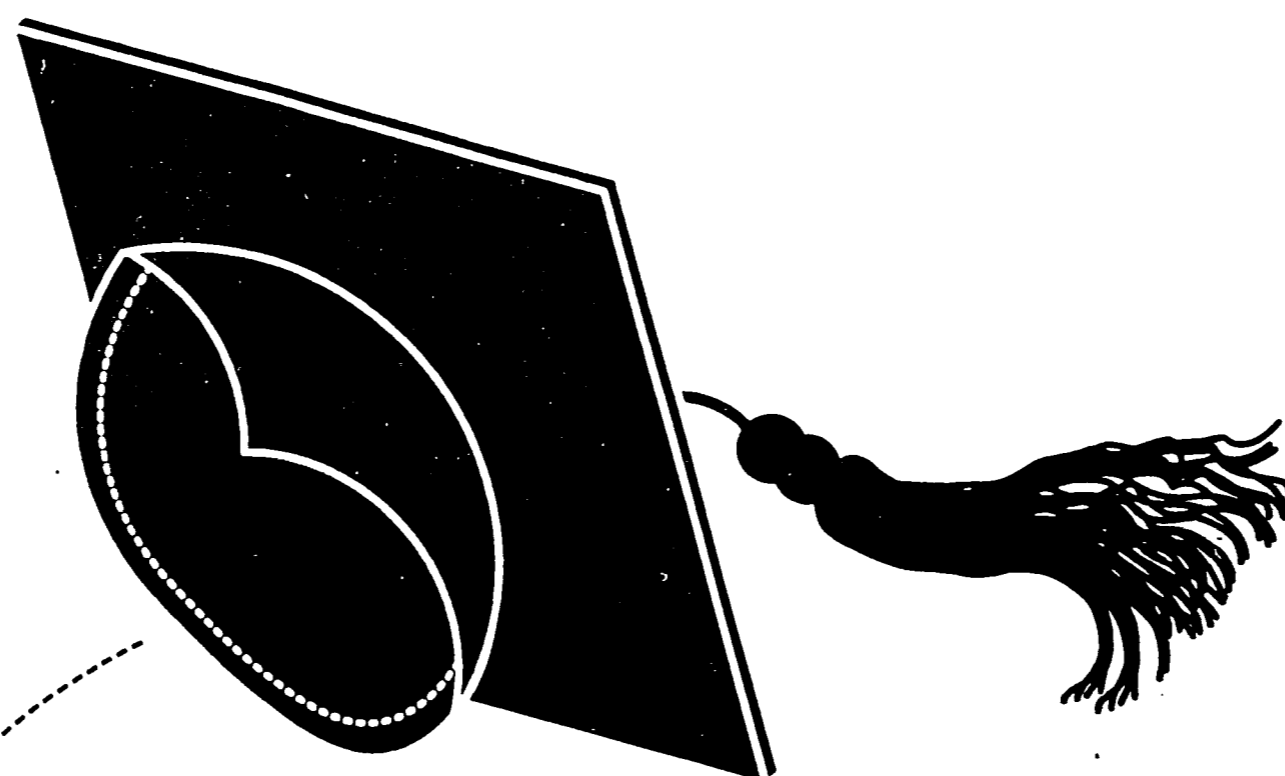
Sincerely yours,



(Rev.) Mark L. Poorman, C.S.C.
Vice President for Student Affairs



UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME

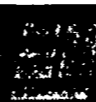


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Adding up a year at ND

♦ **Meals eaten,
classes taken,
Masses celebrated,
it's all here by the
numbers**

Special to The Observer

Another academic year is ending at Notre Dame. Most students have packed up and gone home. Seniors are enjoying their last days on campus before Commencement.

There is no way to quantify what Notre Dame has meant to them, but they will leave some statistical footprints.

For example, the Registrar's office reports that 6,837 classes were taught during the past fall and spring semesters, including graduate, undergraduate and independent study courses.

About 180,000 textbooks were purchased at the Hammes Bookstore on campus.

Research grants totaled \$43,902,214.

Students and visitors eating on campus consumed 1.5 tons of chicken strips, 60,000 gallons of milk, 88 tons of bananas.

There were 2 million meals served in the various dining halls, snack bars and restaurants, including 70,000 in the Morris Inn.

As anyone who visits the campus in autumn knows, it is hard to miss the Notre Dame Marching Band, either in performance or practice, but there are many other orchestras, bands, choirs and choral groups. They combined for 301 concerts and 115 band performances.

Some of those band performances were at the University's 183 athletic contests, not counting tournaments that are under the supervision of the National Collegiate Athletic Association. Fans attending those events totaled 865,591.

That makes for a few dirty uniforms. But they were just part of the story at the St. Michael's Laundry, which many students patronize. It processed 1.5 million tons of soiled fabric.

The spiritual side of Notre Dame is immeasurable, but Campus Ministry pegs the number of Masses, including those at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, the crypt and residence hall chapels at about 2,000.

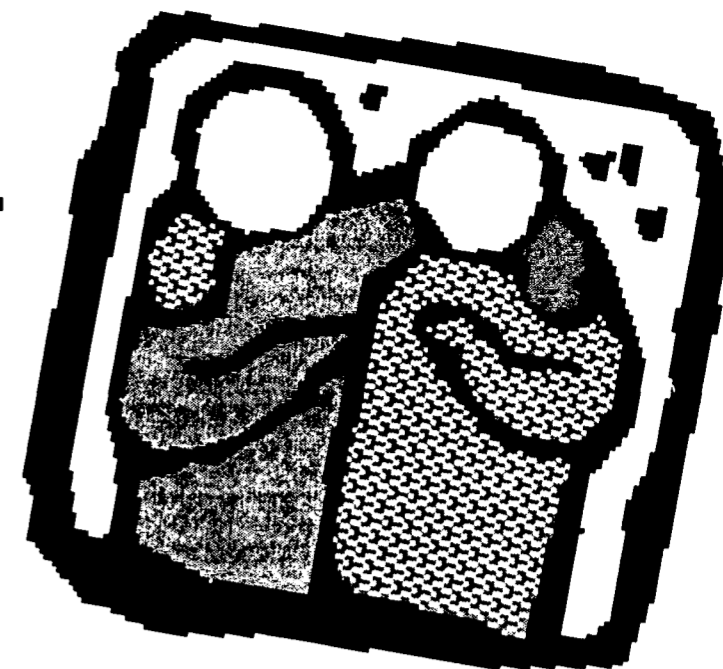
It's an incomplete list. There were kilowatt hours of electric power generated, gallons of water supplied, medications applied, acres of grass mowed, and so on.

After Sunday's Commencement, the campus will be quiet for a few weeks before the summer session and various visiting groups will bring it back to life.

But, finally closing the school year, there are still about 2,700 undergraduate and graduate degrees to confer.

The Observer congratulates all graduating seniors.
Best of luck next year.

GALA LUMNI ND/SMC



Congratulates

all the lesbian, gay, bi and transgender graduates of 2003, and their graduating friends and supporters...

& Welcomes

you, your family and friends into our strong and growing alumni organization.

GALA-ND/SMC (Gay and Lesbian Alumni /ae of the University of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's College) is an educational non-profit membership organization with over 850 members representing **alumni, faculty, staff** and **families** of the University and College.

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VIEWPOINT

Friday, May 16, 2003

page 17

THE OBSERVER

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Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief Andrew Soukup.

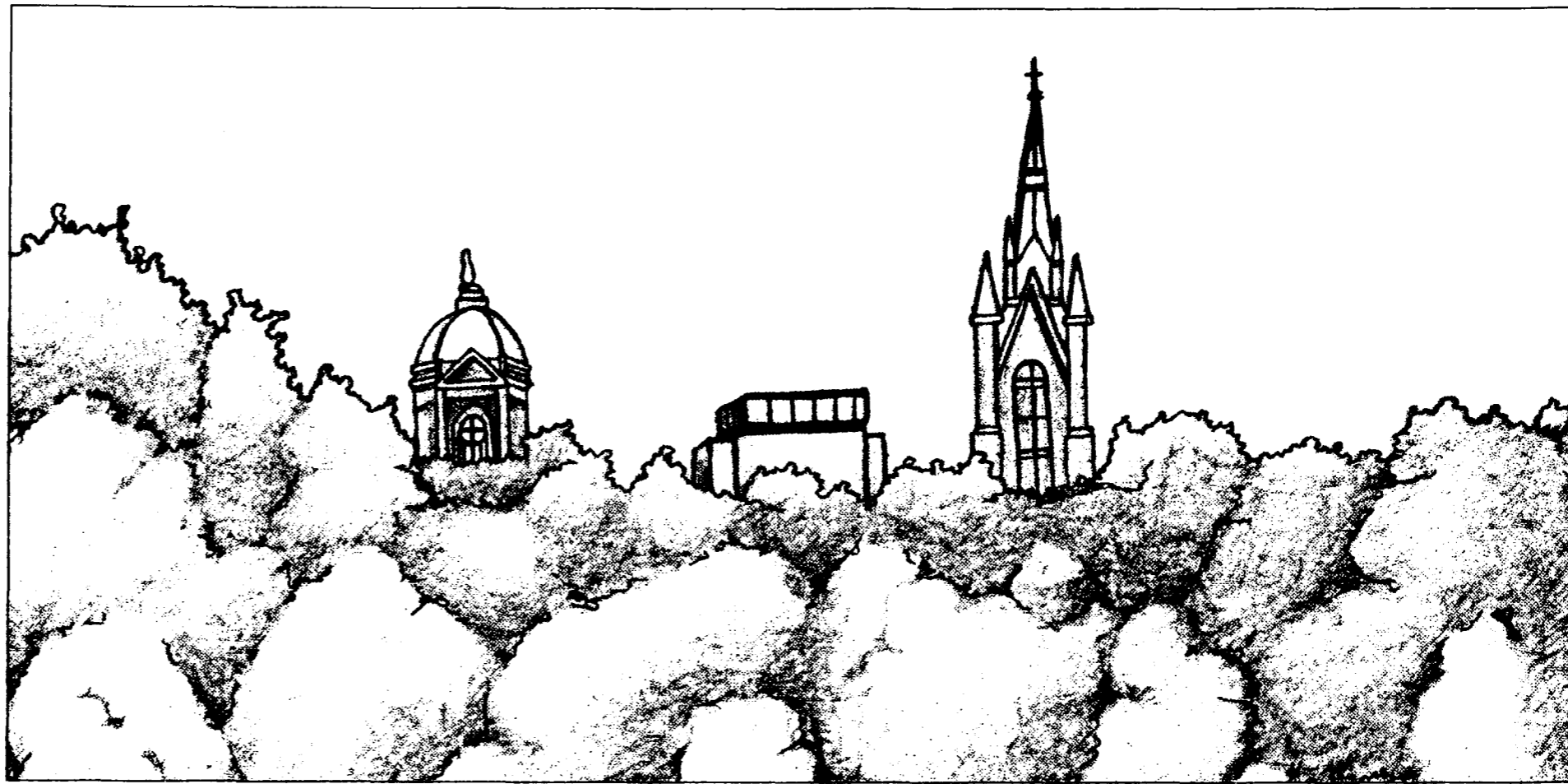
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PAT QUILL/The Observer

Now, I realize

It was Freshmen Orientation 1999 and I was strolling on God Quad with my roommate. We stumbled upon an upperclassman that had inspired someone I knew in high school. After I told the student about his influence on my old acquaintance, the upperclassman asked, "Is she hot?"

And so my true college experience began.

Notre Dame has a mystique that draws people to the campus like students to South Dining Hall when it serves chicken strips. Though Notre Dame is arguably the No. 1 Catholic institution in the country (and the dining halls were supposedly No. 2 when we entered the University as freshmen), the rankings, the prominence and the "oohs" and "ahhs" can be deceiving. This is how I felt when the awe-inspiring student flippantly replied to me and my roommate.

Even so, the world is full of people, places and situations that seem inconsistent. As inspirational as the upperclassman was to a high school teenager, he was also a typical 20-year-old guy. Yet, his off-the-cuff remark did not destroy Notre Dame's reputation in my eyes. I've learned in these past four years that inconsistencies and obstacles will inevitably appear to complicate life, but there is always a chance to find a positive outcome.

It takes more than one silly remark or a more serious incident to shatter the dreams that we have tried to pursue at this institution. And the same way we entered Notre Dame with goals and ideas about positively shaping our lives and the world, we can enter postgraduate lives with the same determination and optimism.



Helena Payne

Senior Staff
Writer

Notre Dame is unique because we have made it that way. All of our dreams of traveling the world, becoming president, empowering the poor, building a multinational firm, curing the sick or creating a masterpiece, seemed that much more possible when we stepped foot on this green campus. The University is skilled at easing our transition into the lifestyle of this Indiana oasis.

When Notre Dame's blue skies turn gray and the green grass is covered in white, it's easy to question whether our dreams are worth the obstacles, but this Commencement Weekend — the celebration of an end and a beginning — should remind us that we made the right choice.

College graduates represent about one-fourth of the population. I had a political science professor consistently remind my class of that fact this semester, pointing out that attending an elite institution puts us in a smaller group. I will represent the roughly one percent of the population comprised of African-American female college graduates according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

While I know that I deserve a degree on Sunday after all the papers, tests and sacrifices I have made on behalf of my health in attempts to study at ridiculously late hours after a day of responsibilities, I must remember that celebration is not the only must-do after I turn my tassel.

Being a college graduate is more than a ticket to a high-paying job or a prestigious graduate school. Many Notre Dame students demonstrate this each year as they prepare for jobs in the Peace Corps, Teach for America and other programs available to those who want to build up the society in which they live. Being a college graduate is about understanding that you have a responsibility to continue in your pursuit of knowledge and experience. It's about knowing that even if you have been blessed with a great opportunity after school, you will not let your idealism vanish at the slightest barrier, but you will recognize it as a new challenge.

Many people are drawn to Notre Dame for the tradition, the communal atmosphere and the Christian values the University espouses. As a student, I have learned that not everyone cares about the Notre Dame tradition, sometimes this community is exclusive and not everyone is a Christian. But I've also learned that the notion of tradition can be transformed. Mike Brown, Molly Kinder, Brooke Norton, Tambre Paster and Tyrone Willingham are examples of this.

Also, students can find their niche in a sometimes exclusive Notre Dame through student clubs and other groups. As for religion, there are many outlets that allow students to strengthen their faith, but encounters with non-Christians are also fruitful and allow one to see the world from a new perspective.

I thank Notre Dame for exposing me to the real world in small doses. During the last four years, Notre Dame was the place that welcomed me with its golden reflection, where I found opportunities to travel to Italy, Chile and Cuba, where I met my best friends, where I confronted unpleasant realities, where I was intellectually and spiritually challenged and where I learned never to apologize for being myself.

And most recently, it is the place where I have realized that the three words the upperclassman said to me during my first week can be turned into a reflection of the past and hope for the future. As neo-soul vocalist Erykah Badu once sang, "Peace and blessings manifest with every lesson learned." Let the newest stage of your life bring many lessons and many blessings.

Helena Payne is a graduating senior and the former News Editor of The Observer. She will report for the Associated Press until she decides to try a new adventure and she would like to thank the Payne family for their unconditional love and support.

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

TODAY'S STAFF

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QUOTE

"Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow."

Anonymous

QUOTE

"In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: it goes on."

Robert Frost
poet

VIEWPOINT

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Friday, May 16, 2003

Finding my feministic side

Ah, graduation. How long have I been waiting for it to be my turn? Well, only four short years but sometimes it felt like it was never going to be my turn. So, I could write about how I'm going to miss my friends or how I've changed over the years or how I'm going to miss campus, dorm life and classes but instead I'm not. No sentimental-I-can't-believe-I'm-graduating-it's-gone-so-fast drivel that we've all heard before. No, instead, I'm going to tackle the issue of feminism.

Sarah Nestor

Senior Staff
Writer

Growing up, feminism was not a term I ever really heard. I mean I knew about women's liberation and the suffrage movement but I had no idea that there were feminists still around. It wasn't until

I came to Saint Mary's that I began to hear the term on a regular basis.

It wasn't until I came to college that I heard about modern feminists, such as Gloria Steinem and Alice Walker. It has been interesting to read their ideas, some of which I agree with and some of which I don't.

Today, it seems that feminism is much more a part of academia, with books on feminist theory and the feminist movement. Of course books aren't bad and if these books can open your eyes to new ideas, that's great. But is it really necessary to read a book to be a feminist?

To my own question I say no because feminism shouldn't be something that should be taught in the first place. Feminism, as defined by Webster, is the "belief in the social, political, and economic equality of the sexes."

Doesn't sound too bad or scary, right?

Since the definition itself is so ambiguous, people can take feminism and mold it to fit many different causes, not all of which are representative or supported by all those that call themselves feminists. For example, a major divergence between feminists is the issue of abortion.

These differences in opinion are perpetuated by the fact that there are no strong leaders of the modern feminist movement and no set goals that women are working towards. A big difference between today and thirty years ago though is that feminism is so much apart of the world of academia and not a grassroots movement. Feminism seems to be coming from the top down and not from the bottom up.

It's not as if "social, political and equality of the sexes" has been reached yet in America or any other region of the world. While American women certainly live in much better circumstances than have

more opportunities than many women in the world, that does not mean that there is complete equality and the glass ceiling certainly does still exist.

As my fellow classmates and I prepare to make a difference in the world I can't help but believe that we are all feminists.

After all, as graduates of Saint Mary's, can't we, graduates past and present, be considered feminists as we recognize the importance of educating women? I think we can.

Sarah Nestor is a senior English writing major and former Saint Mary's Editor who is waiting to hear if she got into grad school in Ireland but hopes that she is never seen on the side of the road with a sign that reads "will write for food."

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

Well, we made it

With graduation upon us, the Class of 2003 has just about crossed that proverbial threshold. Our senior year has come to an end and we realize that on a seemingly ordinary Sunday in South Bend, our lives will change forever. We will graduate from the University we have learned to call home become a part of its alumni.

Jacqueline
BrowderHappily Ever
After

And what a ride we've taken to get there.

Senior year has traditionally been referred to as the last hurrah, a time to celebrate with good friends, cheap drinks and a fistful of "lasts." We begin think about the last time we'll get up at 6 a.m. to tailgate. The last time we'll pull an all-nighter to get that paper written. The last spring break. The last time we'll all be together.

With all of these lasts, we begin to look at Notre Dame with nostalgia before we've even left it. It's as if we've found a perfect world and we're afraid to leave it. We're comfortable in our surroundings. Nothing is new, and yet, we're encouraged by it. We've found our place and we understand our role in it. Suddenly, the "last" time becomes the "best" time. Life at 22 is our finest hour.

However, maybe it's time to think about "firsts." Our first real job. Our first step toward a professional degree. Marriage. We begin to make these very real decisions that will affect our lives in the same way that our decisions during college affected us and maybe more.

During the past four years, we've made a lot of decisions. We've changed our majors, sometimes more than once. We've taken internships and waded through med school applications. We've made a lot of friends, lost a few along the way and even fallen in and out of love. We've also learned a lot about ourselves, who we are and what we are going to be. And now, we're there again.

At the beginning of the year, it all seemed overwhelming. We wrote essay after essay for graduate school applications, sat through seemingly endless interviews and dealt with rowdy freshmen when we were on duty. But, we made it. We were accepted into graduate schools, got

those jobs and came to love our freshmen. We learned something new every day, whether we paid attention or not.

We're more than ready for that next great adventure. College has always been considered a time to grow and mature, but there is a reason why it spans a short four years. And it's not because Notre Dame doesn't want any more of our money (it's quite the contrary, as we recently found out via the Annual Giving Fund).

Rather, it's because after four years, we've been prepared for something more and something beyond our college lives. We're ready, both academically and socially and it's time to move on, remembering the lasts but focusing on the firsts. After all, commencement isn't defined as an ending. Quite the opposite. It signifies a beginning.

We've accomplished a great deal during our time at Notre Dame, but now it is time to think ahead and to look forward. We have already chosen new places to live, places to work and a new life for ourselves, just as we did during our time as undergraduates. Some of us will begin a great adventure in a new city, some will take on the challenges of graduate school and some of us will start a life together.

Yes, our memories are full of lasts. College, as we've been told for years, goes by quickly. This may be our last year for the parties, the dances and the tailgating, but we have so much before us. And we can congratulate ourselves because, looking back, we got through it. We're going to graduate. We made it.

It's been said that the quality of a university is measured more by the kind of student it turns out than the kind it takes in. Notre Dame prides itself on taking only the best. However, the University should hold in even higher regard the remarkable people it graduates each year.

We have the next few days to be college students, our last moments under the Dome as undergraduates. However, there are many firsts out there waiting for us. We're certainly prepared for them.

With a bit of luck, when we receive our diplomas this weekend, we'll be ready for them.

Jacqueline Browder is a senior American Studies and Journalism major. She'll be beginning her own adventures in New York this June.

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

Holding on to memories

I didn't want this column to be just one more in a long list of columns about saying goodbye. Despite the fact that I have lots of wonderful memories here in South Bend, I didn't know how many of you would share similar ones. And, if you do understand them, you have plenty of your own. You probably don't want to read about mine.

Katie McVoy

Senior Staff
Writer

So, instead, I've decided to offer a suggestion for how to hold on to those memories. I'm not offering ideas for scrap books or photo albums. Instead, I'm offering a suggestion of how to hang on to your old memories and make a few new ones. So, here goes.

U.T.P.

It is about holding on to memories.

U.T.P.

It isn't about sappy recollections of first days on campus or last moments under the Dome.

U.T.P.

It's about all those things we love about Saint Mary's and Notre Dame.

U.T.P.

It's about leaving behind all those things we don't love.

It isn't about the smell of ethanol on Sunday morning when you wish you had stopped drinking just two shots before. It isn't about unescorted males, detex cards or balls of wax, even without the wick.

U.T.P. is not about bad meals, bad memories or bad phone numbers you shouldn't have gotten the night before. U.T.P. isn't about 8 a.m. finals.

U.T.P. is about waking up way too early to start drinking. It is about toasting everyone and everything you know. It is about cooking five-cent hotdogs on a grill you borrowed from your parents.

But more importantly, U.T.P. is about being alumni.

But what is U.T.P.? Easy.

Ultimate Tailgate Party.

Two years ago when my sister graduated, she and her friends started thinking about what would be the appropriate gathering for her and her friends. Trips to teashops or even shopping malls didn't seem to quite fit the bill. But then they had an idea.

U.T.P.

But as far as Molly was concerned, it wouldn't be quite ultimate enough until my friends and I hit the big graduation mark and joined in.

So U.T.P. was born. Two RVs, two days and two sets of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's grads.

But what's important is that it is not just

about drinking or football. U.T.P. is about something more.

It's about being "those alumni." You all know which ones I'm talking about — the alumni who come back from around the country, play music way too loud, laugh too much and always end up at The Backer. It's the alumni who hit every place on campus that holds some memory for them, still do all the cheers and chants with the students, but laugh at themselves when they get laughed at for being old.

Because, well, I just figured out being old and being alumni is OK.

When college ends, we have an opportunity to move on and make new memories somewhere else. But the thing is, we can still make memories here.

That's what U.T.P. is about. It's about finally being old enough that security won't card us or write us up for being students who are having a tailgate. It's about laughing about all of the stupid things we did when we were freshmen and were still trying to impress everyone of the opposite sex. It's about running into those guys from sophomore year who you accidentally impressed and then tried to hide from for the next three years. But this time, when you run into them, you can stop and say hi because it's an old memory.

U.T.P. is about calling home and letting Mom and Dad know you're going to a football game, but not having to ask permission because you're finally out on your own. It's about finally understanding how Mom and Dad, who are both alumni, feel when they come back to campus, look at the new buildings and say "this isn't quite the Notre Dame I remember."

It's about understanding your family who graduated and make you stop at "their rock," talk about stealing the sign in the book from Saint Mary's, or recall Senior Death March one more time. It's about understanding that and doing it yourself.

U.T.P. is about remembering why you came to Saint Mary's or Notre Dame in the first place. It's about being allowed to say "I had a great college experience" without everyone laughing at you. U.T.P. is about the spirit of two universities that have something no other university will ever claim — they have alumni who want to have a U.T.P.

So next football season when you're wandering around the tailgate lots, look for the two big RVs with some recent grads who look like they're having too much fun.

And stop by and remember with us.

Katie McVoy is a graduating senior and former Associate Sports Editor.

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

VIEWPOINT

Friday, May 16, 2003

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What our education can — and should — be

A Notre Dame education, as with any reasonably complete education, encourages students to grow curious, to inquire, to test old adages and to confront the pressing moral issues of our time. I can say that Notre Dame continues to do this, despite the growth of a trade school mentality in some circles, because any student who sought out a real education here could have found it.

Pat McElwee

Senior Staff
Writer

During the past four years, this perpetually manicured campus has given us a semi-retreat from the harsh realities of the world — an environment where moral, scientific and philosophical discussions could take place free from the weighty concerns of political correctness and career advancement.

I am worried, though. I am worried about how many Domers did find time to learn, challenge and explore. I am worried about the death of the foreign language requirement in four out of the University's five colleges. I am worried about racist overtones in comments about Arabs, political statements torn from my bedroom door and a general unwillingness to question the status quo and even a disinterest in its immoral consequences.

This is no time for complacency. The past four years have been politically tumultuous on a global scale. Rather than binding together in mutual understanding, the world is searing itself apart with hate and violence. Terrorists turned peaceful airplanes into weapons, targeting thousands of American, French, Muslim, Mexican and other victims in two of the tallest buildings in the world. The American government has responded with two full-scale invasions that killed and maimed at least as many innocent people — whether or not those wars were justified, the dead must be remembered.

Indeed, this semester, the American government, unprovoked, invaded a potentially oil-rich Third World country, weakened by 12 years of civilian sanctions and almost daily bombing. The justifications given by our government were flimsy and certainly appropriate targets of informed moral inquiry. Yet, although the Pope, the U.S. bishops, other churches and global public opinion (outside the United States, Britain and Israel) denounced the war, the infamous weapons of mass destruction have not been found and the "liberation" of Iraq is occurring even as the United States oppresses equally undemocratic regimes throughout the world, many students have opined that it would be inappropriate to question the American president at a time like this. This certainly reflects the mood of

the country and of Fox News, but I worry that it has come to characterize the otherwise morally inquisitive campus of Notre Dame.

Now is exactly the time when those who benefit from an education such as ours should perk up their ears, pay attention to U.S. foreign policy and demand that such grave actions be taken within a rational, moral framework. Unfortunately, I worry that the dominant mood at Notre Dame has been dismissive of dissent. But, I may be wrong.

There are some indications that I am. For one thing, many students have experienced the force of Catholic Social Teaching through classes, late-night rap sessions or service-learning activities with the Center for Social Concerns — perhaps the most laudable institution on campus. The Catechism leads us to challenge any economic system that fails to provide dignified work, the right to collective bargaining and a just wage. In fact, it has inspired some students and campus workers to question publicly why workers at this University are denied a just wage. Others have joined with the Coalition of Immokalee [Farm] Workers in Florida in asking Taco Bell to pay for a wage increase for tomato pickers — an increase they have not received in over 20 years.

Students take part in the community, often in ways that challenge the status quo

with an eye toward improving American and global society. They teach the path of non-violence through "Take Ten," complete internships or volunteer work with public interest organizations like Center for the Homeless or get to know their neighbors or the "townies." Plus, on the part of those students either against or for the recent war against Iraq, there has been a public discussion.

In any case, people who have received a top-notch education at Notre Dame, Saint Mary's or Holy Cross cannot morally lay down and allow the established line to prevail unquestioned and untested.

We are men and women of privilege, and one of the unfortunate things about privilege is that it can blind us to the injustices endured by others. Our education should be the antidote to that. If we are really to follow the example of Our Lady, we must look to the downtrodden, to those who bear a heavy cross, to those who must give birth in a stable. We must strive not to join their oppressors, but to recognize our human solidarity with them. This knowledge is what a Notre Dame education can impart, and it is what many of us will take away.

Pat McElwee is a graduating senior and former Associate Viewpoint Editor.

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

EXCERPTS FROM PAST ISSUES

Four years in review: Students react to campus issues

Campus responds to Sept. 11

With today's tragedy comes much frustration and anger. Americans feel vulnerable; reality macks us hard and we recognize that we are not as safe as we might believe. The unimaginable happened, blatant acts of evil occurred and innocent people died. Fathers, wives, nieces and friends were unjustly taken from us. As I watched today's tragedy unfold, I questioned world peace...

In the midst of such evil, thousands of people gathered at South Quad together as one. This afternoon sitting amongst my peers and professors, I was overwhelmed by hope. I felt proud to be a part of the Notre Dame community...

On this sad, emotionally draining day we joined hands and prayed together in support and faith. On this sad, emotionally draining day we joined hands and prayed together, expressing our sorrow for the victims and a sense of hope for the future...

Megan Horvath

junior

McGlinn Hall

Sept. 11, 2001

A new line has been drawn in the sand since Tuesday's tragedy and it is not between the United States and foreign terrorists. It is between the people who believe in action and those who believe in dialogue.

I believe that our country's military needs to take action. My opinion has been called a knee-jerk reaction and an ignorant response to what has happened...

Our current government will have to make difficult decisions in the coming weeks. They will get their hands dirty, and there is a good chance of added bloodshed. Do I want more civilians killed? No I do not. But let's face it, the courts have not been a deterrent. The old saying "actions speak louder than words" rings true in how I feel America should respond.

So continue to talk, as I hope you all will do. Speak loudly in support of our government or protest the actions they take in the future...

Ryan Lockwood

junior

off-campus

Sept. 13, 2001

Questioning revised alcohol policy

What [Father Mark] Poorman's policies tell us is that the University does not see students as adults, but as uncouth youngsters that must be monitored and controlled in every way, shape and form. Instead of approaching us as adults, seeking our input (and I'm not talking focus groups possibly made up of anti-drinking, anti-social people here), the administration acted like bad parents. They waited until housing contracts were in for next year and until RAs were hired (I'm sorry, guys) to unveil their tradition-killing plans.

Jesse Hensley

junior

Siegfried Hall

March 20, 2002

... Inside one of the largest "drinking schools" in the United States, will the lack of hard liquor inside the dorms really have such a negative effect on our community? Or will it help to make it just a little more safe and a more respectful place for those who live within it?

Students are protesting the administration infringing on our rights while many of these same students are given more rights by the University than are legally theirs as minors. With rights come responsibilities...

Katie Fuehrmeyer

junior

Notre Dame program in Puebla, Mexico

March 27, 2002

Father Mark Poorman claims 30 focus groups were consulted before this decision was made, but declines to specify who they were and what was said. His letter makes references to percentages, numbers and comparisons to other schools, yet does not include these statistics and assumes we will simply take his word for it.

Perhaps if students had better access to the results of this study, we could better understand how this decision was made. If the situation is really that bad, then the evidence will be right there for us all to see.

Ryan Pohlman

junior

Sorin Hall

March 20, 2002

Vagina Monologues degrade women

The last time I checked, rape and child molestation were not women's empowerment issues. They were considered violence against women issues...

I consider myself a feminist. I worked at a feminist organization over the summer, Feminists for Life of America. None of the women I have ever met, around town or on the job, would willingly support the publication of "The Vagina Monologues" as great women's empowerment literature...

The show's final result is that it has pardoned

and glorified rape, child molestation, pornography and prostitution.

In a world where feminists and all those who fight for women's injustice have worked so hard over the years to gain respect and admiration for the way we manage our lives, I find it hard to see how this show could further that cause at all...

Katherine Hoppe

sophomore

Lyons Hall

Jan. 31, 2001

SCENE
seniors

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Friday, May 16, 2003

Looking
Members of the class of 2003 p

By ANDREW THAGARD and MARIA SMITH

Scene Writer and Scene Editor

Notre Dame and Saint Mary's seniors are graduating this weekend, but what are they doing next?

While a few may hit up Walt Disney World in the coming week, their long-term plans are more varied.

Former Notre Dame football center Jeff Faine, for example, will suit up in a Cleveland Browns uniform this fall while Andrew Serazin, a senior biology major, will travel to Oxford University as a Rhodes scholar.

Students from both schools with a variety of majors will begin the climb up the corporate ladder as their peers head back to the classroom, enrolling in medical and law schools and a variety of other graduate programs. Other Notre Dame and Saint Mary's graduates will volunteer for a year or two through service programs in domestic and international locales and seniors in Army, Air Force and Navy ROTC will fulfill their commitments to serve the country. Students from Notre Dame and Saint Mary's are engaged and a few plan to tie the knot in the coming months.

Indeed, the post-graduate plans of this year's two classes are as diverse and varied as the students who compose them.

ied as the students who compose them.

Called to serve

Students from both schools are continuing a long-standing tradition of giving back after graduation.

Anne Traynor, for example, will pack her bags and head to Micronesia this fall through a Jesuit Volunteer Corps program. The science education major will dedicate two years to teaching biology and chemistry.

"Since high school I've known I wanted to do some service after [college] graduation," she said. "I've done a lot of service in high school and college. I feel I learned a lot from it. I've had an opportunity to grow in my faith here and I'd love to expand on that."

Traynor is not alone. Andrea Smith Shappell, director of senior transition programs at the Center for Social Concerns, said approximately 10 percent of this year's graduating class are committed to service programs. Between eight and 10 percent of Saint Mary's graduates also plan to volunteer for the next year or two, said Sister Linda Kors, director of the SURV Center.

Popular programs for Notre Dame seniors include Holy Cross Associates and the Alliance for Catholic Education, both of which are based on campus. Many Saint Mary's students are volunteering through the Peace Corps and Jesuit Volunteer Corps, though graduates from both schools are committed to a variety of different programs.

According to Kors and Shappell, students pursue post-graduate service for a variety of reasons. Many volunteer extensively during their time at Notre Dame and Saint Mary's and want to continue assisting others. Some cite a desire to grow in their religious faith as a motivating factor.

"It felt like I was getting stuff constantly throughout my years of education," said Rory Dippold, a history major who will teach middle school children in Mobile, Ala. through ACE. "I wanted to give back. I wanted to do service through teaching."

Despite the economic situation, few students said they elected to pursue service because of problems securing a job. Recent events in the Middle East have also not deterred graduates from pursuing international service programs. In fact, the percentage of students traveling abroad for service at both schools is the highest in recent years.

Back to the books

Even though some students are too tired of books to continue with more education after four years of college, others jump right back into academia, pursuing various graduate pro-

grams. In the past, anywhere from 13 to 17 percent of seniors have gone on to continue their studies after graduation.

Many Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students

are headed on to prestigious programs or are the recipients of well-known academic honors.

Senior Maura Kelly will spend 13 months in Brazil on a Fulbright scholarship next year studying democracy, income equality and social policy in the cities of Curitiba and Porto Alegre. The program offers up to 10 awards for lecturing and research each year to students with high academic and extracurricular qualifications.

Kelly applied in September of the past year at the encouragement of many of her professors and heard back from the program on May 5.

"It's a very humbling experience to go through your senior year knowing that what you want to do is in the hands of other people," said Kelly. "The encouragement I've received is an affirmation of the presence and community that exists at Notre Dame and that I think a lot of the students feel."

Law school is another popular destination for graduating seniors, attracting as much as eight percent of the class in past years. Although law school is most popular among students in the College of Arts and Letters, students from every school except architecture go on to study law every year.

Senior Veronica Berger plans to attend either Notre Dame Law School or the law school at Cornell University.

"I'm excited to get on my own two feet for once, and do something that I'm really interested in," said Berger.

While approximately 14 percent of Arts and Letters graduates go on to law school, almost 40 percent of science graduates go on to medical or dental



Photo courtesy of Anne Traynor

Anne Traynor (top right) poses with fellow Notre Dame students Colleen Moore and Rachel Kutzley while on a trip in Mexico assisting youth. Traynor will spend the next two years teaching in Micronesia.

At center, Phil Tribble and Alison Troy pose before a dorm formal. The couple recently announced their engagement after dating since freshman year.



Photo courtesy of Laura Bost

Adam Jeselnick and Laura Bost enjoy the sunset off the coast of Kona, Hawaii on a family vacation in August of 2002. The couple will be married June 22.

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[Go ahead](#) ponder post-graduation plans

school. Many medical students enter Notre Dame with the full knowledge that they have eight years of school and up to six years of residency ahead of them and take advantage of the undergraduate years to pursue other interests as well.

"I knew what I wanted to do when I started and I came in as an anthropology and ALPP major," said Brita McCullough, who will attend medical school at Loyola University of Chicago. "It's a good background and [gives] a good perspective on medical school."

For engineering students, graduate school is also a popular option, though not a necessity. Two years earning a master's degree or five years earning a Ph.D. open doors to a wide variety of jobs and teaching positions in the field.

Engineering student Jim Dalton plans to enter the University of Wisconsin's electrical engineering program in the fall and hopes to earn a Ph.D. and work in the field before teaching.

"A lot of people still don't have jobs, so graduate school is a good option," said Dalton. "Given the economy, it's a good choice."

Bringing in the bucks

After four years spending money on an education at Notre Dame or Saint Mary's, many graduates have decided it's time to start making some.

Laura Ramirez, an accounting major, will move to Sacramento, Calif. after graduation to begin her new job with Ernst and Young. She will work as an auditor, visiting clients' worksites with a team to review their financial statements. While many seniors are struggling to find employment, Ramirez knew her post-graduation plans last summer when the company recruited her after an internship.

"It's extremely exciting," she said of her new job. "There's a lot of uncertainty with what I'll be doing next year. There will be a lot of firsts."

Other students' plans are more tentative. Maria Conticelli, a Saint Mary's theatre major, plans to move to Chicago with some friends after the summer and

launch an acting career. The Atlanta native will visit a lot of companies once she arrives and hopes to land a part with a traveling theatre group, she said.

"It's something that's hard to plan for," Conticelli said. "When you're starting out they recommend you start out in Chicago. New York and Los Angeles can be extremely overwhelming. It's almost better to get started in a smaller market."

Lee Svete, director of the Career Center, said that on average 53 to 60 percent of students are employed after graduation, in addition to those pursuing service and graduate education. This year, the number of employed students may be slightly lower, Svete said, as the slow economy steers more students into medical and law schools.

"This has probably been one of the most compressed markets in a number of years," said Jeff Roberts, interim assistant director of counseling and coordinator of placement services at Saint Mary's Counseling and Career Development Center. "The upside is that the economy is still moving along. People are getting hired. There are opportunities."

Tying the knot

Everyone's headed into a mysterious future after graduation, but some seniors aren't going alone. It has been estimated that up to 60 percent of Notre Dame graduates and 1 in 10 Saint Mary's students will eventually marry a Notre Dame alumnus.

For many students, the dream is to be married in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on campus. This summer alone, the Basilica will host 37 weddings of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's graduates. However, only those who plan far in advance actually get the opportunity. Reservations open the first day of March the year prior to the event, and 90 percent of spots are filled on the first day.

Most graduating engaged couples choose to wait a year or so before tying the knot. Senior Katie Ball and junior Todd Boruff, high school friends who began dating during Katie's sophomore year at Notre Dame, plan to wait until July 10, 2004 to have their ceremony.

Some engaged seniors have been dating since nearly the beginning of their time here, and still plan to go on to higher education prior to their weddings. Phil Tribble and Alison Troy, who met on the first day of classes freshman year, plan to get married after continuing their educations at Ohio University and Duke University.

Wedding bells are ringing for Saint Mary's students as well. Graduating English literature and dance major Laura Bost and senior architecture major Adam Jeselnick met through

interfaith services and sang together in the choir before they started dating. Both studied abroad at the same time in Rome, where they continued dating. Jeselnick proposed on a beach in California after picking up his girlfriend from her home in Arizona for a surprise trip. The couple will be married in Scottsdale, Ariz. June 22.

Graduating Notre Dame seniors Michael Boldt and Katie Jeter chose a different route, and were married on Saturday. The newlyweds had both planned to go into military service before being medically disqualified and set an early date in order to be stationed together.

"We were both lucky," said Boldt. "We didn't have any actual finals, so it wasn't too difficult to plan everything."

Notre Dame and Saint Mary's seniors are looking forward to their last few days with their old friends in their old home, and may be having trepidations about the time ahead. While there are years ahead to be alumni, the few short years of being Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students are forever behind. Whether it's the Peace Corps, Columbia law, wedding

vows or medical research, the graduates of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's are headed for a variety of bright and exciting futures. Wherever the graduates end up, there will be four good years spent together to look back on.

Contact Maria Smith at msmith4@nd.edu or Andrew Thagard at athagard@nd.edu



Photo courtesy of Jill Clark

Senior Saint Mary's student Jill Clark and her fiancé Ryan Hunt started dating only six months before getting engaged.



Photo courtesy of Mark Scozzafave

Danielle Ledesma sews dolls during an international service convention in August 2002. Ledesma is awaiting placement in an Americorp program.

ND WOMENS TENNIS

Season comes to an end in second round of the NCAAs

♦ No. 21 Irish drop match 4-0 to No. 16 Vanderbilt

By JOE LINDSLEY
Sports Writer

A successful season came to a tough end for the No. 21 Irish as they fell 4-0 to No. 15 Vanderbilt in the second round of the NCAA Tournament May 10 in Nashville, Tenn.

Notre Dame, who finished the season 16-9, began the match by losing the doubles point and then the bottom three singles matches.

Playing without the services of senior captain Katie Cunha, Notre Dame enjoyed only one victory against Vanderbilt. The doubles duo of freshman Lauren Connelly and junior Alicia Salas topped their second ranked opponent in two days as they defeated Sarah Riske and Aleke Tsoubanos. For Connelly and Salas, it was their 13th win in 16 matches.

Unfortunately, the team as a whole was not able to achieve back-to-back victories in the NCAA tournament. The Irish began the route to the national championship by defeating No. 38 Missouri 4-1 in the first round May 9.

Connelly and Salas got the

Irish off to a promising start with their upset of the No. 15 doubles duo of Urska Juric and Katka Sevikova. Their win at No. 1 doubles clinched the point for the Irish and it marked the 12th time in the last 15 matches the Irish have done so.

Lauren Connelly's younger sister, sophomore Sarah Jane Connelly, also had success in doubles. Paired with freshman Kristina Stastny, the Irish pair succeeded at No. 2.

Junior Caylan Leslie and freshman Jennifer Smith fell at No. 3 doubles, and the challenge continued for Leslie who fell to No. 36 Juric in singles. Leslie was ranked 39th.

The Juric singles victory was the only point Missouri would earn though, and No. 94 Salas, Stastny, Sarah Jane Connelly, and Smith all contributed to the Irish win.

Overall, the season was a good one for the young Irish team, which saw many successes including an upset of No. 20 Miami in the Big East Championships on the Hurricanes' home courts. That win was especially pleasing for the Irish who had finished their regular season down in Miami, but with a 6-1 loss to the Hurricanes.

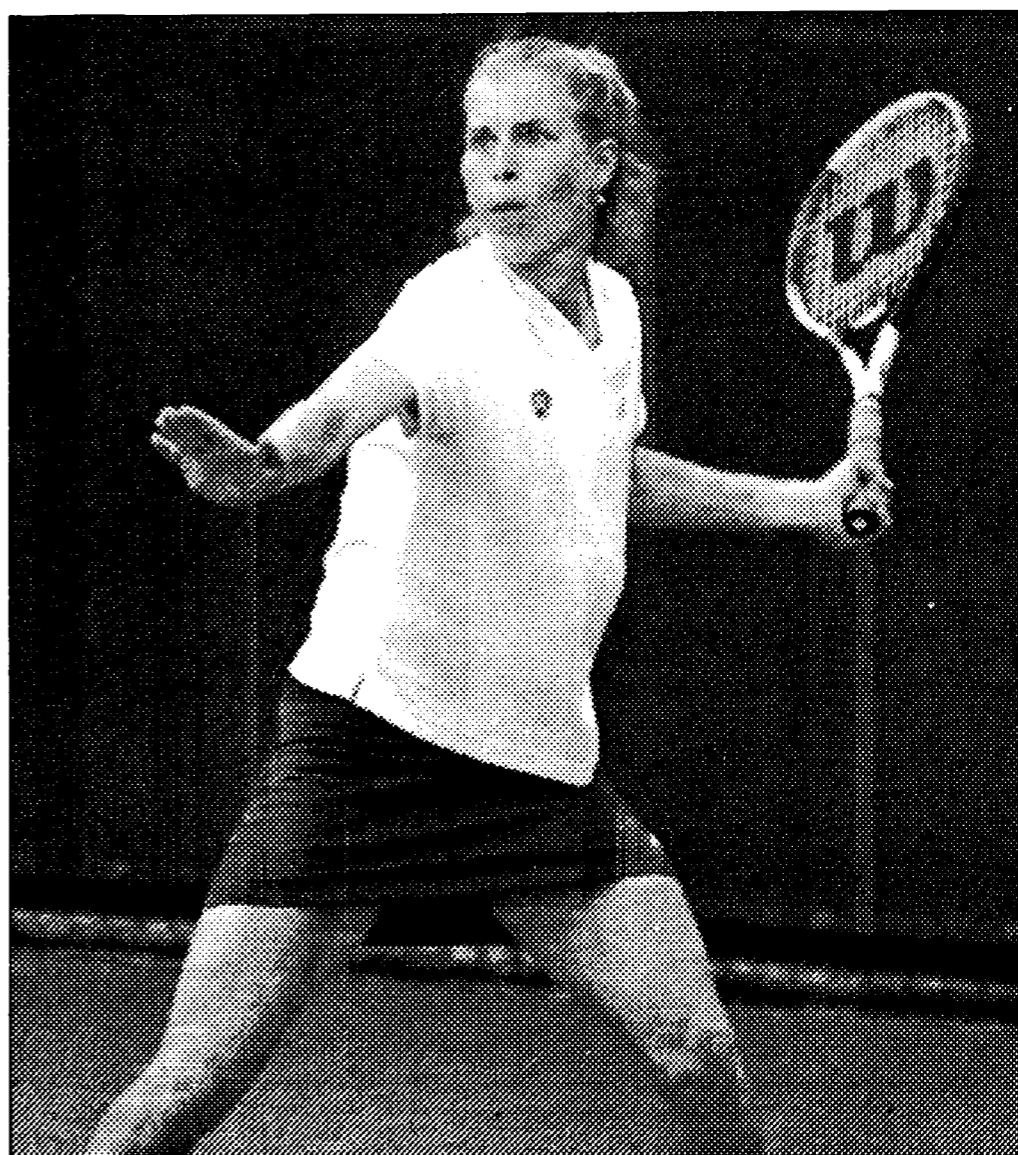
The title match of the Big East conference tournament

between the Irish and Hurricanes included a doubles match that Irish coach Jay Louderback termed an "instant classic."

The No. 2 doubles team of Sarah Jane Connelly and Stastny fought a scrappy Miami duo to triumph 8-6 in a match that had truly come down to the wire. Stastny and Connelly had reached a 7-1 lead, but Miami's Igna deVilliers and Abby Smith put up a strong rally to surge within reach of the Irish pair. In the end the Irish won, and the Notre Dame claimed the Big East title.

An important moment of the season for both the team and especially for Cunha was the Ace for the Cure event, during which the then-19th ranked Irish defeated then-No. 13 Texas 6-1. The event was held to raise funds and awareness for colon cancer, which was the cause of the death of Cunha's mother last year.

Notre Dame's record may not entirely reflect the team's successful season given that the Irish faced much of the nation's most powerful teams. Though they will be losing the leadership and services of Cunha, the team returns all the rest of the key players, many of whom will still only be sophomores next year.



CHIP MARKS/The Observer

Kristina Stastny awaits a return at the Big East Championships held at the University of Miami April 25-27.

Fortunately for the Irish, those sophomores will already have NCAA tournament experience after the belt, and the prospects of continuing this

season's success should remain high.

Contact Joe Lindsley at jlindsle@nd.edu

WOMENS TRACK AND FIELD

Irish fall just short at Big East Championships, finish 2nd



TIM KACMAR/The Observer

A pack of Irish runners compete against Ball State Jan. 24. The womens team finished 2nd in the Big East.

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame womens track and field team could not overcome Miami's domination in the sprints, as the Irish placed second in the Big East Championships by scoring 126 points to Miami's 166. Miami won individual championships in the 100 meters, 100 meter hurdles, 200 and 400 meters.

Pittsburgh (94), Syracuse (70), Villanova (62) and Georgetown (62) rounded out the rest of the top six.

In the distance events, freshman Molly Huddle was the Irish highlight, as she won the 5,000 meters easily (15:58.51), finishing seven seconds ahead of second-place finisher Mary Cullen of Providence. In

the same race, Jennifer Handley took fourth.

Meanwhile, in the field, Emily Loomis won the individual high jump title, clearing 1.75 meters. Loomis finally got an individual championship after finishing in the top three at the last three conference meets. Loomis added the honor to her first team all-Big East volleyball and Big East Most Outstanding Player award given to volleyball players.

Also in the jumps, Tameisha King won the long jump. She proceeded to take third in the 100-meter hurdles, good enough for all-Big East honors.

However, the 4x100 meter relay team's effort to three-peat was thwarted, as they took third in 45.80. The team of Tanya Cheatham, Kristen Dodd, Ayesha

Boyd and Kymia Love was good enough for all-Big East honors.

Lauren King also earned all-Big East honors in the 1,500 meters, as she was edged by Georgetown's Treniere Clement at the finish. Clement finished in 4:18.57, while King ended up with a time of 4:18.85.

However, the season is not over yet for the team. A final outdoor tune up, the Georgia Tech Invitational, is scheduled for next weekend in Atlanta. The NCAA Regional in Columbus, Ohio is set for two weeks later, May 30 and 31, and that meet will feature several Irish qualifiers. The NCAA Championship begins June 11.

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvanhoeg@nd.edu

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Kate, Thanks for everything you did for The O this year. I don't know who to ridicule for online shopping next year, and Sharkie is going to be mighty lonely on top of the ME desk. We'll miss you a lot. ~ Andrew and Scott

McVoy and KronkDawg, You might have wanted to quit time and time again, but we're glad you stuck it out. And if you ever want to work another night... The Observer Sports staff

Katie and Lauren, Sports Cups triumphs over all! Andrew and Chris

Helena, Good luck in Boston this summer! The Observer News staff

ND SOFTBALL

Big East Champs looking to qualify for first World Series

♦ Fourth-seeded Irish travel to Ann Arbor, Mich. for regional tourney

By MATT LOZAR
Associate Sports Editor

In an eight-team regional featuring the fourth-ranked team in the country, the defending national champion and a host team seeded third, one would think Notre Dame coach Deanna Gumpf and the fourth-seeded Irish (36-15) would be most concerned about one of those top 15 teams.

But it's Notre Dame's first round opponent that is worrying Gumpf.

"I am not too worried about [the three top 15 teams], but I am worried about Missouri," Gumpf said. "That is all I care

about. They beat a lot of top teams and are going to be very tough."

While a case could be made for Gumpf attempting to keep her team focused on its current opponent — or that Notre Dame has never beaten Missouri in five previous meetings — Missouri does bring an impressive resume to this weekend's Region VII Tournament at the University of Michigan.

The fifth-seeded Tigers (31-18) dropped both of their games in the Big 12 Tournament but collected some major wins in the regular season. Missouri, making its first NCAA Tournament appearance since 1999, split doubleheaders with Oklahoma, currently ranked fifth nationally, and Nebraska, currently ranked No. 11.

With the Tigers backing into

this weekend's regional tournament after a disappointing performance at the Big 12 Tournament, the Irish head to Ann Arbor, Mich. riding a full head of steam.

At last weekend's Big East Championship, the Irish won all four of their games to claim their second straight title. Third baseman Andrea Loman hit a walk-off home run in the bottom of the ninth to propel Notre Dame to a 3-2 victory over Villanova in the championship game.

Loman earned the tournament's Most Outstanding Player for the second consecutive year after hitting .500 in Notre Dame's four games. Loman also won the Big East Player of the Year award prior to the tournament. Pitcher Heather Booth was voted the Rookie of the Year at the same postseason awards brunch.

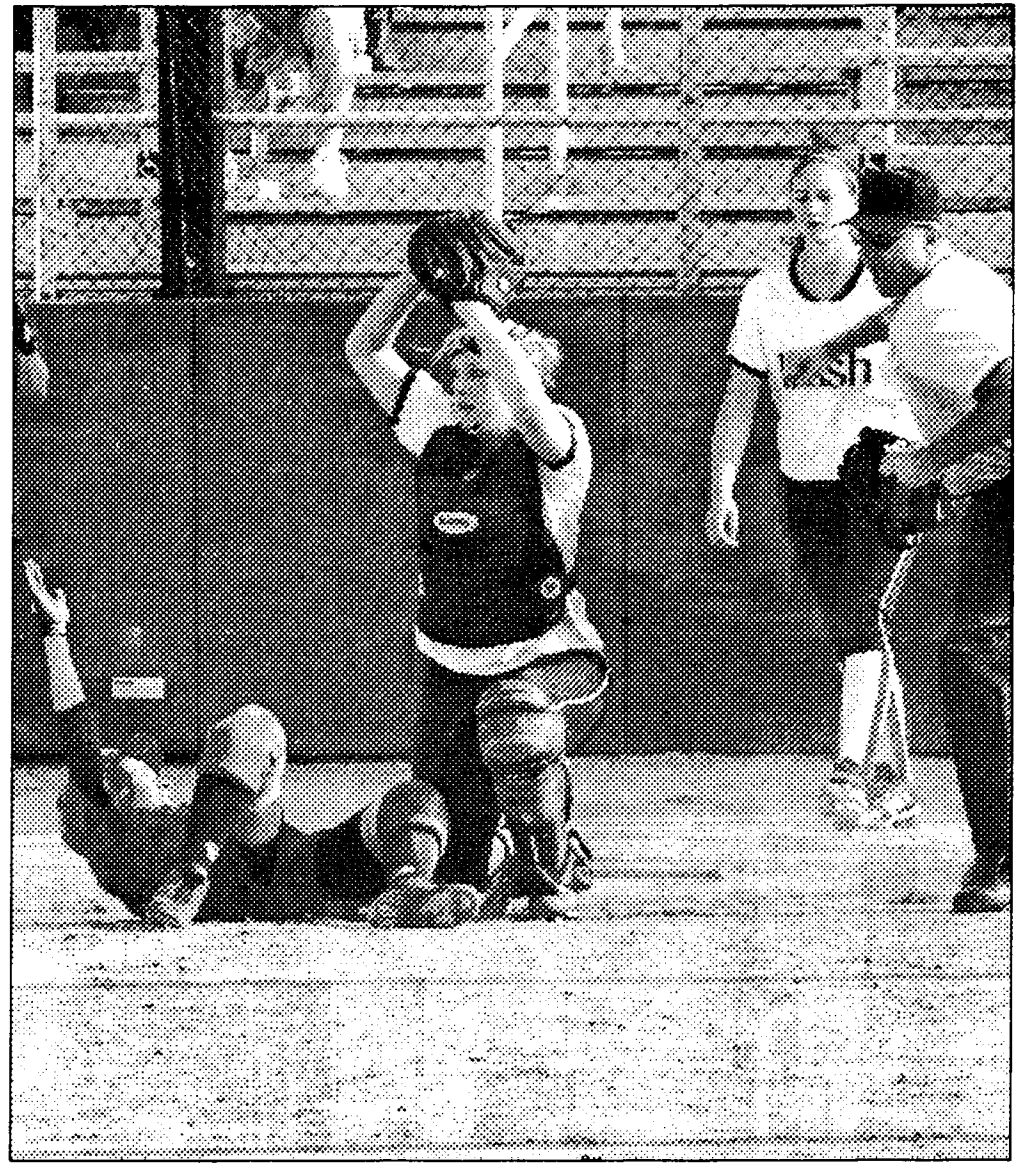
Booth, Loman, Megan Ciolli, Lisa Mattison and Meagan Ruthrauff were named to the all-Big East first-team. Mallorie Lenn and Andria Bledsoe were placed on the second-team.

The awards and impressive performance in the Big East Tournament has Gumpf feeling good, but not too good, about her team heading into this weekend.

"I think we are not playing perfectly, but very well," the second-year head coach said. "We are playing together and that is important going into the regional. We can't make mistakes in these types of games."

One major difference for the Irish heading into this year's regional tournament is the experience of its pitching staff. While Booth (19-8, 1.86), who has been Notre Dame's most consistent pitcher this year, is a freshman, the other two Irish hurlers have experienced the type of pressure the regional tournament produces.

Carrie Wisen (7-3, 1.78) has been used primarily as a reliever and Gumpf is not afraid to go to Wisen in tight, late-game situations. The one area of concern has been Steffany Stenglein (10-



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Notre Dame catcher Mallorie Lenn gets a St. John's runner out at the plate in a game at Ivy Field April 11. The Irish are playing in the NCAA Regionals this weekend in Ann Arbor, Mich.

4, 3.76) who struggled through most of the season.

Over her past six appearances, Stenglein has rebounded, allowing six hits, giving up two runs, walking eight and striking out five in 12 2/3 innings pitched.

Gumpf moved Stenglein to the bullpen to work out the problems, and it appears that decision might have worked.

This weekend, Gumpf will attempt to find the right combination of her three contrasting pitchers to keep Notre Dame's opponents off-balance.

"Steff was injured last year at the regional tournament. She is throwing better this year and that is going to be crucial for us," Loman said. "With the weaknesses of the teams we are playing, it is important to have three pitchers with different

styles."

With the defense in the top five nationally, the offense ranked 14th in batting average (.301) and 15th in runs scored per game (5.25) and the pitching staff possibly finding the right mix at the right time, the Irish are looking for a consistent team effort this weekend if they are going to qualify for their first-ever trip to the womens College World Series.

"We have always been a good defensive team so we need to continue to do that," Loman said. "If we could get even more hitters to become hot at the right time at the regional tournament, we are going to be a tough team to beat."

Notre Dame and Missouri played Thursday at 10 a.m. after The Observer went to press. A win would send Irish on to a second round game this afternoon. A loss to the Tigers puts the Irish one defeat away from elimination with their next game Thursday night.

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mlozar@nd.edu



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Notre Dame pitcher Carrie Wisen winds up against Valparaiso April 23.

ROWING

Seniors have one last chance at qualifying for NCAAs

♦ Irish travel to Central Regions looking to get back to nationals

By CHRISTINE ARMSTRONG
Sports Writer

A team qualification for the NCAA Championships would be a perfect graduation gift for seniors Ashlee Warren, Casey Buckstaff, Andrea Amoni, Rebecca Campbell, Erica Drennen, Cassie Markstahler, Katie McCalden and Kerri Murphy.

Last year the Irish varsity

eight received its first invitation to the NCAA Rowing Championships, where it placed 16th. But this year the senior rowers have focused on team eligibility.

From the start of the 2002-03 season, it was clear that these seniors would be excellent role models for underclassmen both on the water and in the classroom. In 2002, Warren became the first rower in the program's history to be named a Collegiate Rowing Coaches Association All-American and was also a second-team all-region honoree.

Last year, rising seniors

Natalie Ladine and Cassie Markstahler were named to the CRCA National Scholar-Athlete team. The seniors have consistently led the team to impressive performances this season, and Saturday's races in the invitation-only 2003 Windermere Cup on Lake Washington in Seattle were no exception.

The No. 24 Irish raced well against several high-caliber teams, such as the Belarus, Washington, Washington State and Oregon State crews, who joined over 100,000 fans to commemorate Washington's centennial year of rowing and to mark the opening of

Washington's yacht season. The Irish varsity eight placed third in its race, the second eighth finished fourth in their race and the varsity took third. Notre Dame hopes these strong finishes will help them as they look to advance to the NCAA Championships later this season.

In the Windermere Cup, the Belarus boat won in 6:46.45. At last year's 2002 World Championships in Seville, Spain, three of Belarus' rowers finished fifth. The two-time defending national champions Washington crew finished second in 6:47.61, while coxswain Cassie Markstahler, Natalie

Ladine, Warren, Casey Buckstaff, Rachel Polinski, Alice Bartek, Meghan Boyle, Katie Chenoweth, Danielle Protasewich led Notre Dame's boat to a third-place finish in 7:00.62.

On May 17 and 18, the Irish will race at the 2003 Central Regions in Oak Ridge, Tenn., where they placed fourth in the team competition last year. A strong finish will hopefully propel Notre Dame towards another berth in the NCAA Championship.

Contact Christine Armstrong
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Watson

continued from page 40

upper echelon of runners. It's a fairly elite club."

With his time, Watson became just the second Irish runner to break the four-minute barrier after Chuck Aragon did it in 1981 with a time of 3:59.9.

The race placed Watson in the national spotlight of the running world as he recorded the fastest time for the mile in 2003 at that point in the year. It was a harbinger of a spectacular track season to come and the highlight of a stellar career for Watson at Notre Dame.

"On the track, I'd say the four-minute mile would have to be right up there [as one of my greatest accomplishments]," Watson said. "It's just good to establish myself on that level. It's kind of the sign that you've arrived onto the elite running scene here in the U.S."

Not the full story

Watson's accomplishments in the mile do not tell the whole story of the excellent year the fifth-year senior has had on the track in 2003.

Running the mile and 3,000-meter race in the indoor season and the 3,000-meter steeplechase and 5,000-meter race in the outdoor season, Watson led the Irish mens track and field team to first-place finishes at both the indoor and outdoor Big East track meets. The victories marked the first time the Irish won both seasons in the same year since joining the league.

That success was due, in a large part, to the strength of the Irish distance team, lead by its senior and most-decorated member, Watson.

"I think our Big East indoor and outdoor track wins were based on the fact that we scored a huge number of points in the distances," Watson said. "I think we scored 70 points in the distances indoors and another 62 outdoors."

Watson himself was spectacular in both Big East meets. At the indoor meet, Watson ran to a convincing two-second victory in the mile and then earned a second-place finish in the 3,000-meters. In the outdoor meet, he garnered two first-place finishes for the Irish, with victories in the steeplechase and the 5,000-meters.

"We love that pressure that's put on us. We love being known as the Notre Dame distance team," Watson said. "When people talk about the Big East, they talk about how strong Notre Dame's distance team is ... and I think the guys on the team really take pride in that."

At the NCAA Indoor Championships, Watson picked up his third Indoor All-American designation and sixth overall with his third-place finish in the mile race and added another All-America title with an 11th-place finish in the 3,000 meters.

Watson now has one last chance at the NCAA Outdoor Championships to capture the

elusive national title, a feat that has escaped him for four years. With the four-minute mile and two team Big East titles under his belt this year, Watson hopes the National Championships on June 12 will provide the stage to accomplish another goal on his list.

"Individually, the goal is to win an NCAA title," Watson said. "This is a really tough year, and I think a really good race will put me in the top three or top five, and I'd be fairly satisfied with that, but I'm still looking for that NCAA title, because that's the one thing I haven't done in my time here."

Out of the shadows

Even with his seven All-American titles in track and cross country, Watson has had a difficult time coming into his own in the Irish track and cross country program before this year.

Running alongside 10-time All-American and national champion Ryan Shay, Watson often ran in the shadows of the elder Shay.

Together, they helped the Irish cross-country team to a sixth place finish in 2001. Watson even beat Shay at the championship meet, earning a fifth-place finish to Shay's sixth.

The two top Irish runners often felt some friendly competition between them, as the drive to be the top runner in the nation often caused one to have to beat his teammate.

"As far as competition, yeah there was definitely competition, because we both wanted to be the best guy in the nation, and to do that, we had to be the best guy on the team," Watson said. "Inherently, there will be competition in

that situation."

But the drive to outdo each other pushed the pair to new limits. They often worked out together, increasing their training efficiency and teaching each other new ideas to improve their running.

"I think we certainly helped each other out in that when you're doing these really long training runs and these really long integral workouts on the track, it's really hard to do by yourself," Watson said. "I think it's been really great to have had someone like [Shay] just to trade leads with in workouts and things like that. I learned how to run higher mileage and how to become a stronger athlete from him, and I brought some speed to the table, so hopefully that helped him along the way."

When Shay graduated in 2002, Watson remained as the premier runner for the Irish. Even though he had used up his eligibility in cross country, Watson still had one year left in track in 2003, after sitting out his junior track season due to a knee injury.

When the 2003 track season rolled around, the pressure was on Watson to be the leader of a strong, but young, Irish distance team.

"I didn't really feel there was any more pressure, because I basically looked at myself in that light. I expected myself to be the premier athlete on the team," Watson said. "I kind of

wanted to be that top athlete since freshman year, and I've been right there since sophomore and junior year, so this year wasn't much different."

Looking to the future

Even as Watson's eligibility runs out at the end of this track season, the fate of the Irish cross country and track programs appears to be on the right track from the impact that the senior has had.

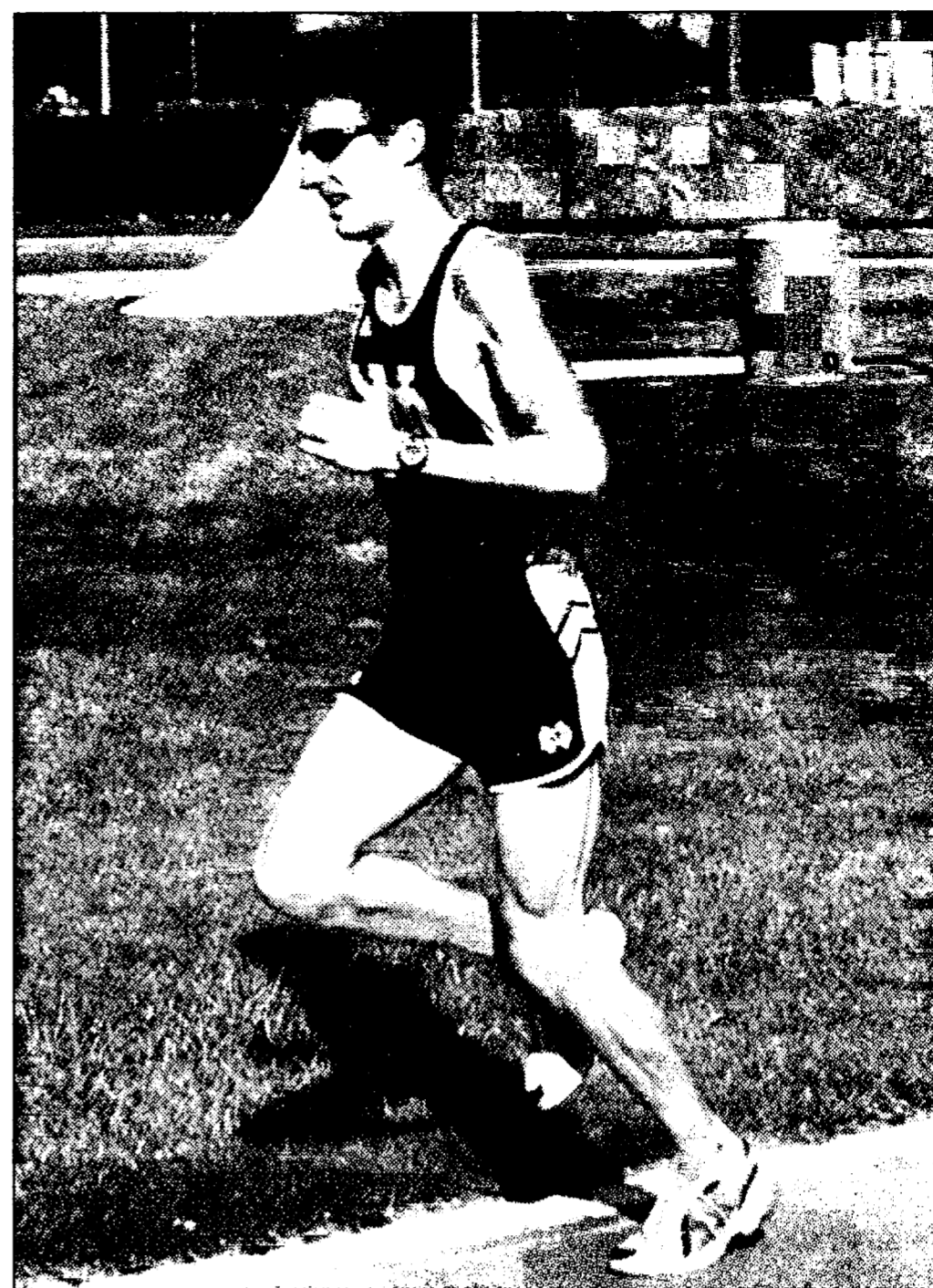
Watson has helped take a young and inexperienced Irish distance team and make it one of the best in the history of the program.

"I think we were at a high point in 2001 in cross country," Watson said. "This year, we came down from that a little bit with a young squad, and even the older guys on the squad didn't have a lot of experience in cross country. But I think they matured so much through that cross country season and into the early indoor track season, and I think they'll be even better the next year."

Watson helped young, talented runners such as freshmen Tim Moore and Vincent Ambrico and sophomore Eric Morrison develop from high school standouts into serious collegiate threats.

"I think a coach can only tell athletes so much, and the rest they have to pick up from their peers, so hopefully the younger guys have been able to learn from some of the things that I've been doing," Watson said. "Freshman year is really tough for those guys, because they come in and they're used to high school training, which is half of what we do here. So it's a big jump to make, and the older guys on the team always play a crucial role in bringing them up."

As the Notre Dame track program looks to the future, so too does Watson. After the comple-



CHIP MARKS/The Observer

Notre Dame senior Luke Watson has earned seven All-American honors in his career with the Irish.

tion of this season, Watson begins training for the 2004 Olympics, his ultimate goal.

"The first thing that everybody asks about is the Olympics," Watson said. "Those come up in 2004 in Athens, and that's the main goal of mine."

But even with all that work and preparation ahead, Watson can still look back on a great career at Notre Dame. With seven All-American titles so far, numerous school records, and a sub four-minute mile to his

name, Watson has already carved his name in an already-rich tradition of Irish running.

"Things like school records here mean so much because we've had a lot of great runners come through here," Watson said. "If you can even make the top 10 list, you know you're among some great company, and I'm very proud to be a part of that."

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Ryan

continued from page 40

made more of a difference than just playing high school tennis."

Three years of success

Ryan entered her freshman year as a two-sport athlete, making both the basketball and tennis team. However, after practicing both sports three times a week for four hours a night, and at least one of the two

sports three other days during next season focused and refreshed. She won the conference title at No. 6 singles and at No. 3 doubles and helped lead the Belles to their first of three conference titles.

"I couldn't just quit during the season, so I waited until it was over," Ryan said.

Ryan returned to tennis the

"She always set a good example of how to work hard on the court for her teammates."

Dee Stevenson
Belles coach

junior year, Ryan moved up to No. 5 singles and won the conference title and added her second MIAA title at No. 3 doubles. The Belles won another MIAA title as well.

But when her opponents couldn't slow her down, the ulna bone in her right arm did. Ryan was diagnosed with a medical problem, similar to the one that ended professional tennis player Jimmy Connors' career. The ulna bone in Ryan's right arm was longer than normal and caused her problems when gripping the tennis racket. By the time her senior year arrived, many of the ligaments in her wrist were damaged and Ryan had to undergo surgery last September to correct the problem.

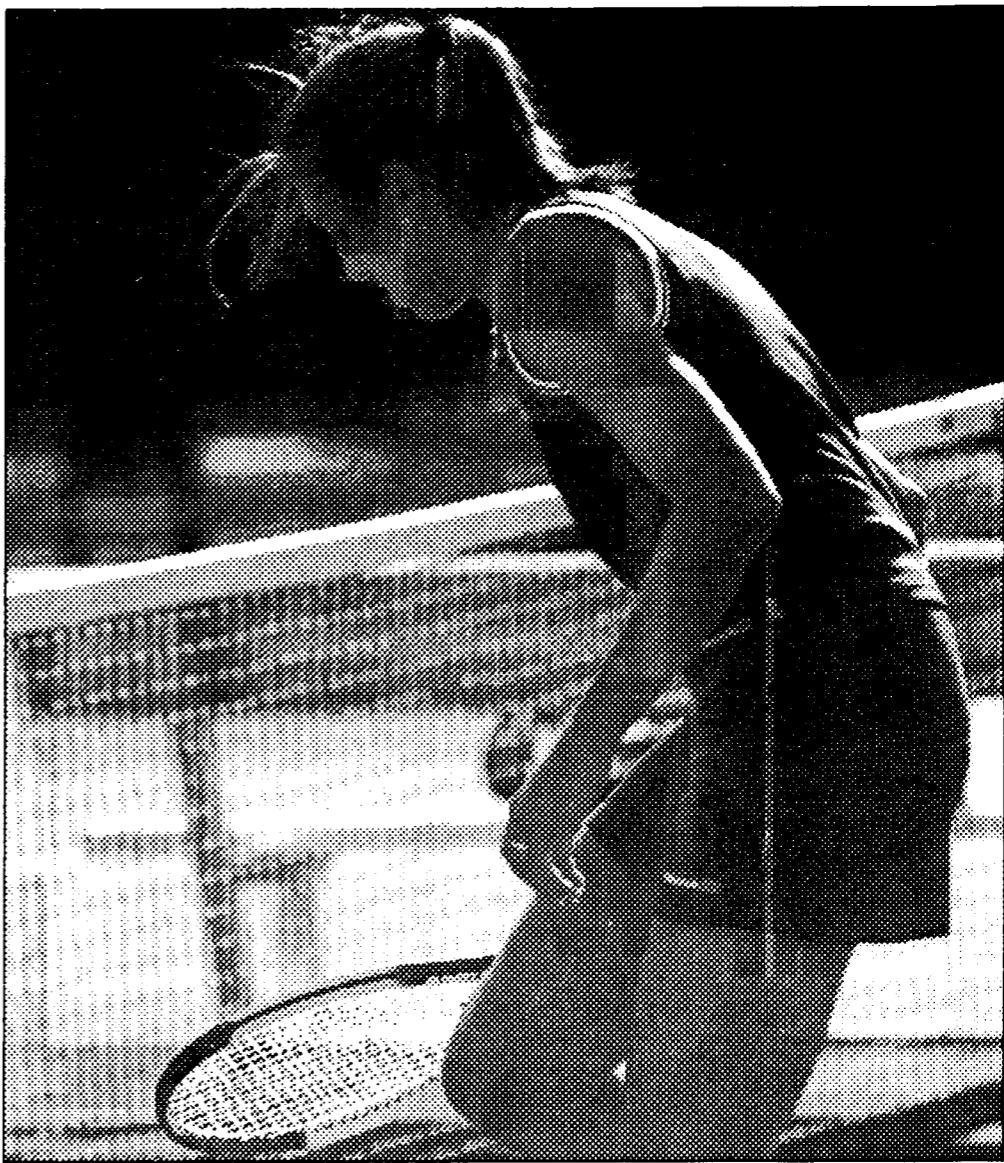
Ryan couldn't play tennis until January and the layoff put Ryan behind her teammates and opponents. Plus, Ryan was unsure whether she would be able to play at both doubles and singles.

But when the season began, Ryan was there, playing both No. 5 singles and No. 2 doubles. This kind of determination is one of the biggest assets Ryan brought to her Belles teammates.

"She's very intense and has a never-give-up attitude," Stevenson said. "She always set a good example of how to work hard on the court for her teammates."

focused and refreshed. She won the conference title at No. 6 singles and at No. 3 doubles and helped lead the Belles to their first of three conference titles.

During her



ELLIE ASHBY/The Observer

Elisa Ryan looks towards the ground during a recent match. Ryan overcame a wrist injury to win 12 of 13 matches at No. 5 singles for Saint Mary's this season.

Ryan finished her senior year by winning at No. 2 doubles and second at No. 5 singles at the MIAA tournament. She compiled a 12-1 singles record and a 10-4 doubles record during the regular season.

Rewarded for her work

At the conclusion of the season, Ryan received her team's PHDA award, an honor given to a player that demonstrates the most pride, hustle, desire and attitude. It was Ryan's first time receiving the accolade after getting the Most Dedicated award during her first three years on the team.

But the PHDA honor was small in comparison to the MIAA award Ryan received soon after. The Sue Little Memorial Award is given to an MIAA senior tennis athlete that showed the best sportsmanship during her four years in college. Ryan was sur-

prised she received the award, but said she always strived to uphold the etiquette of tennis.

"Personally, I'm shocked I got it," Ryan said. "There's a whole part of etiquette that goes along with tennis that I feel is a crucial part of the sport."

Ryan was only the second Saint Mary's player to receive such an honor.

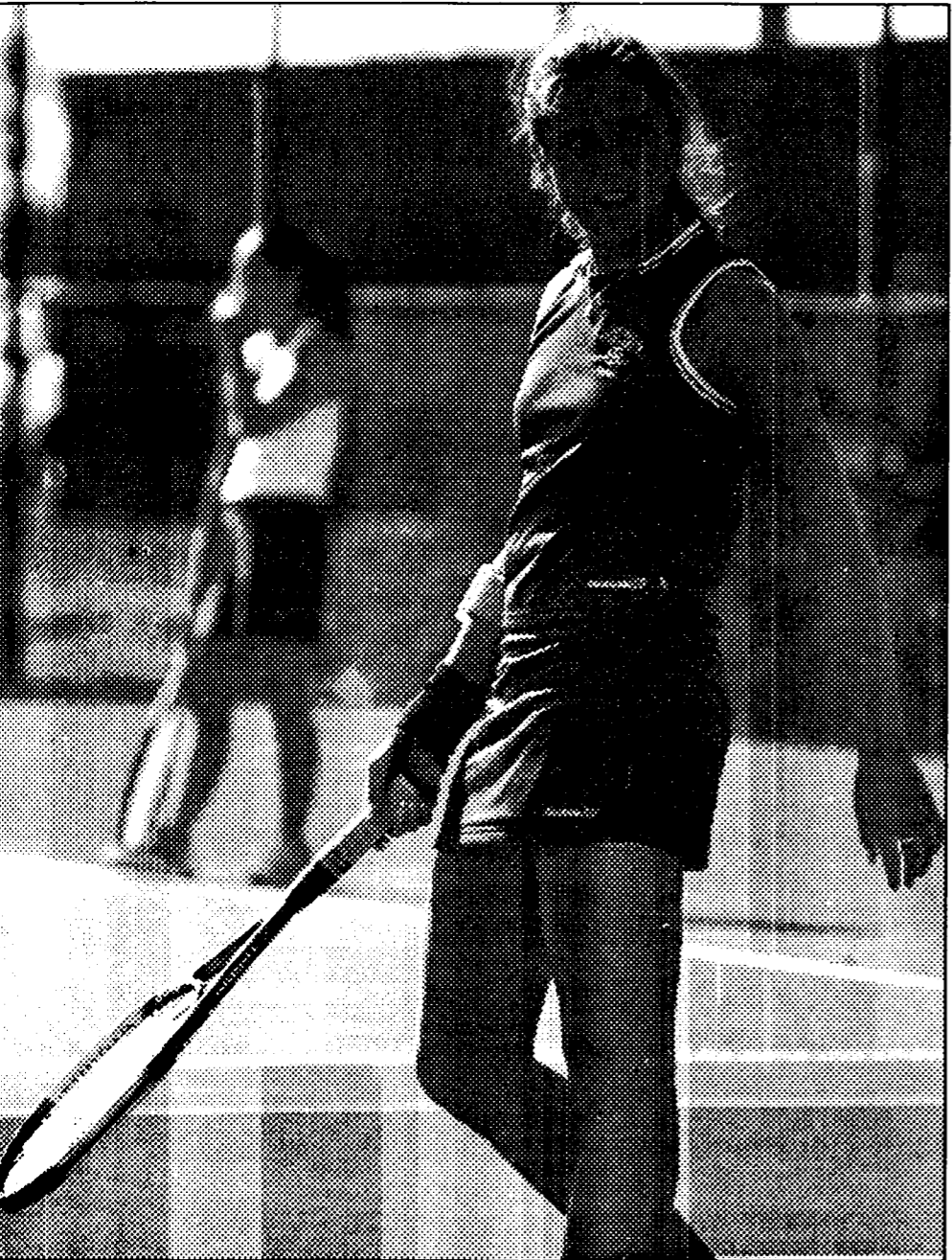
Ryan also picked up Saint Mary's Improvement Award for her dedication and play over the last few years. The honor was just another one for

Ryan, whose Belles career ended with the team's third straight MIAA championship a few weeks ago.

Stevenson said it will be difficult to replace a leader like Ryan, especially one that has been so consistent over the last four years.

"We're definitely going to miss her next year," Stevenson said.

Contact Joe Hettler at
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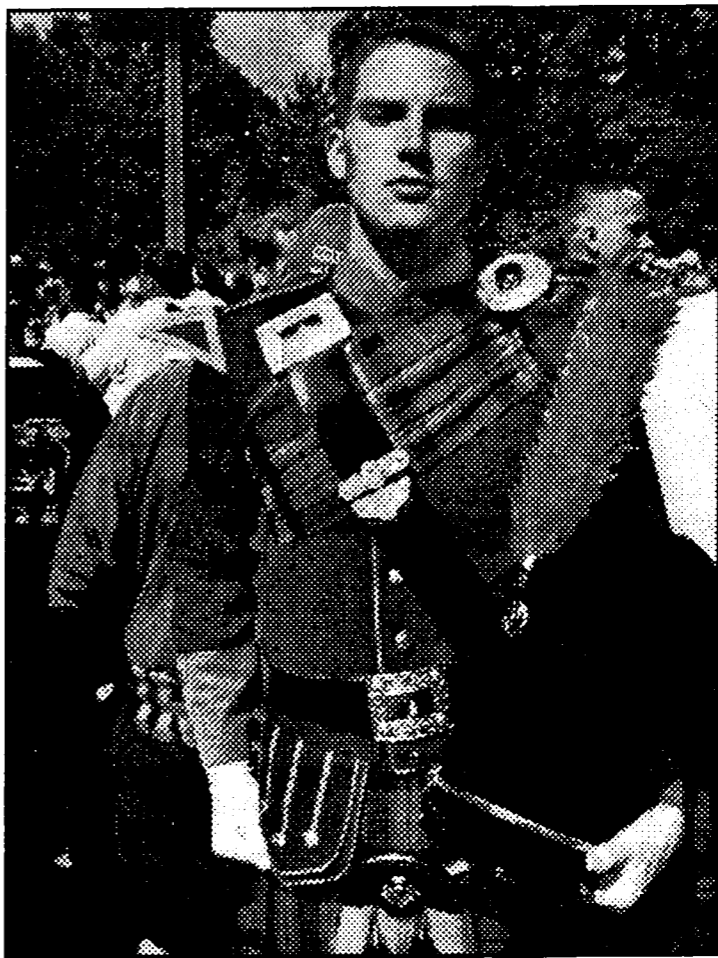


ELLIE ASHBY/The Observer

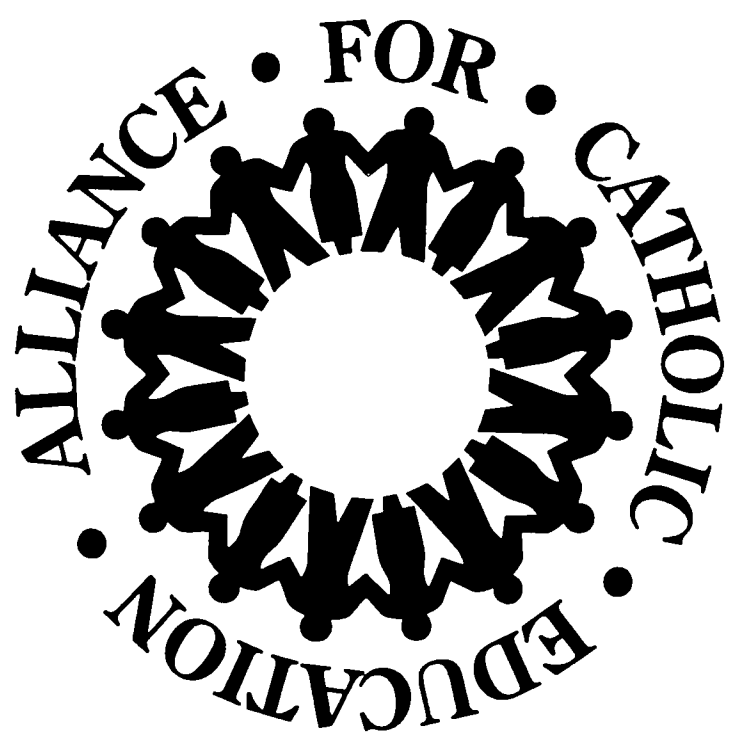
Elisa Ryan glances to the side during a match earlier this season. The Minnesota product helped the Belles win the MIAA Championship in tennis this past season.

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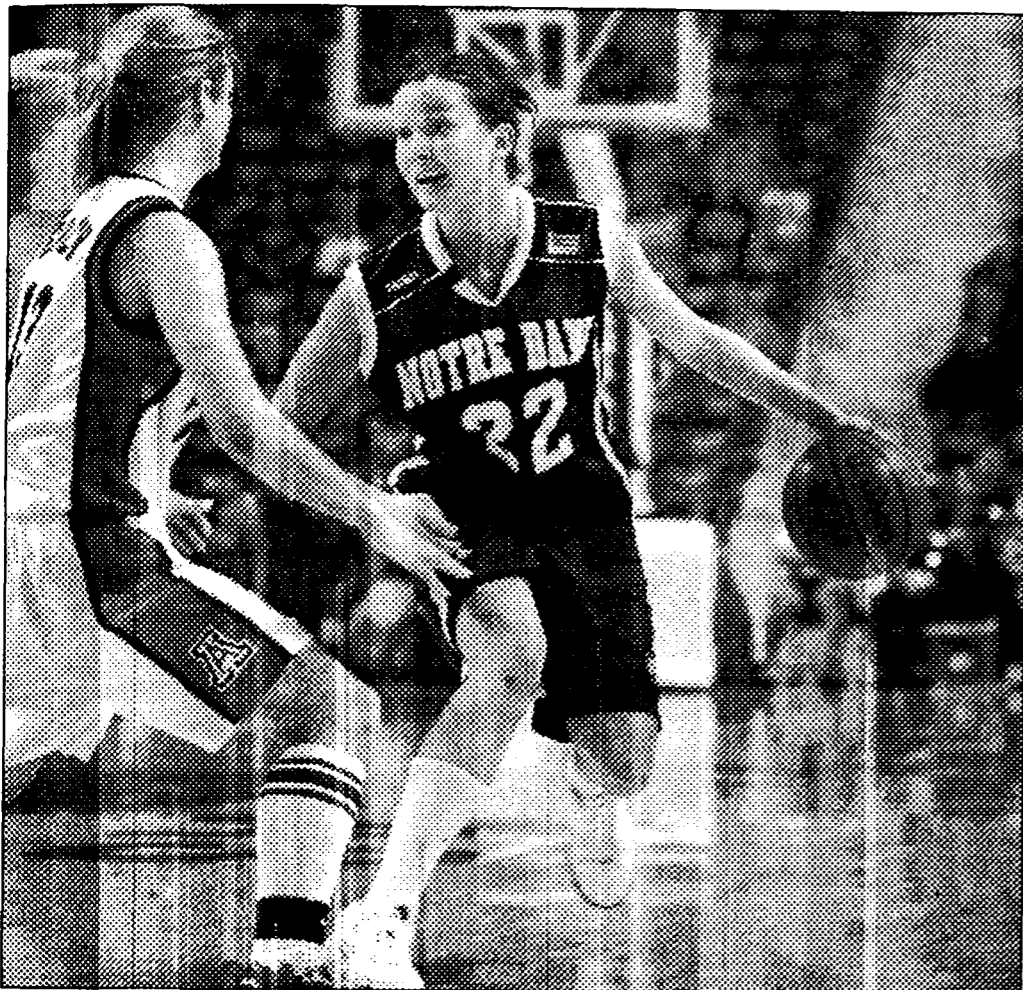
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Laura Aull
Brian Bircher
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Gretchen Bryant
Katie Cawley
Catherine Corke
Rory Dippold
David Esch
Cynthia Fidanza
Tom Flanagan
Jesse Flores
Josh Fulcher
Jim Gaffey
Michael Gracie
Anne Hainley
Brian Hartman
Michael Hoefling
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Jill Houghton
Beth Jeub
Shatomi Kerbawy
Anne Klinkhammer

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St. Petersburg, Florida
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Brownsville, Texas
Dallas, Texas
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San Antonio, Texas
Los Angeles, California
Atlanta, Georgia
Fort Worth, Texas
San Antonio, Texas
Plaquemine, Louisiana
Brownsville, Texas
Birmingham, Alabama
Plaquemine, Louisiana

Luke Klopp	Kansas City, Kansas
Charles Lamphier	Brownsville, Texas
Daniel Linton	Nashville, Tennessee
Angela Lyzinski	Memphis, Tennessee
Crystal Martinez	Mission, Texas
Madeleine McKenna	Pensacola, Florida
Kristine Monahan	Atlanta, Georgia
Brian Moscona	Los Angeles, California
Norma Nelson	Dallas, Texas
Kelly Novak	Fort Worth, Texas
Meredith Panzica	Brownsville, Texas
Brooke Piller	Charlotte, North Carolina
Allison Ricci	Kansas City, Kansas
Meghann Robinson	Nashville, Tennessee
Paul Rodriguez	Mission, Texas
Michael Ronan	Dallas, Texas
George Salib	St. Petersburg, Florida
Emmeline Schoen	Tucson, Arizona
Peter Schupp	Biloxi, Mississippi
Monica Stone	Jackson, Mississippi
Laura Tushaus	Mobile, Alabama
Seth Whetzel	Memphis, Tennessee
Andrew Zengel	Jacksonville, Florida

WOMENS BASKETBALL

Women surprise country with tournament upsets



Senior guard Alicia Ratay dribbles against Arizona in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. Ratay averaged 12.1 points.

♦ Irish reach fifth Sweet Sixteen in last seven years

By JOE HETTLER
Sports Editor

All the trials and tribulations the Irish faced during the 2002-03 season finally paid off when the games counted the most.

Left for dead after an up-and-down regular season, Notre Dame upset No. 6 Arizona then shocked No. 3 Kansas State at home in the first and second rounds of the NCAA Tournament to advance to its fifth Sweet Sixteen in the last seven years.

The loss snapped Kansas State's 22-game home winning streak and sent Notre Dame to Dayton, Ohio where they lost to No. 2 Purdue, 66-47.

But reaching the Sweet Sixteen seemed nearly impos-

sible after the kind of season Notre Dame endured.

Irish coach Muffet McGraw played five sophomores and two freshmen with regularity throughout the season and had a player quit the team midseason. That lack of experience and a difficult schedule made this season a trying one for McGraw and her team.

The Irish opened the year winning seven of their first eight games, before being blown out by Tennessee in Knoxville, 77-61, Dec. 28. The late-December loss sent the Irish into a rough month of January where the Irish lost all four of their home games, including a 72-53 defeat to eventual national champion Connecticut. In all, Notre Dame went just 3-5 in January and hit rock bottom Jan. 4 when the team fell to Purdue on national television 71-54.

"The Purdue game was the lowest point of our season," McGraw said weeks later.

But Notre Dame bounced back in February to collect a pair of victories over Big East foes, West Virginia and Georgetown, before falling to a tough Virginia Tech team on the road. The Irish continued their solid play by winning five of their last six Big East games to finish the regular season at 19-10. The NCAA selection committee rewarded the team with an 11-seed for the tournament and a trip to Kansas State to face Arizona and either host Kansas State or Harvard.

The Irish raced past unsuspecting Arizona thanks to the shooting of senior guard Alicia Ratay. Ratay, who had one of the most illustrious careers in Irish womens basketball history, scored 20 points and grabbed nine rebounds, on a night when neither team could make shots, to lift Notre Dame to a 59-47 victory. Notre Dame held Arizona to a mere 22.3 field goal percentage for the game.

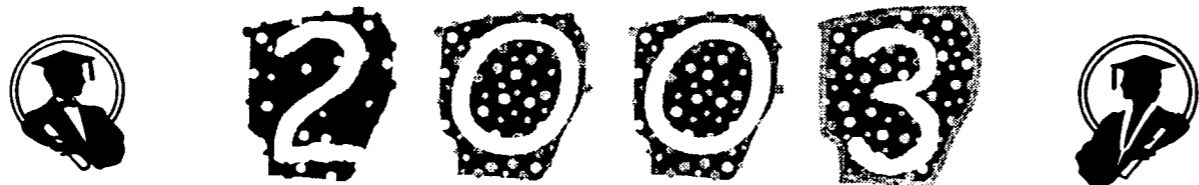
Things didn't get any easier for the Irish in their second round matchup against the purple-clad Wildcats. Kansas State had lost just four games all season, none at home and had the potential to advance to deep into the tournament. Notre Dame made sure that didn't happen with, arguably, the biggest upset of the 2003 tournament.

Behind another stellar defensive performance that held Kansas State without a field goal for more than 12 minutes in the second half, 17 points from junior guard Le'Tania Severe and clutch free-throw shooting down the stretch from freshmen Megan Duffy and Courtney LaVere, Notre Dame ended the Wildcats season, 59-53.

"Coming into the game, I thought we got off to a great start," McGraw said after the win. "We tried to take the crowd out of the game early on and tried to limit their 3s. I thought we did a really good job of that in the first half. I was so pleased with our defense. I thought that's how we won the game, a great defensive effort."

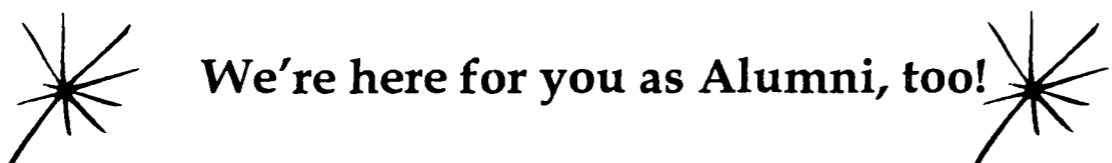
After the season, forward Jacqueline Batteast was named to the second-team All-Big East, averaging 13.9 points and 8.3 rebounds per contest. LaVere made the freshman All-American team and Ratay was selected as a finalist for the National Scholar-Athlete of the Year as well.

Ratay ended the year hitting 46.3 percent of her 3-point attempts (50-for-108) and scored 12.1 points and grabbed nearly five rebounds per game. She ended her Notre Dame career with the highest 3-point shooting percentage in womens college basketball history, connecting on 47.6 percent of her 3-pointers. She also holds the mark for most 3-pointers made in Notre Dame history.



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BASEBALL

Irish eye Big East tournament, return to CWS

By CHRIS FEDERICO
Sports Writer

Last season, the Irish began their memorable run to the College World Series by winning the Big East Tournament for the first time in the program's history. In its first six years in the league, Notre Dame had often been the regular season leader, but struggled to find its groove in the post-season tournament.

But that all changed last season as the Irish pulled off a 3-2, 10-inning victory over Rutgers to capture the Big East crown and catapult into the NCAA post-season.

"That tournament has always been a tough tournament," Irish coach Paul Mainieri said. "Last year was the first time we've won it in seven years. It's always a tough tournament. You've got some underrated teams that are playing pretty close to home."

This year, capturing that elusive Big East Tournament title could be even more important if the Irish are to make a run at returning to Omaha, Neb., for the College World Series.

"The Big East Tournament has always been a real dog-fight for us, and this year should be no different," Mainieri said.

After beginning conference play 13-2, the Irish have struggled lately, losing four of their last six Big East games to two very tough teams in West Virginia and Rutgers, who currently sit first and second,

respectively, in the conference standings.

It appears unlikely that the Irish will be able to capture the Big East regular season title, as they have in the three of the last four years, so the Irish will hope to take the conference tournament title to impress the NCAA selection committee enough to award Notre Dame its third consecutive year hosting an NCAA regional.

Winning the tournament would also lock up an automatic bid for the Irish in the NCAA Tournament.

"The automatic bid goes to the winner of the tournament, so if you want to make sure you're in the NCAA tournament, you've got to win that thing," Mainieri said.

If the Irish are unable to top the field of four teams in the Big East Tournament, which will include West Virginia, Rutgers, Notre Dame and most likely Virginia Tech, they will have to hope for an at-large bid into the 64 team field of the NCAA Tournament.

"It's really hard to gauge what the selection committee is going to do," Mainieri said. "There have been years when we've finished as low as third in the regular season and received an at-large bid, and there's been years when we've won the regular season and not received the at-large bid."

Mainieri hopes that factors such as his team's tough schedule and recent history in the tournament will influence that

bid for an at large spot.

"I'm hoping that if we can get over 40 wins and with the history of what we did last year, that that might carry some weight [with the selection committee], if in fact we do get an at-large bid," Mainieri said. "But I'm certain that if we don't win that tournament, we will still have to have a good showing out there and probably win at least a couple of games in the tournament."

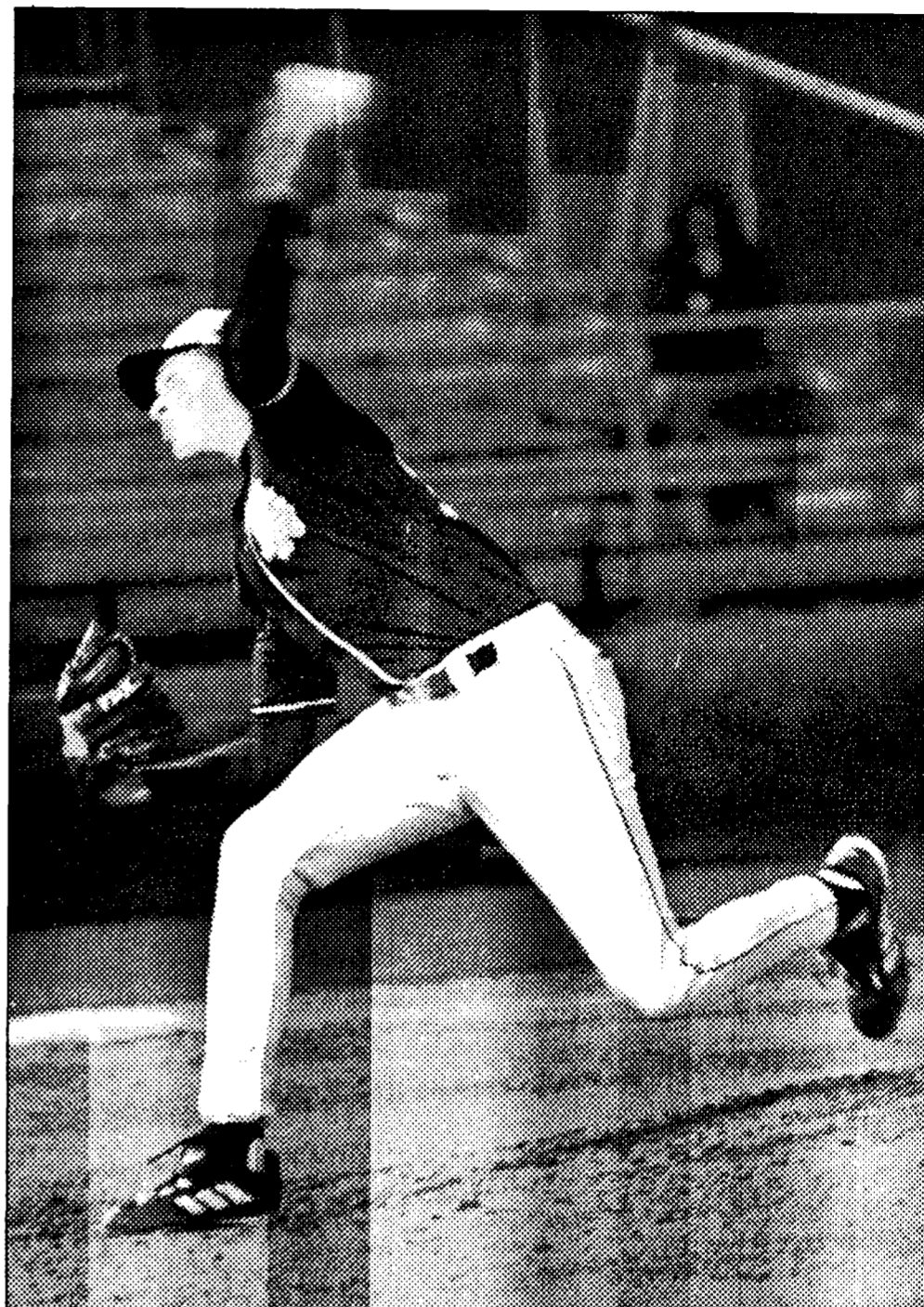
But right now, the Irish have another fierce opponent on their hands in the last weekend of conference play, as they must travel to Blacksburg, Va. to take on fourth-place Virginia Tech (32-19, 14-9 in the Big East).

Coming off a tough 19-inning loss to Rutgers last Sunday, Mainieri hopes his team will bounce back against the Hokies and ride into the Big East Tournament on a winning streak.

The Irish coach knows the importance of getting hot at the end of the season, and he hopes his team will catch that fire as the regular season yields way to the NCAA Tournament.

"When I look around the country, there's an awful lot of teams out there right now that are 35-18," Mainieri said. "I just think there are a lot of teams that are going to be in the running for these at large bids. So the more games that we can win this last week plus the Big East Tournament can help."

Contact Chris Federico at
cfederic@nd.edu



CHIP MARKS/The Observer

Irish pitcher Tom Thornton fires a pitch during a recent game. Notre Dame is preparing for the Big East tournament May 22-24 in New Jersey. If Notre Dame wins the tourney, they will receive an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

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MENS TRACK AND FIELD

Irish squeak by Huskies for Big East Crown

◆ Team looks toward May 20 NCAA Regional

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Writer

Since one Big East Championship was not enough for the mens track and field team, the Irish decided to repeat their indoor accomplishment — by winning the Big East Outdoor Championship.

The men won the Big East Outdoor Championship by a slim margin over Connecticut, 139 to 136.5 to become the first Notre Dame mens track team to win both the indoor and outdoor Big East Championships.

“The Big East is a different meet from all the other meets,” Notre Dame distance runner Eric Morrison said. “When you go there, you go there to do well individually, but the one thing that is always clear in your mind is to win the title as a team. In other meets, you might try to get a good time, or win a race, but it is never really team-oriented.”

Contributing to Notre Dame’s team victory was the stellar performance of three individuals, who all garnered individual championships. Highly-acclaimed senior Luke Watson

won both the 3,000-meter steeplechase and the 5,000 meters on consecutive days. Selim Nurudeen won the 110-meter hurdles for the second year in a row (13.95 seconds). Finally, in an upset, Godwin Mbagwu won the triple jump with a 15.32 meter effort.

However, the Irish athletes were not the only ones being recognized. The Irish coaching staff was named the 2003 Big East Outdoor Coaching Staff of the Year. The staff consists of Joe Piane, Tim Connelly, John Millar, Scott Winsor and B.J. Linnenbrink.

This staff led a talented squad that used a team effort to attain the conference championship. Ryan Hurd earned three points, finishing sixth in the 100 meters (21.59), while Ryan Postel added three of his own, taking sixth in the 400 meters (48.02).

Meanwhile, in the distance realm, Morrison earned his second all-Big East honor of the year (indoor mile run), as he finished third in the 1,500 meters (3:50.65). Kevin Somok took sixth in the same race to give the Irish a combined nine points from the two.

Despite the fact that Watson brought in 10 points for the Irish in the 5,000 meters, four other runners combined for 21 points in the event. John Keane took fourth (14:29.75), Tim Moore, fifth (14:35.09) and David Alber, seventh

(14:38.83), respectively.

Also scoring for the Irish was Mark Barber, who finished sixth in the 110-meter hurdles.

The 400-meter hurdle group scored big for the Irish, as Napoleon Suarez finished third to earn his first outdoor all-Big East honor, Barber took fourth and Roberto Garcia took sixth.

Finally, in the relays, the 4x100 team (Nurudeen, Postel, Hurd and Barber) finished third to earn all Big East honors, the first Notre Dame relay to do so since 2000.

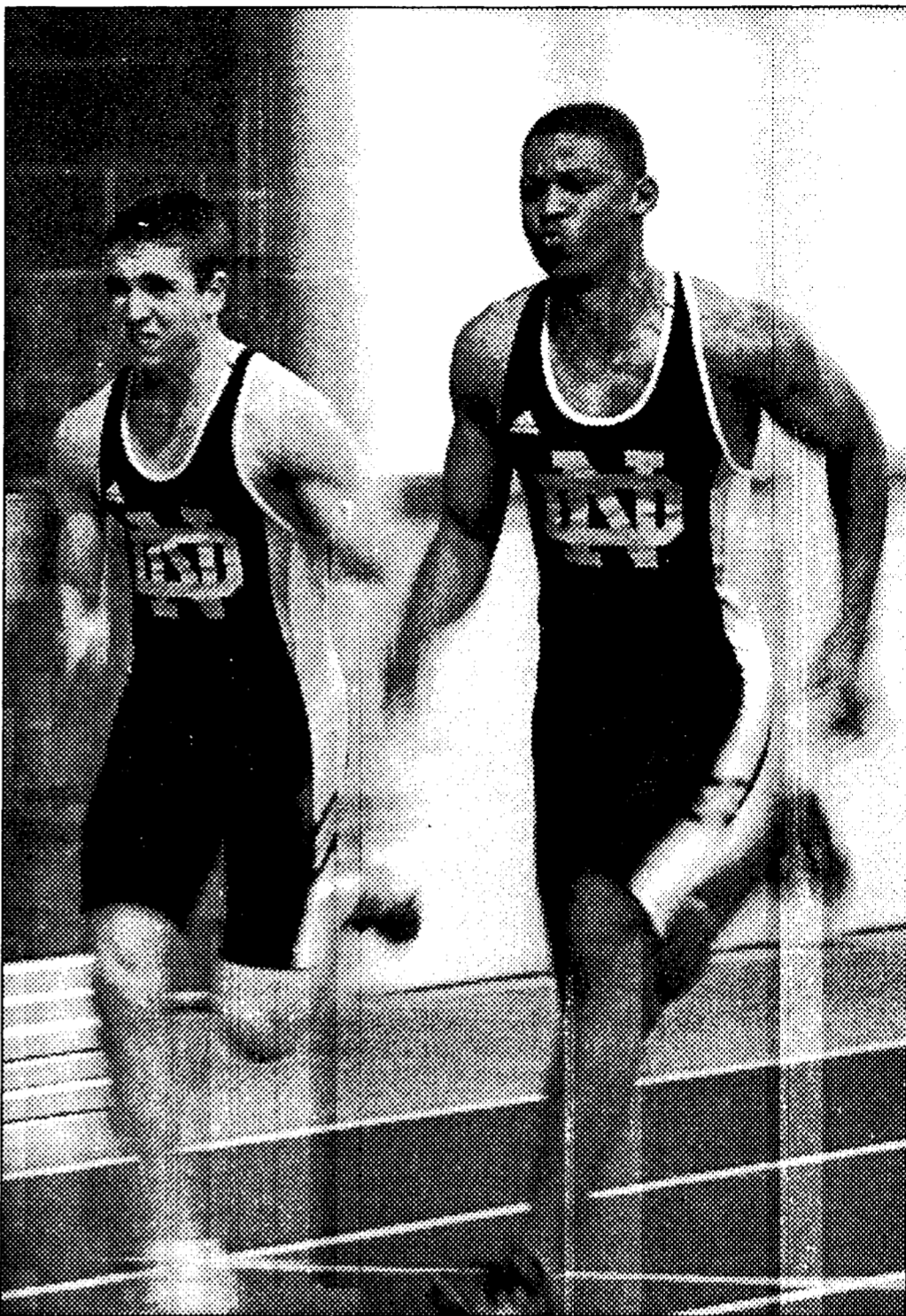
Also earning all-Big East honors was the 4x800 meter relay, who finished third. Thomas Chamney, Morrison, Somok and Vinnie Ambrico ran for the Irish.

“The Big East meet is neat because everyone rallies together and puts together all the work they have put in the whole year,” Morrison said. “That is basically what the Big East is all about.”

The Irish travel to the Georgia Tech Invitational next weekend for a tune-up before the NCAA Regional in Columbus, Ohio on May 30 and 31. Following the Regional, the NCAA Championship begins June 11 in Sacramento, Calif.

“After winning the Big East, we feel good, we feel confident going into the Regional,” Morrison said.

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvanhoeg@nd.edu



Sprinter Ryan Hurd races by a teammate during a meet against Michigan State earlier this season.

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FENCING

Team attitude leads fencers to first title since 1994

♦ Irish score 182 points to edge archrival Penn State by three

By MATT LOZAR
Associate Sports Editor

First-year head coach Janusz Bednarski did something former coach Yves Auriol couldn't do in his seven years in leading the Notre Dame fencing team — win a national title.

The goal of winning the program's first national title since 1994 started from the beginning of the season. It became truly evident when the second-ranked Notre Dame squad hosted No. 1 — and defending national champion Penn State — at the Notre Dame Duals.

Before that dual match showdown, Bednarski gathered his team in a big huddle for a pep talk. What was important wasn't the result of that dual meet, but setting the foundation for a team to win the national title seven weeks later.

"We are trying to build a team during the season. They responded very well. They started to work as a team," Bednarski said. "There is no position they are in where they

only care about fencing for themselves. They care about the team."

The mens team defeated Penn State 15-12 and moved up to the top spot in the country for the third straight year while the womens team lost 16-11.

At the Midwest Regional Championship, the Irish automatically qualified 11 fencers and had to wait for Maggie Jordan to earn an at-large bid in womens sabre to let the Irish qualify the maximum 12 fencers.

A major blizzard in Colorado forced the N C A A Championships to be condensed into a two-day event at the Air Force Academy. As Saturday's action concluded

and the day went on Sunday, one thing became apparent — it was going to be a very close finish.

In the last round of the womens sabre competition, the Irish were ahead by less than five points and were facing Penn State's Austin O'Neill in the final round. Backed by the largest and loudest cheering section, Jordan and Destanie Milo came through with two critical wins to put the Irish on the brink of completing their mission.

"That was incredible because Notre Dame was cheering so much for me and I didn't even

hear Penn State cheering for the other girl. I just blocked them out," Milo said after her 5-0 defeat of O'Neill. "Their cheering helped me, kept me going and kept my adrenaline going. I don't know if I could have done it if I didn't have the team helping me out."

Then, the Irish went to their strength and called on the "A-Team" of Andrea Ament and Alicja Kryczalo to finish the job. Kryczalo, who won her second individual national title in as many years, defeated Stanford's Iris Zimmerman to clinch the title for the Notre Dame and start the long-awaited celebration.

Besides Kryczalo's national title, the Irish had a school-record 11 All-Americans. Michal Sobieraj finished second in mens epee, Ozren Debic was fourth in mens foil and Ament took third to earn first-team All-American honors. Debic and epeeist Jan Viviani became four-time All-Americans.

After the disappointments from finishing second or third every year since 1994, this year's team set itself out on a mission from the beginning not to join those other Irish fencing teams who underachieved and failed to win a national title.

This year, they got the job done.

"Coming into this year, I knew that like any other year we were going to end up in the top three," Debic said. "If we put our heads together, we could get it done."

Contact Matt Lozar at
mlozar@nd.edu

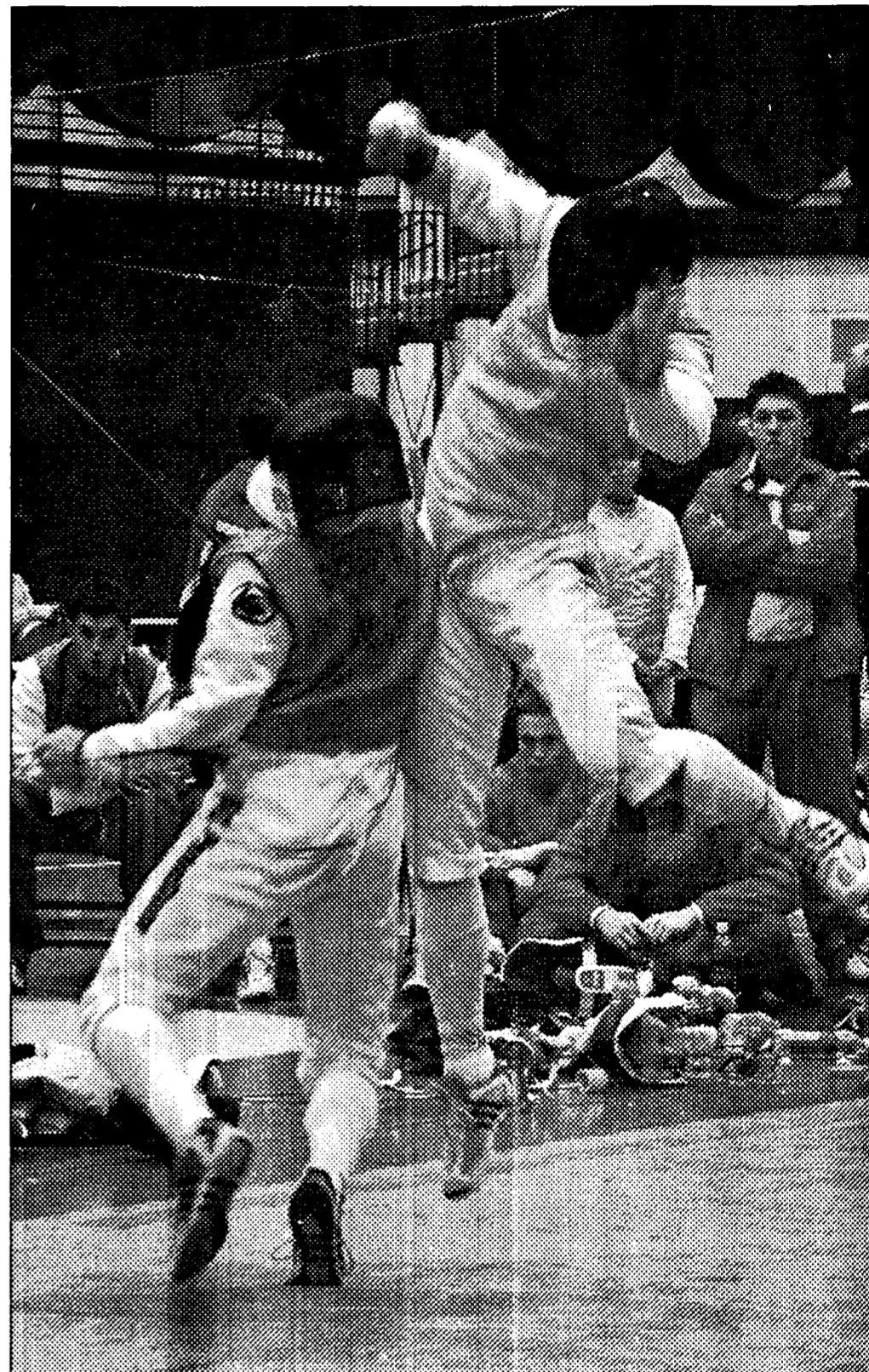


Photo courtesy of Notre Dame Sports Information

Foillist and four-time All-American Ozren Debic attacks an opponent at the Notre Dame Duals in February. The Irish defeated No. 1 Penn State at the Duals and went on to defeat the Nittany Lions at the NCAA Championships.

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MENS BASKETBALL

Solomon accepts Bonnies' job

♦ Irish assistant coach heads to St. Bonaventure

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Sports Writer

When St. Bonaventure started looking for someone to clean up the mess of an ugly basketball scandal, it turned to a Notre Dame assistant coach.

Anthony Solomon, formerly a three-year member of Mike Brey's staff and a 15-year assistant coach, was named head coach of the Bonnies' beleaguered basketball program May 6.

"St. Bonaventure is a tradition-rich basketball program that really excites me," Solomon said. "With my 15 years of experience in the coaching profession, I feel that I have prepared myself for this opportunity."

At Notre Dame, Solomon coached the guards and handled a majority of the recruiting. Brey promoted Rod Balanis, Notre Dame's former director of basketball

operations, to fill Solomon's spot.

"He's hungry, well-connected and, most importantly, well-respected," Brey told the Associated Press. "I can't emphasize enough how the Solomon family will be such a positive for the Bonaventure community."

Solomon replaces Jan van Brenda Kolff, who was fired in April after the Atlantic 10 Conference learned Bonnies center Jamil Terrell was ineligible because he violated

junior college transfer rules.

The A-10 Conference then ruled St. Bonaventure had to forfeit six league victories and banned them from postseason play. In response, the

players voted to not play their final two games of the season.

Both St. Bonaventure president Robert Wickenheiser and athletic director Gothard Lane resigned in addition to van Brenda Kolff's firing.

But St. Bonaventure's new athletic director, Paul Grys, had high praise for Solomon, who takes over a team that finished 13-14 last year.

"Anthony Solomon has the leadership experience and

character that are critical to St. Bonaventure," Grys said.

The appointment is Solomon's first college head coaching job. He is also the first black head coach of any sport at St. Bonaventure.

Notes:

♦ Former Arizona forward Dennis Latimore will transfer to Notre Dame and can begin playing for the Irish in 2004-05.

A 6-foot-8, 240-pound player with two years of eligibility remaining, Latimore must sit out an NCAA-mandatory one year before he can play for the Irish.

♦ The Irish landed their first verbal commitment of the class of 2008 in 6-foot-8, 210-pound forward Robert Kurz.

The Philadelphia high school junior visited Notre Dame's campus a little over a week ago and decided to verbally commit to the school. Brey cannot comment publicly on Kurz until he signs a binding letter of intent in November.

But the 6-foot-8, 210-pound Kurz is considered one of the top 100 prospects in the nation because he is a strong forward who has a solid medium-range jumper.

Contact Andrew Soukup at asoukup@nd.edu

Brey leads team to Sweet Sixteen bid

♦ Irish reach third round of tourney for first time since '87

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Sports Writer

Mike Brey will have a hard time forgetting what transpired on his 44th birthday.

In the bowels of Indianapolis' RCA Dome, in front of a throng of screaming Irish fans, in the national television spotlight, Notre Dame advanced to the Sweet Sixteen for the first time since 1987 — the latest step taken by a basketball program slowly emerging as one of the nation's best.

"Tonight, I was probably going to have a beer anyway," a giddy Brey said in the post-game interview. "Now I might have two."

Sure, Arizona trounced the Irish in the round of 16. But the goal from the early days of summer practice was to make it to the second weekend — a phrase that took on a life of its own over the course of the basketball season.

Behind the leadership of sharpshooting guard Matt Carroll and Maryland transfer Dan Miller, Notre Dame surged to a 5-1 start, yet flew below the national radar unranked and unrespected.

And for good reason — Notre Dame had lost the nucleus of last year's team (Ryan Humphrey, David Graves and Harold Swanagan) to graduation, and most would have considered Notre Dame's season a success had the Irish simply made the NCAA Tournament, much less won a couple of games.

That all changed in December, when the Irish knocked off three top-10 opponents in one week — Marquette, Maryland and Texas — and shot from "Others receiving votes" to No. 6 and the ensuing pressure that accompanied such a lofty ranking.

Suddenly, the Irish players, who had spent most of their careers playing as the underdog, now found themselves in the national spotlight. And for the most part, they handled it well, aside from a pair of blowout losses to Pittsburgh and Kentucky.

But after Notre Dame beat Pittsburgh on Feb. 9 in the first meeting of top 10 foes in the Joyce Center in over a decade, the road to the Final Four appeared to run through South Bend.

That's when the Irish train started to derail. Initially able to control their own destiny in terms of their Big East fate, the Irish lost four of their last seven games of the regular season and lost in the first round of the Big East Tournament.

So in between the first-round exit and Selection Sunday, the Irish hunkered down to try to figure out what their problems were. And whatever they found, they appeared to fix.

The first sign something had changed came the day before the NCAA Tournament began, when every Irish player shaved his head in a sign of team unity. Grinning with enthusiasm in the RCA locker room, Notre Dame's players displayed none of the tightness that characterized their final month of the season.

Still, the Irish, seeded fifth in the West Region, survived a major scare in No. 12 Wisconsin-Milwaukee, who missed a layup with two seconds on the clock. Instead of getting upset, the Irish squeaked into the second-round with a 70-69 win.

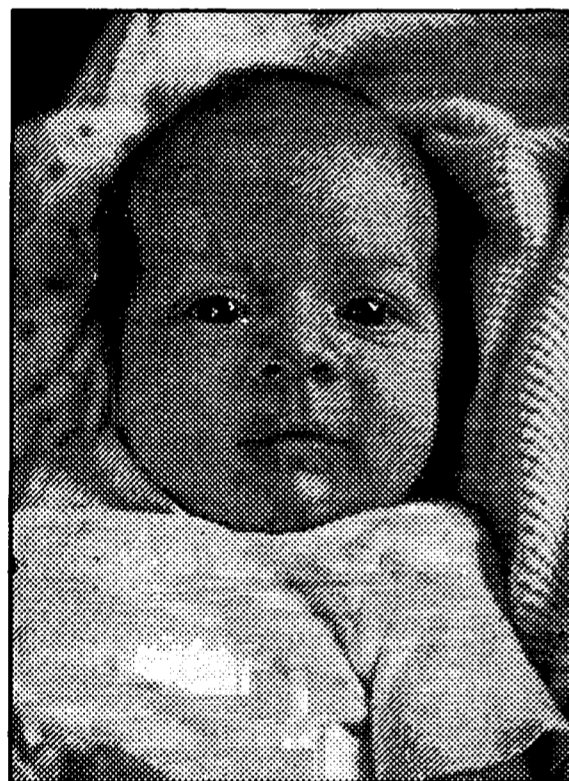
The second-round game against fourth-seeded Illinois, however, went much easier. The Irish relied on a commitment to defense and a sensational 3-point shooting performance to surge into the Sweet Sixteen.

"Everybody said we couldn't win because everything was so new, we should stick to what we were doing," Chris Thomas said. "But since we got away from the Big East, we have a new mindset. It's a new season."

A 88-71 loss to a red-hot Arizona team showed how far the Irish still have to go before they can truly be considered. Few doubt that Notre Dame's long-term future is bright. Its short-term future, however, is still in question, especially after Carroll and Miller's graduation and Thomas' declaration that he'll depart early for the NBA Draft.

But then again, that's what everybody thought a year ago, too.

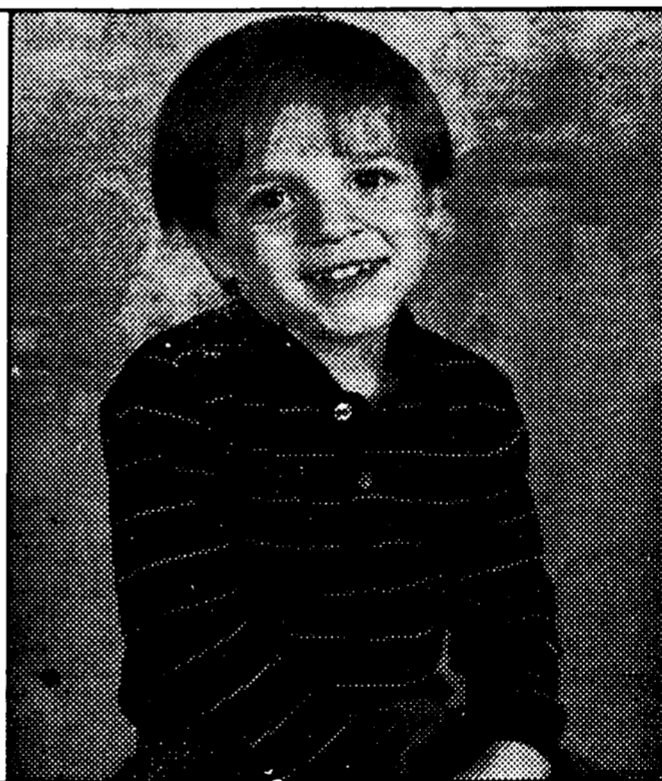
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Loman

continued from page 40

Loman is one of four seniors starting on the infield and doesn't necessarily need to be a vocal leader.

"I mostly lead by example, but if there is something that needs to be said, I'll definitely address the issue so there is no problems and to keep everything in order," Loman said.

A true captain

The list of awards Loman has captured is seemingly endless. Four-time All-Big East first team recognition. A two-time Big East Championship Most Outstanding Player. The Big East Rookie of the Year. A third-team All-America.

And just eight days ago, Loman became the third consecutive Notre Dame player to be named the Big East Player of the Year.

At last weekend's Big East Championships, Loman hit .500 with five RBI and hit a walk-off home run in the bottom of the ninth to give the Irish their second straight conference tournament crown.

But of all those personal accolades, nothing that other people say really matters to Loman. It's the voice of her teammates that means the most.

"Being named captain this year just shows the respect your teammates have for you," Loman said. "It's a mutual thing that you have for them as well and it's just a great honor."

When the Riverside, Calif. native does acknowledge her numerous awards, she passes the recognition to anyone but herself.

"They pay tribute to all those who have helped me get to where I am today, my parents, my family, coaches throughout the years since I've been playing since I was 10," Loman said.

The career numbers show why Loman is one of the most decorated athletes in the histo-

ry of the Notre Dame softball program. Entering this weekend's NCAA Regionals, Loman leads the 2003 Irish in batting average (.408), which would be good for the second best season in Notre Dame history, runs scored (41), hits (64), doubles (12), RBI (40), slugging (.662), on-base percentage (.466) and stolen bases (17). Loman is also tied with outfielder Liz Hartmann for the team lead in home runs with eight.

"I am losing someone who is irreplaceable," Gumpf said. "You can't replace someone like 'Drea.'"

Rock solid

In her first two seasons at Notre Dame, Loman played first base. She switched over to third last year and made the transition without a hitch due to her experience at third in high school and in travel leagues. As a junior, Loman made eight errors, but six of those came after she broke a finger on her throwing hand in early April.

This season, Loman has made only five errors and leads a Notre Dame defense that currently is tied for third in the country with a .976 fielding percentage.

With the bases 60 feet away, the hot corner lives up to its nickname in softball as balls come quickly off the bat. Loman never looks surprised and is ready to always make a jaw-dropping play.

"I might be a little biased, but I think she is the best third baseman in the country," Gumpf said. "She brings intangibles that most people don't have. Andrea is a natural."

"She makes plays that most people can't make."

When the inevitable offensive struggles come at the plate, Loman wants to be able to rely on something and always be a major contributor for her team. That attitude, of being a solid defensive player, started from the beginning.

"Throughout the years, I've been really consistent defen-



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Notre Dame third baseman Andrea Loman scoops up a grounder against Loyola-Chicago earlier this season. Loman's outstanding career ranks among the best in Notre Dame softball history.

sively while offensively from my freshman to my senior year, I have been getting better, but haven't been that consistent and my defense has always been there," Loman said. "That's something my dad has always told me, if something isn't working and your offense isn't there, make sure your defense always is."

"So I think I really pride myself in that."

One difference she wants

During each of Loman's three previous seasons, the Irish have qualified for the NCAA

Regionals and failed to move on to the Women's College World Series. In 2001, Iowa upset the top-seeded Irish and last year, the Irish were also eliminated on the last day of the regionals, this time by Nebraska.

Loman's won the awards and accomplished just about everything a player could want. The only thing she hasn't done, is get to Oklahoma City, Okla. and play in the Women's College World Series.

This weekend is her last chance.

"You have been working hard

your past four years and coming up a game short almost every year. We are looking to have a good regional tournament this year," Loman said. "It is definitely going to be tough and a challenge for us."

"I think we have some people fearing us, which is good."

That's the one place where Loman wants to separate herself from Myers and the rest of the great players in Notre Dame softball history.

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu

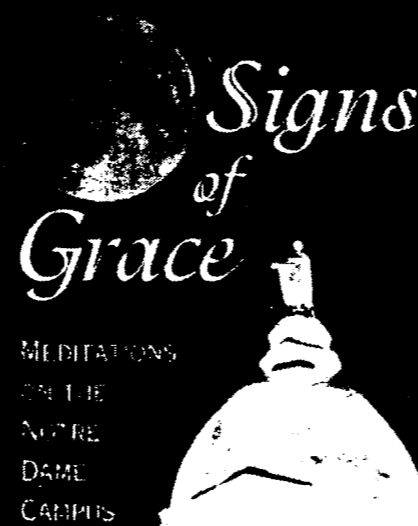


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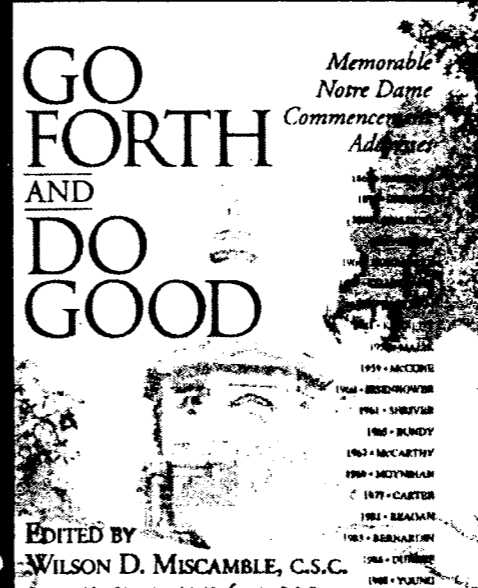
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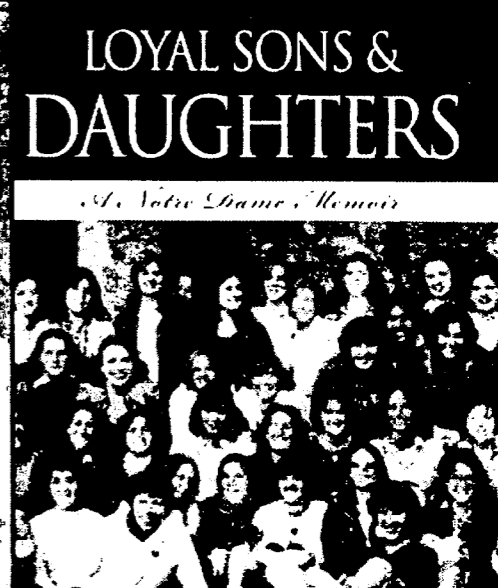
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MENS BASKETBALL

Thomas declares himself eligible for draft

♦ Guard does not hire agent, could return next year

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Sports Writer

With a broad grin on his face and his parents proudly looking on, Chris Thomas declared May 5 he would forego his final two years of college eligibility and enter the NBA Draft.

But the 6-foot-1 guard left the door ajar for a possible return to the Irish for his junior season.

"This has long been a dream of mine," Thomas said. "I'm excited at the prospects and am glad the opportunity has come so fast."

Thomas, who said he has not hired an agent and therefore still has college eligibility, has until June 19 to withdraw his name from the draft. The six weeks

between his declaration and the deadline will be spent evaluating where Thomas could be drafted on June 26.

If, after participating in individual workouts for a handful of teams, Thomas is projected as a top-20 pick, the point guard said his name would remain in the draft. If it is lower, he said he would most likely return to Notre Dame.

"Do I want to coach this guy next year? Heck yeah," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "But I'm

not going to put any guilt trips on this young man. ... We owe it to him to get him the right info."

Before his sophomore season started, Thomas said he was "definitely" going to be at Notre Dame for four years. He maintained throughout the season that he wasn't considering the NBA Draft — "It would take away from my team," he said — but when the Irish lost to Arizona in the Sweet Sixteen, Brey said he was going to help Thomas explore his draft options.

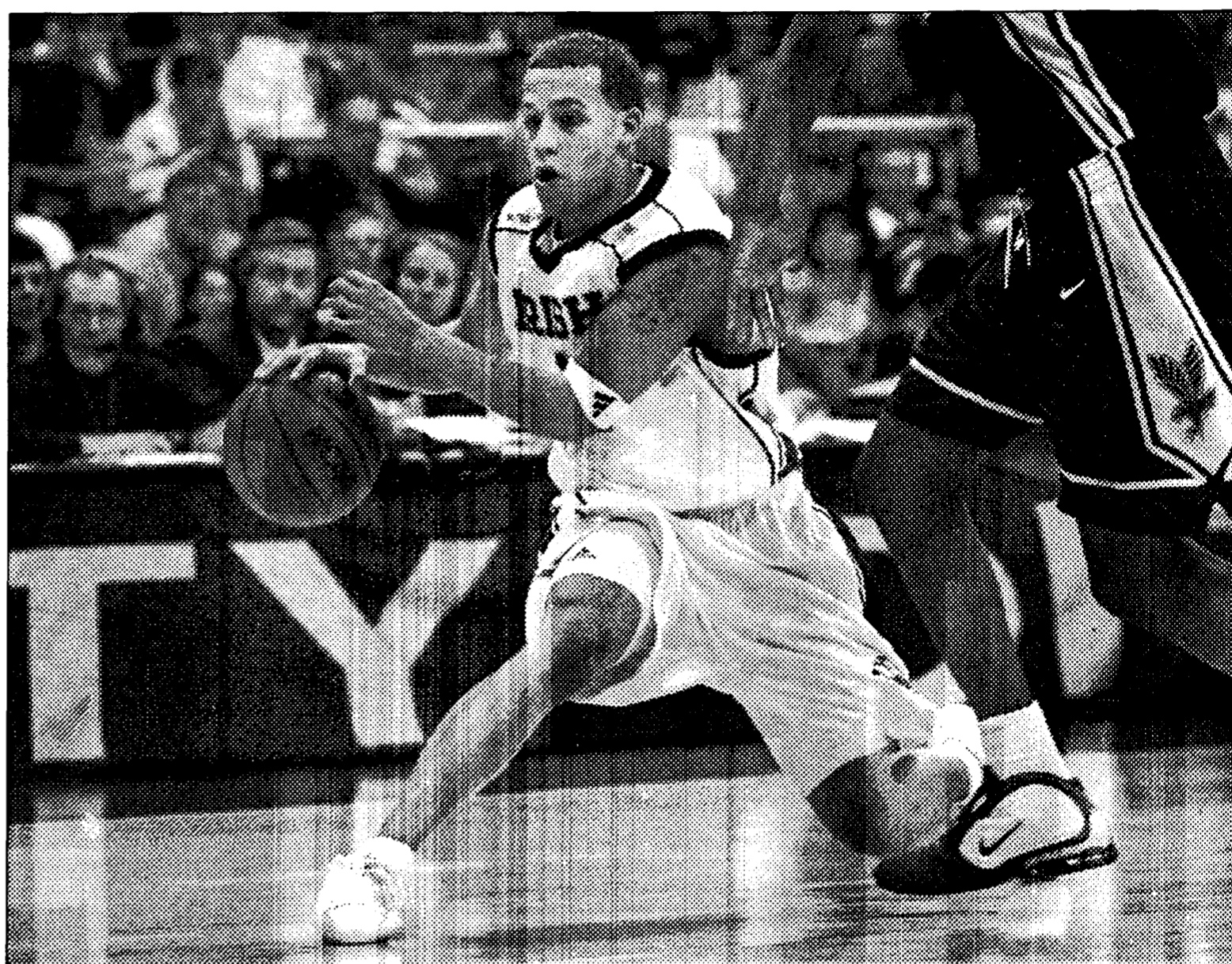
So Brey, Thomas' parents and Thomas buckled down to evaluate the guard's draft potential. Thomas also spoke with his friend Jared Jeffries, a former

Indiana player who left after his sophomore year and was drafted by the Washington Wizards, to glean more information about the draft process and life in the

NBA.

In the end, Thomas, who averaged 18.7 points and 6.9 assists a game last season and earned All-American honorable mention honors, decided to declare based on the success the Irish enjoyed last season.

"I owe it to myself to explore my options in order to see what I could do. I've done my share of work to get to this point," Thomas said. "Playing in the NBA is never a sure thing, and there's no guarantee I might



CHIP MARKS/The Observer

Irish guard Chris Thomas dribbles the ball during a game earlier this season. Thomas declared for the NBA Draft in June, but did not hire an agent. He said he would return if he is not going to be a top-20 pick in the first round.

have this chance after my junior or senior year."

Thomas is the second Irish player in three years to declare early for the NBA Draft. Troy Murphy left early after his junior year — Brey's first year with the Irish — and was drafted 14th by the Golden State Warriors.

If Thomas stays in the draft, Notre Dame would be one of

only a handful of schools with a chance to have three first-round picks in as many years. Last year, Ryan Humphrey was drafted 19th overall by the Utah Jazz and now plays for the Memphis Grizzlies.

Thomas had until May 11 to enter his name for the draft. In addition to working out for individual teams, Thomas could also participate in a pre-draft camp the first week of June in Chicago, where a new NCAA rule change stipulates that players can play in pre-draft workouts without having to sit out any games if they return to college.

However, Brey said Thomas is leaning away from playing in Chicago and is instead hoping to gauge his stock via individual workouts with teams. And Thomas is looking at the example set by Humphrey, who

ended his college career projected as a second-round pick but boosted his stock tremendously via individual workouts.

For now, Brey will remain one of Thomas' primary advisers and added that he expects to start hearing from NBA teams now that Thomas has made a public decision. And instead of trying to convince his star guard to stay, Brey said his role as a coach is to make sure Thomas makes the best possible decision.

"My feeling is if you're going to run a program in this era, then you have to help your players," Brey said. "If the right thing is to go in a month, I will be the first in line to shake his hand."

Contact Andrew Soukup at
asoukup@nd.edu



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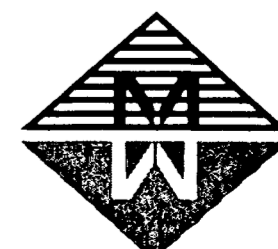
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2002 IN REVIEW

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The Observer looks back on Notre Dame and Saint Mary's fall sports seasons

Friday, May 16, 2003

Observer Staff Report

Mens Cross Country

With junior and top Irish runner Todd Mobley running despite recovering from an injury, freshman Tim Moore led Notre Dame Nov. 25 to a 22nd place finish at the NCAA Championships in Terre Haute, Ind.

While it was not Notre Dame's best-ever performance at the national meet, and Irish coach Joe Piane did not think the Irish reached their full potential, it was still a good moment for a team that had been in jeopardy of not even qualifying for the title race. After barely qualifying with an at-large bid, Notre Dame, with only one senior running, was able to move up some spaces in the field of 31.

At the Big East Championships, the Irish had to do without All-American Mobley, and Moore stepped up finish first for his team as well as first among all freshmen at the meet. His time of 24:08 landed him in tenth place, but, coupled with the other Irish performances, that was not enough to give Notre Dame the win. In the end, the Irish finished fourth, and thereby continued their tradition of not-winning the Big East title every other year when the meet is held in Boston.

ND Womens Cross Country

After a progressively successful season, a young Irish squad capped off 2002 with their best-ever performance in program history, finishing third at the NCAA Championships in Terre Haute, Ind. Nov. 25.

The Irish were led by freshman Molly Huddle, who claimed sixth place overall and fifth in team scoring. Huddle's 19:55.7 time, 12 seconds behind individual champion Shalane Flanagan of North Carolina, gave her the highest finish for the Irish at the national championships since Joanna Deeter's third place performance in 1996. The freshman's performance also catapulted her into the company of All-Americans.

Irish sophomore Lauren King finished close to Huddle. King, who normally leads the Irish, completed the course in 20:14.5. She finished in 19th place and likewise garnered All-America honors — the second year in a row she earned such an accolade. Deeter and King are the only female Irish runners to have earned the coveted honors twice.

The post season began with promise for Notre Dame as the Irish claimed their first-ever Big East title at Boston's Franklin Park Nov. 1. In that meet, it was King's turn to lead the Irish. She garnered the individual title with 20:23 performance.

Following in the usual pattern, Huddle huddled close to King during the race and finished second in the Big East title competition.

SMC Cross Country

The Belles had trouble competing in the tough MIAA conference in the fall 2002 season. Saint Mary's finished seventh in a field of eight teams — Olivet did not field a team — at the MIAA Championships, hosted by Alma College. The Belles scored 195 points and were 178 points behind conference champion Calvin, who had 17 points. The Belles top finisher, freshman Laura Ficher finished 47th in a time of 25 minutes, 58 seconds — 3:46 off the pace. Saint Mary's teammate and team captain

Jackie Bauters finished just behind Ficher in 49th.

The next week at the NCAA Regionals at Ohio Northern University, the Belles grabbed a 30th-place finish. Bauters had the highest finish for the Belles at 126th, Ficher followed at 140th and junior Jessica Kosco came in at 176.

The highlight of the season for the Belles may have come at the MIAA Invitational, hosted by Saint Mary's, providing the only opportunity for the Belles to run on their home course. Again, Bauters paced the Belles with a 30th-place finish and Ficher followed in 35th.

Mens Soccer

The Irish mens soccer team continued its marked improvement during the tenure of coach Bobby Clark, entering the NCAA Tournament for the second straight year on the heels of an 11-4-3 regular season.

The season was highlighted with an early surge, getting out to a 3-0-2 start, including upsets over then-No. 6 Seton Hall (4-0) and then-No. 7 Furman (2-1 in double overtime). The Irish achieved their best ranking ever — No. 5 — the week following the win over the Pirates.

A tough road schedule wore down Notre Dame, with losses on the road at Bradley and St. John's and a tie at Rutgers.

The Irish were able to notch a key victory in the conference with its 2-1 thriller over Virginia Tech at Alumni Field. With the win and some help, the Irish prepared for a home Big East quarterfinal matchup with a familiar foe — the Hoyas of Georgetown. And the Hoyas bit back, eliminating the Irish with a 2-1 overtime shocker.

Nonetheless, the NCAA rewarded the results of Clark's squad with the first-ever home game for the Irish in the first round of the NCAA Tournament, against Akron, a team Notre Dame had already defeated earlier in the year.

The second time around provided the same end result — a Notre Dame victory, leading the team to its first NCAA Tournament win since 1996.

With the win, Notre Dame faced a historic matchup with Indiana in the second round.

In a hard-fought match, the Hoosiers scored early in the second half, and the Irish were unable to respond in a 1-0 loss.

The Irish finished the season with a 12-6-3 overall record.

ND Womens Soccer

The 2002 season was a frustrating one for the womens soccer team, as they struggled to a 13-8 record while being plagued by injuries all season long.

Notre Dame finished the year off strong, winning two games in the NCAA tournament before falling to top-ranked Stanford 1-0. The Irish opened the tournament with a win over Ohio State before exacting revenge over Purdue — a team Notre Dame lost to earlier in the season. The Irish came out in green jerseys against Stanford and played the Cardinal even for about 80 minutes before giving up the game-winner.

Several Irish players earned awards for their 2002 performances from the NSCAA. Sophomore Candace Chapman was named second-team All-American. Ashley Dryer was named to the Scholar All-America team and Chapman and junior Amy Warner were named to the All-Great Lakes Region

team.

Warner and classmate Amanda Guertin were the offensive leaders for the Irish, as Guertin led the team with 11 goals and 11 assists. Freshman Erika Bohn posted a solid first year in goal. Chapman led the defense that was especially hampered by injuries.

SMC Soccer

A year after the departure of first-year coach Bobby Johnston, Saint Mary's new coach Chris Pfau led the Belles to an up-and-down season in 2002. The Belles finished 7-10-2 and 5-7-2 in the MIAA for fifth place in the conference.

In one week from Oct. 8 to Oct. 16, the Belles dropped three straight conference matchups to Hope 2-0, Adrian 1-0 and conference champion Albion 1-0. Saint Mary's then followed up that disappointing week with a string of three straight victories over MIAA opponents Alma, Olivet and Kalamazoo.

The Belles then wrapped up the season with a pair of tough losses to Calvin 1-0 and Hope 3-0.

Midfielder Jen Concannon, who led the Belles in each major category with 12 goals, six assists and 30 points, was named first team All-MIAA. The sophomore finished third in the conference in goals and points behind Calvin's Tricia Dyk and Hope's Dawn Gillam in both categories.

ND Volleyball

After being named a host for the first and second rounds of the NCAA Tournament, the Irish appeared to be in good shape to advance to the Sweet 16 for the first time since 1995.

But Michigan State had other plans.

The Spartans came into the Joyce Center and plain out dominated the Irish winning 30-28, 30-20, 30-23, ending Notre Dame's 36-match home winning streak.

The postseason disappointment overshadowed an otherwise successful season that saw the Irish (24-8, 11-2 in the Big East) win its seventh Big East regular season and postseason Championships. Lauren Kelbley won the Big East Rookie of the Year honor and was named to the All Big-East second team. Emily Loomis earned a spot on the All Big East first-team and setter Kristen Kinder was also on the second team.

SMC Volleyball

It was a disappointing 2002 season for the Belles, who finished the year with a 7-21 record and a 1-13 mark in the MIAA.

Saint Mary's got off to a rough start, but found a bit of a groove during the month of October. For the first three weeks of the month, the Belles went 4-3 with victories over Manchester College, Tri-State University, MIAA foe Olivet and Rochester College.

But even with the wins, the Belles were unable to carry over the momentum into the post-season, as they dropped their last four straight matches to MIAA competition. Included in this streak was a loss in the first round of the MIAA tournament to Calvin College 20-30, 15-30, 13-30.

Junior Alison Shivek finished the season with 180 kills and 350 digs to lead the team in both categories. Sophomore Bridget Wakaruk paced the Belles in sets with 554.



CHIP MARKS/The Observer

Irish forward Erich Braun sends the ball across the field in a match against Michigan State in the fall.

Elise Rupright, who was named to the All-MIAA team as an honorable mention, led the team in hitting percentage with .203 and blocks with 88.

SMC Golf

The fall 2002 season was one to be remembered as the Belles captured the MIAA womens golf crown and rose to No. 11 in the Golfstat.com Division III rankings.

The season started on a high note as the Belles set a school record with a 342 one-day total in the Ferris State Invitational in an eighth-place finish in the event.

The Belles would lower that mark to a record-low 323 before the end of the season.

Playing at the Zolner Golf Course in Angola, Ind., the Belles used a first place finish from sophomore Julia Adams en route to capturing the MIAA title by 10 strokes over second-place Hope. Adams finished as the course medalist with a two-round total of 161.

Close behind Adams were teammates Stefanie Simmerman in fourth place with a 165 and Meg Mattia in fifth with a 171.

Adams, Simmerman, Mattia, Liz Hanlon and Chrissy Dunham were named to the All MIAA team for the Belles.

Saint Mary's wrapped up their fall season with an impressive win over third-ranked DePauw in a first-place finish in the Tri-State Invitational, the Belles fifth consecutive tournament victory of the season.

The spring season for the Belles continued with the NCAA Championships, held during the past week. At press time, the Belles had climbed to sixth on the leaderboard in the tournament, and Simmerman was in a tie for first place individually.

Hockey

For the second straight season, the Irish turned around a disappointing first half of the season with a strong finish to reach the CCHA Super Six in Detroit. The trip to Joe Louis Arena in Detroit marked the third consecutive year the Irish have advanced to the Super Six.

After a respectable 9-7-3 start that saw the Irish contend against such national powers as

Boston College and Michigan, Notre Dame struggled through a rough nine-game winless streak in the heart of CCHA play.

But the Irish came back to life to close out the regular season 6-2 — all games in the CCHA.

Notre Dame then traveled to Oxford, Ohio, for a first round CCHA series with Miami. After dropping the first game 4-2, the Irish stormed back 5-0 and 1-0 on the strength of a pair of shutouts from goaltender Morgan Cey to win the best-of-three series.

The Irish season ended in the first round of the Super Six with a tough 3-2 loss to Ohio State.

Right wing Rob Globke paced the Irish in scoring during the 2002-03 season with 20 goals and 15 assists for 35 points. The junior's 20 goals were good enough for 7th in the CCHA. Globke also had four game-winners during the season.

SMC Basketball

The Saint Mary's basketball team did not have the season they hoped for, finishing with an overall record of 6-20 (2-12 in the MIAA). Their season ended against then-undefeated Hope in the first round of the conference tournament, as they were defeated 77-50 in Holland, Mich.

Sophomore Emily Creachbaum led the way for the Belles, leading the team in scoring and rebounding (12.3 points, 5.8 rebounds). She will be joined next year by rising sophomores Anne Hogan (6.8 points, 4.6 rebounds per game) and Bridget Boyce (7.0 points per game). Katie Miller (4.2 points, 2.0 assists per game) will be the only senior on next year's Belles squad.

The Belles return a core of three freshmen (Boyce, Hogan and Audrey Gajor) who gained valuable experience this year on the court, as they were able to get a taste of the college game. They will be joined by five returning sophomores, led by Creachbaum, Katie Boyce (4.7 points per game, 51 steals) and center Maureen Bush (5.8 points, 2.9 rebounds per game).

Creachbaum was named to the all-MIAA second team, while Katie Boyce and Miller were named coaches' honorable mention.

2003 IN REVIEW

Friday, May 16, 2003

The Observer looks back on Notre Dame and Saint Mary's winter and spring sports seasons

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Observer Staff Report

Mens Lacrosse

The Notre Dame mens lacrosse team had lofty expectations, but for the second straight year, those expectations fell short.

The Irish (9-5, 4-1 GWLL) began the season with three straight wins over ranked teams, but losses in the most important games ousted them from the top spot in the conference and from playoff contention.

The Irish offense put little and inconsistent pressure on No. 4 Maryland in the season finale. The Terrapins kept the ball in the Irish defensive zone for the majority of the game. The 10-4 loss put Notre Dame out of reach for an at-large bid to the 16-team NCAA tournament.

The mid-season loss to Ohio State was the backbreaker. With Ohio State losing just one league game to Denver, Notre Dame had no chance of regaining first place and an automatic bid. The Irish did not impress the selection committee despite winning four of their final five games and losing just two games at home.

Notre Dame played eight ranked teams this season and defeated three — No. 12 Loyola, No. 16 Penn and No. 23 Penn State.

Freshman Pat Walsh emerged as the top point man for the Irish this season with 20 goals and a team high 32 assists. He earned first-team all-GWLL honors and was named GWLL Newcomer of the Year.

Womens Lacrosse

With four games to go in the season, the womens lacrosse team was a frustrating 4-7, with all seven of their losses coming to ranked teams. Four wins later, the Irish ended their season on a high note by earning a winning record by beating No. 15 Vanderbilt 22-15, tying a school record for goals in a road game in the process.

The attack was led by senior Danielle Shearer, who eclipsed the Notre Dame records for career goals and career points. Shearer broke both records on Senior Day against Rutgers in 13-6 win. She had seven points in the win, including five first-half goals. Shearer, along with junior Meredith Simon, were named first-team All Big East, while junior Abby Owen and seniors Kelly McCardell and Jen White were named to the second team.

The Irish finished alone in third in the Big East, behind top ten teams Georgetown and Syracuse. Ranked in the top 10 in the preseason, the Irish were looking to dethrone the Hoyas. Although they fell a little short, they continued to build and will look to reach the top of the Big East in 2004.

Mens Tennis

For the Irish, the spring season started off much the same way that the spring semester did in South Bend — dimly.

Yet as the Irish reached the conclusion of the season, and as they rose up from their multiple trials, the team that had begun the season with the worst start in program history was on the verge of reaching their 13th consecutive NCAA Championships.

Unfortunately, their quest to redeem the season in that manner ended in the same way their season began — with a

thunderstorm. Yet the latter thunderstorm that cancelled the Big East Championships was real, not figurative like the first, and it washed away the hopes of a team that used to be shoe-in into the national championships.

Notre Dame began the season 0-4, including two 6-1 losses to Ohio State and Illinois. After that disheartening start, the young team began to improve its confidence and garner some more wins. Victory still did not come easy though — perhaps with the exception of the 6-1 Irish victory over Virginia Tech.

Notre Dame suffered numerous and frustrating losses against teams such as Duke, Florida State and Northwestern.

SMC Tennis

The Saint Mary's tennis team proved they still had what it takes to be champions in the 2002-03 season.

After dropping two conference dual matches for the first time in two years, the Belles ended the season with a first-place finish at the MIAA tournament.

The conference champions for the Belles included freshman Kristen Palombo at No. 2 singles, junior co-captain Kaitlin Cutler at No. 3, and junior Kris Spriggle at No. 4. The Belles also dominated the doubles competition. At the No. 2 spot, Cutler and senior co-captain Elisa Ryan won a conference championship, as did Spriggle and freshman Lindsay Cook at No. 3 doubles.

Saint Mary's (5-2 MIAA) was tied for second with Kalamazoo after the dual match season. The Belles finished second overall in the MIAA behind Albion, who went undefeated (7-0) in the regular season.

For the season the Belles posted an impressive 13-5 overall record. Several Belles were honored with awards at the conference meet. No. 1 singles player Jeannie Knish was named to the All-MIAA first team. Cutler and Palombo were both All-MIAA second team selections. Ryan was given the Sue Little Sportsmanship Award, becoming the only third winner from Saint Mary's in the award's 48-year history.

Mens Golf

It proved another disappointing season for the mens golf team in the spring of 2003. The Irish were unable to post a higher finish than eighth in the regular season. The chance for redemption came at the Big East Championships, hosted by Notre Dame at the Warren Golf Course, but the Irish fell just short of victory and an automatic bid into the NCAA Championships.

Notre Dame held a four-stroke lead over Virginia Tech heading into the final day of competition in the Big East Tournament, but the Irish were unable to hold off the Hokies, falling to second two strokes behind.

Freshman Scott Gustafson gave a stellar performance for the Irish, finishing tied for second at 221 strokes for the 54-hole tournament. Gustafson was the leader after the first day of competition, but could not hold the lead as he fell 12 strokes behind champion Brandon De Jonge of Virginia Tech.

Rounding out the scores for the Irish were senior Brandon Lunke, tied for fourth place at 222 strokes, freshman Mark

Baldwin in sixth with 224 strokes, freshman Tommy Balderston in 7th at 226 strokes and freshman Eric Deutsch tied for 11th with 230 strokes.

The highest finish for the Irish during the spring, not including the Big East Tournament, was a pair of eighth place results at the Big Red Classic in Ocala, Fla., and the Bruce Fossum/TaylorMade Classic in East Lansing, Mich.

Gustafson had the best scoring average for the Irish during the year at 74.88 strokes. The best round of the season was a three-under 69 posted by Deutsch.

ND Womens Golf

In her second season, womens golf coach Debby King was looking to see improvement in her program as she hopes to build Notre Dame into a strong golf school. While some tournaments were better than others this year, the Irish can look to their win at the inaugural Big East Womens Golf Championship to see that they are headed in the right direction.

Led by freshman Katie Brophy, who tied for medalist honors, the Irish cruised to a 44-stroke victory over top-seeded Miami. The Irish took advantage of windy and cold weather conditions on their home course to run away from Miami and the other teams in the field during the first two rounds.

The Big East Championship was the second tournament win for the Irish on the year, and the second event where Brophy earned the individual win. The Irish team won the Notre Dame Invitational in the fall, earning the title at their home tournament for the second time in three years.

Brophy, meanwhile, won the Peggy Kirk Bell Invitational in Florida in March for her first college tournament title. After struggling some with adapting to college golf in the fall, Brophy raised her game to another level in the spring, leading the Irish in scoring average for the year in addition to winning the two events.

The Irish should continue to improve. In addition to Brophy, three other freshmen played well for the Irish as Sarah Bassett, Lauren Gebauer and Suzie Hayes all had strong performances. Junior Shannon Byrne led the returning contingent of Irish players, as she continued her streak of playing in every tournament throughout her first three years, and finished third individually at the Big East Championship. Senior Terri Taibl, junior Rebecca Rogers and sophomore Karen Lotta also made major contributions for the Irish.

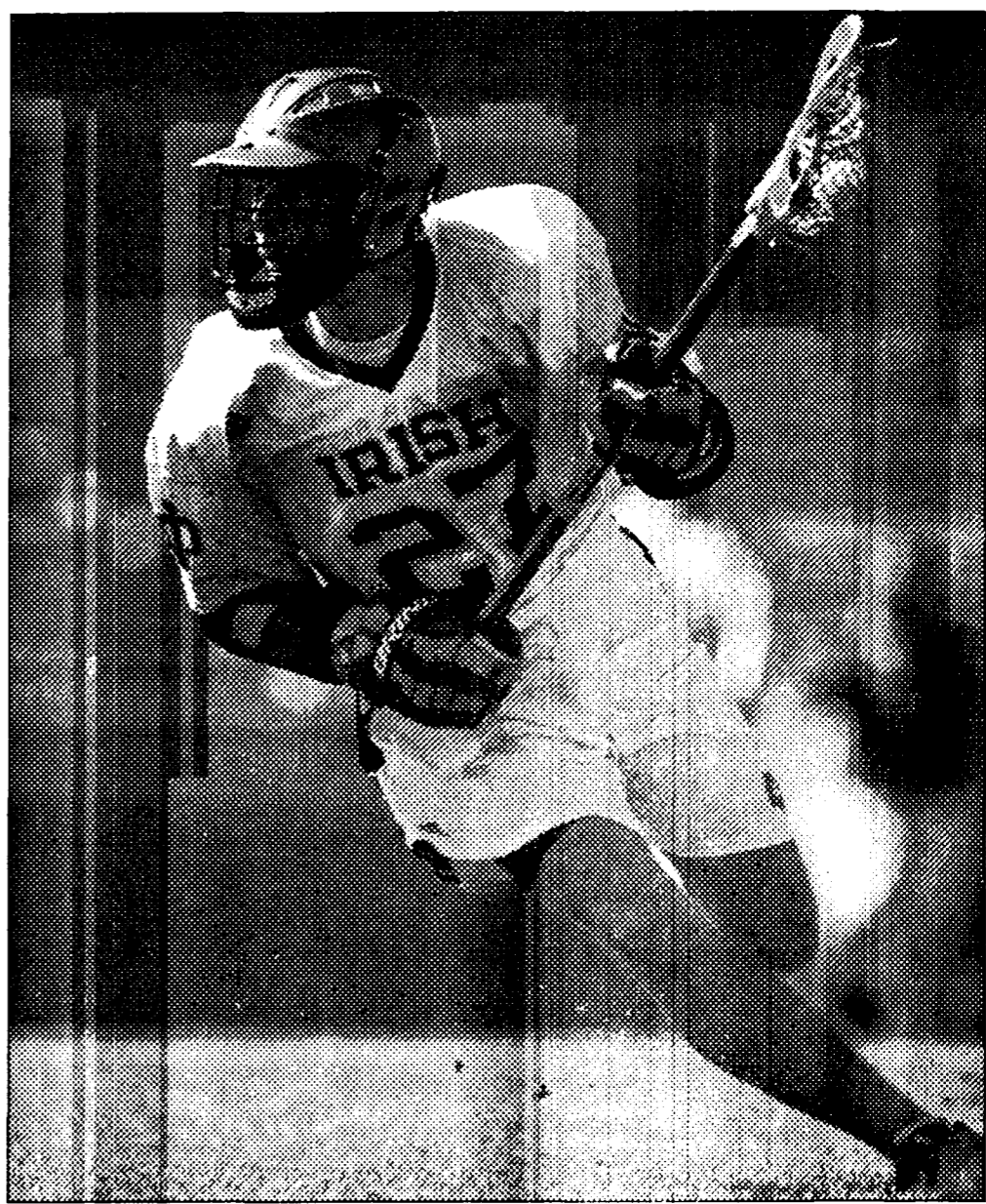
SMC Softball

Teams often feel comfortable at home. They must define themselves and realize their potential in non-conference games and road match-ups.

The Saint Mary's softball team proved it could win on the road at the start of the season but could not get the job done at home.

Despite the addition of optimistic first-year coach Anna Welsh, the Belles could not maintain their winning ways of the early season.

The Belles dove from third place to sixth place in the MIAA by losing its final seven games and nine of its last ten. The Belles (15-17-1, 4-8 MIAA) fin-



CHIP MARKS/The Observer

Irish midfielder Craig Bishko runs with the ball in a match against Air Force on April 12.

ished above only Adrian (12-22-0, 4-9) and Kalamazoo (6-25-0, 1-13).

Saint Mary's fell apart after jumping out to an 8-2-1 record during a four-day road trip to Fort Myers, Fla. The Belles outscored opponents 65-24. The Belles returned home and split a doubleheader with Bethel College to move to 9-3-1. Still, a late season debacle eliminated any hope of postseason play for a team that struggled to find a rhythm, especially on offense.

Alma's Melissa Tavidian pitched her second no-hitter of the season versus a struggling Saint Mary's team that was outscored by opponents 55-14 in its final seven games.

Saint Mary's defeated Kalamazoo 5-1 and 2-1 on April 2 and the season went downhill from that point on. While the Belles managed to split with Albion, Hope and St. Mary's of the Woods, Saint Mary's lost doubleheaders to Adrian, Marian, Calvin and Alma.

Mens Swimming

The Notre Dame mens swimming and diving team got a step closer to the top of the heap during the 2002-03 season. The Irish posted a fourth-place finish at the Big East Championships and were 6-8 in dual meets. Notre Dame won the Notre Dame Invitational, beating out a field of 10 teams.

Sophomore Frank Krakowski set new marks in the 50 freestyle and the 100 butterfly. Freshman Jamie Lutkus broke the old record in the 400 IM with his second-place finish at Big East (3:54.38). Matt Obringer set a new 200 free record, and senior Jason Fitzpatrick did the same in the 100 breaststroke.

The Irish concluded the year with a team banquet. Obringer was named team MVP. Three swimmers were named Most Improved: Krakowski, Bauman and freshman Patrick Davis. Senior diver Andy Maggio was honored with the Knute Rockne Scholar-Athlete award for his athletic and academic accomplishments.

ND Womens Swimming

At this point, Bailey Weathers

and his swimmers will not accept anything but the best. This season they again matched their expectations.

Led by juniors Danielle Hulick and Lisa Garcia and a slew of other top performers, the women captured their seventh consecutive Big East championship in Uniondale, N.Y.

Notre Dame finished with 730 team points. Rutgers followed in second with 580 and Miami placed third with 469.

Notre Dame (9-1-1) led second-place Rutgers at the Nassau Aquatic Center, 501-428, after two days of competition. A few words of encouragement from Weathers later, the Irish had themselves another title.

Notre Dame had 16 swimmers score on the final day, capped off by a victory in the 400 freestyle relay — the evening's last event — by the team of Katie Eckholt, Courtney Choura, Heidi Hendrick and Hulick in 3:21.18.

Garcia, who holds the Notre Dame record in the 200 butterfly of 1:59.28, won the 200 butterfly with a time of 2:01.02. She also won the 200 IM.

Freshman Christel Bouvron (54.57) and Lisa Garcia (54.90) finished second and third in the 100 butterfly.

Hulick (55.56), Kristen Peterson (56.13), Kara Santelli (56.34) and Sarah Alwen (56.73) finished third, fourth, fifth and sixth, respectively, in the 100 backstroke.

SMC Swimming

The Saint Mary's swimming team struggled to finish consistency throughout their regular season, ending the year at 3-4 and 2-4 in the MIAA.

The Belles opened the season by taking fifth out of six teams at the Notre Dame relays. The team was led by junior Meghan Ramsey, who nearly made it to the national meet and broke the school record in the 100-meter butterfly. She was the most consistent swimmer for Saint Mary's throughout its season.

Fellow Belle Kelly Nelis also broke a school record in the 200-meter freestyle with a time of 1:59.21 seconds. Three other Belle relay teams broke school records throughout the 2002-03 campaign.

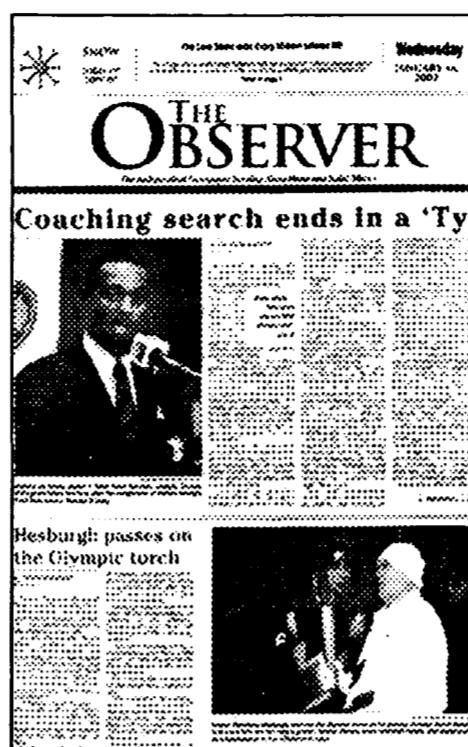
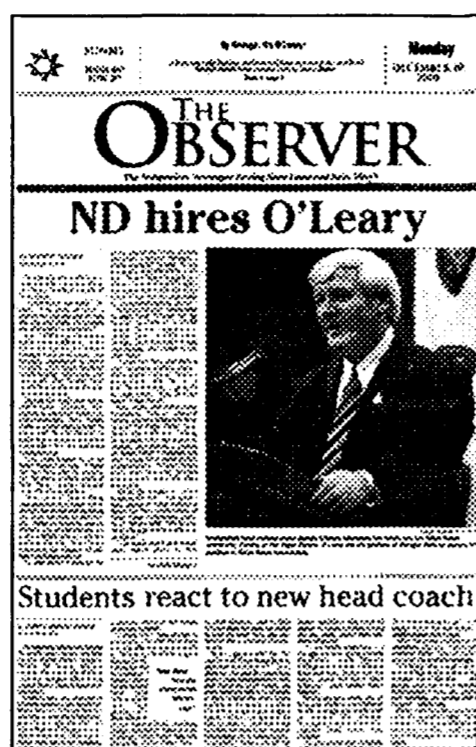
FOUR YEARS IN REVIEW

Friday, May 16, 2003

The Top 10 Observer sports stories from the 1999-2003 academic years

page 36

1



Humiliating coaching search follows Davie firing

December 2001

On Dec. 2, 2001, after a 5-6 season, athletic director Kevin White fired football coach Bob Davie and the search began for a new coach to lead the Irish back to prominence.

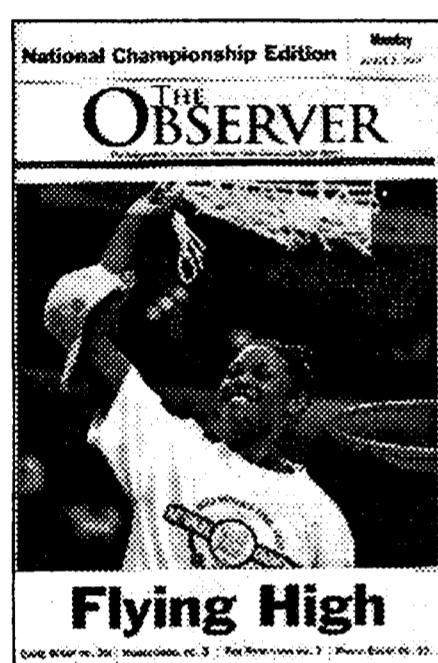
At a public press conference on Dec. 9, over 1,500 fans welcomed new football coach George O'Leary, a man who found his dream job at Notre Dame.

However, O'Leary's tenure with the Irish lasted just five days before he was forced to resign for lying on his resume.

After over two weeks of national embarrassment, another 16-day coaching search finally led White to Stanford and Tyrone Willingham, who White announced as head coach on New Year's Day.

2

Womens hoops wins national title



With 5.8 seconds remaining and the NCAA Championship game tied at 66, Ruth Riley calmly hit two free throws to lead Notre Dame to the 2001 women's basketball national championship.

Thousands of fans showed up to welcome the team back and President George W. Bush honored the team two weeks later at the White House.

April 1, 2001

3

Willingham leads Return to Glory



In his first year as head coach, Tyrone Willingham leads the Irish to an 8-0 start. His 10 wins were the most by a first-year Notre Dame football coach.

The season's top wins included a defeat of No. 6 Michigan at Notre Dame Stadium and a win at No. 11 Florida State.

Fall 2002

4

Irish go to CWS, first trip since '57



It took an improbable victory over No. 1 Florida State at Tallahassee, but the Irish found a way to reach their first College World Series since 1957.

The team played well in Omaha, beating Rice on a walk-off home run and losing twice to a tough Stanford team. They also won 50 games, a new team record.

June 15-18, 2002

5

Brey-coached Irish find Sweet success



As a five seed in the West Regional, Mike Brey leads the mens basketball team to the Sweet 16 for first time since 1987.

Brey took over as head coach in 2000 and has steadily improved the basketball program. Under his guidance, his teams have qualified for three straight NCAA Tourneys.

March 2003

6

Coaches exit SMC revolving door



In a two and a half month period, three Saint Mary's coached resigned.

The athletic department, which can barely pay its head coaches \$6,000 a year, has been unable to attract and retain quality coaches. Bobby Johnson, John Ganef and Theresa Pekarek all left Saint Mary's during the spring.

Spring 2002

7

Berticelli dies of heart attack



Irish mens soccer head coach Mike Berticelli died suddenly of a heart attack.

Berticelli, 48, coached the Irish for 10 of his 23 years as head coach and compiled a 104-80-19 overall record. Berticelli led his team to the 1996 Big East Championship title and three NCAA tournament appearances.

January 25, 2000

8

Wadsworth resigns as AD



When Michael Wadsworth resigned as athletic director, University President Edward Malloy announced a restructuring of the athletic department.

Later that year, Malloy named Kevin White the new athletic director and said White would report directly to him.

February 7, 2000

9

Fencing finally wins national title



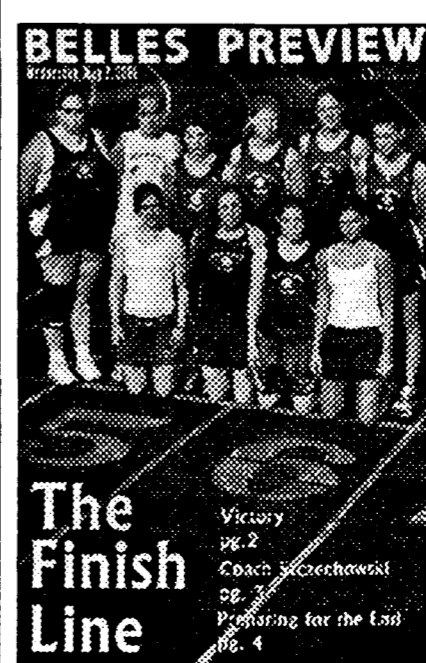
Having finished second or third in the country every year since its last national title in 1994, the Irish were able to finish the job and win the 2003 national title.

Janusz Bednarski took over for Yves Auriol and led the Irish to its sixth national title in his first season as head coach of the Irish.

March 23, 2003

10

Saint Mary's cuts track program



Under the recommendation of athletic director Lynn Kachmarik, Saint Mary's President Marilou Eldred decided to discontinue the track and field program following the 2001 season.

Kachmarik made the decision, in part, to keep two full-time coaches

February 1, 2001

THE YEAR IN SPORTS

2002 2003

1st

Aug. 31: Notre Dame football coach Tyrone Willingham leads the Irish to a 22-0 victory over Maryland at the Kickoff Classic in his first game as head coach.

September

Sept. 6-8: At the Notre Dame Classic, the No. 6 Irish womens soccer team fail to score a goal in two matches against nationally ranked opponents losing to No. 13 Santa Clara 4-0 and No. 19 Portland 1-0.

Sept. 9: After defeating No. 6 Seton Hall two days earlier, the Notre Dame mens soccer team moves up to fifth in the country and ties its highest ranking in school history.

Sept. 14: Coming into the game without an offensive touchdown, No. 24 Notre Dame scores three offensive touchdowns to upset No. 6 Michigan 25-23 at Notre Dame Stadium and jump to No. 12 in the country.

Sept. 14: The Irish volleyball team records its first victory over a top-10 opponent since 1995 defeating No. 10 Pepperdine 3-2 at the Joyce Center.

October

Oct. 20: The Irish mens soccer team wins their fourth straight match, this time upending No. 5 Connecticut 3-1 behind two Greg Martin goals. The victory was Notre Dame's first over the Huskies since 1996.

Oct. 26: Looking to prove the doubters wrong, No. 6 Notre Dame defeats No. 11 Florida State 34-24 at Doak Campbell Stadium. The Irish improve to 8-0 with the win and move to third in the BCS standings.

November

Nov. 1: The Irish womens swimming team drops the final relay race and loses to Indiana 154-146. The loss broke Notre Dame's 17-meet unbeaten streak.

Nov. 1: Scoring a goal with 42 seconds remaining in the third period, the Notre Dame hockey team rallies to tie No. 4 Boston College 3-3 at the Joyce Center.

Nov. 1: Led by the one-two finish of Lauren King and Molly Huddle, the Irish womens cross country team wins its first Big East Championship. The mens team finished fourth.

Nov. 2: Willingham suffers his first loss as Notre Dame head coach when Boston College hangs on to defeat the Irish 14-7 at Notre Dame Stadium.

Nov. 23: In the third round of the NCAA Tournament, the No. 19 Notre Dame womens soccer team falls just short of its upset bid at No. 1 Stanford 1-0.

Nov. 24: Avenging a loss to the Hurricanes nine days earlier that snapped Notre Dame's 36-match Big East winning streak in volleyball, the Irish defeat Miami 3-1 to win its third straight and seventh overall Big East Tournament Championship.

Nov. 25: Huddle and King lead the Irish again, this time at the NCAA Championships, turning in All-American performances lifting the womens cross country team to a school-best third place finish.

December

Dec. 2-8: In one of the best weeks in Notre Dame mens basketball history, the Irish knock off No. 10 Marquette, No. 9 Maryland and No. 2 Texas to jump from unranked to No. 10 in the AP poll.

Dec. 8: After an embarrassing 44-13 loss at USC eight days earlier, Willingham and the Irish accept a bid to play in the Gator Bowl after being shutout of a BCS berth.

Dec. 8: Despite having the home-court advantage, the Notre Dame volleyball team loses 3-0 to Michigan State in the second round of the NCAA Tournament to end its home winning streak at 36 matches.

January

Jan. 1: With offensive linemen Jordan Black and Brennan Curtin and linebacker Courtney Watson unable to play, the Irish lose to North Carolina State 28-6 at the Gator Bowl.

Jan. 4: In what Notre Dame womens basketball coach Muffet McGraw referred to as the lowest point of the season, the No. 13 Irish fall on national television 71-54 to No. 7 Purdue at home, starting a four-game home losing streak.

February

Feb. 1: At the Notre Dame Duals, the No. 2 Irish mens fencing team defeats top-ranked Penn State 15-12. The second-ranked womens team drops its dual match to the Nittany Lions 16-11.

Feb. 8: Luke Watson runs the mile in a school-record time of 3 minutes, 57.83 seconds.

Feb. 9: No. 10 Notre Dame defeats No. 4 Pittsburgh 66-64 in the first meeting of top-10 mens basketball teams at the Joyce Center since 1980.

Feb. 22: The Irish womens swimming and diving team wins its seventh straight Big East Championship. The mens team takes fourth.

March

March 12: Continuing a late-season trend, the Irish mens basketball team fell behind by 21 at the half and couldn't recover, losing 83-80 at the Big East Tournament to St. John's at Madison Square Garden.

March 22: Irish mens basketball coach Mike Brey leads his team to its first Sweet Sixteen appearance since 1987, when Notre Dame outlasts Illinois 68-60. The Irish lost in the next round to Arizona.

March 23: After finishing second or third every year since 1994, the Notre Dame fencing team claims a national championship, finishing three points ahead of Penn State, 182-179, in James Bednarski's first year as head coach.

March 25: Notre Dame snaps Kansas State's 22-game home win streak by upsetting the Wildcats 59-53 to advance to the Sweet Sixteen. The Irish eventually lost to Purdue in the next round.

April

April 22: In the first womens Big East championship, the Notre Dame womens golf team wins the conference crown by 43 strokes. The mens team falters late and takes second.

April 26-27: Former Irish center Jeff Faine is selected by the Cleveland Browns with the 21st overall selection of the NFL Draft. Six other Notre Dame players were selected on the second day of the draft.

April 27: With the Big East title coming down to the final doubles match, the Irish womens tennis team wins that match 6-6 to clinch its fifth Big East crown, defeating Miami 4-3.

April 27: Claiming three first-place finishes, the Notre Dame rowing team ends up second at the Big East Rowing Challenge.

May

May 4: The Notre Dame mens track team becomes the first team in school history to win both the indoor and outdoor titles, defeating host Connecticut, 139-136.5. The womens team finishes second.

May 6: Notre Dame sophomore Chris Thomas declares himself eligible for the NBA Draft but doesn't hire an agent. Thomas says he will return for his junior season if he is projected to go outside the top 20.

May 10: Third baseman Andrea Loman hits a walk-off home run in the bottom of the ninth to give the Irish a 3-2 victory over Villanova to win the Big East Tournament in softball.

FOOTBALL

Willingham guides Irish back to winning ways in '02

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Sports Writer

Somewhere in between the New Year's Day 2002 press conference where he boldly proclaimed the Irish would win and the celebration at Florida State where the Irish showed they could win, Tyrone Willingham found his groove at Notre Dame.

Few could have blamed Willingham had the Irish continued their mediocre performance from the Bob Davie regime. Few could have blamed Willingham, who became the coach the Irish came crawling to after they initially passed over for George O'Leary, had he just waited a year for "Resumegate" to blow over.

But, as Irish fans would rapidly discover, that's not Willingham's way.

The signs were there, of course. After all, Willingham concluded his first meeting with a single PowerPoint slide that had "WIN" printed in huge letters.

Not until Willingham's Irish crushed defending ACC Champion Maryland 22-0 in the season opener, however, would Irish fans believe.

The success didn't stay in New Jersey. Shane Walton knocked away a 2-point conversion late in the fourth quarter to preserve a 25-23 win against Michigan. Against Michigan State, backup quarterback Pat Dillingham threw a short pass to Arnaz Battle, who magically turned a 6-yard slant into a 60-yard touchdown with just over a minute left to snatch victory — the team's first against the foe in six years — from the Spartans.

"I just want to win," Willingham said after the Irish beat the Wolverines, one of five ranked teams the Irish played in 2002. "I'm sorry it's so simple."

During the stretch, the media's magnifying glass settled over South Bend, yet Willingham



Tyrone Willingham leads the Irish football team onto the field before its game against Michigan Sept. 14. Willingham returned the Irish to success on the field in 2002, finishing with a 10-3 record.

didn't wilt. The Irish appeared on the cover of Sports Illustrated. "Return to Glory" wasn't just a T-shirt slogan, as national scribes applied the saying to Notre Dame's seemingly miraculous turnaround.

After all, this was a team that had two losing seasons in the last three years. But, almost inexplicably, the Irish still found a way to win. Behind an opportunistic defense — a phrase the unit loathed — that forced

turnover after turnover to set up a struggling offense, the Irish simply refused to lose.

So by the time the Irish embarrassed Florida State in the Sunshine State 34-24 to earn a No. 4 ranking, fans started to

mention the words "national championship" and "Notre Dame" in the same sentence.

Prematurely, as it turned out. The next week, the Irish inexplicably fumbled seven times in a 14-7 loss to Boston College,

their first of the season. A week later, Notre Dame had to mount a fourth-quarter rally to beat lowly Navy.

Then, with the national spotlight fixed brightly on Southern California and a BCS berth hanging in the balance, USC absolutely embarrassed Notre Dame by tallying 610 yards of offense en route to a 44-13 drubbing. Trojan quarterback Carson Palmer won the Heisman Trophy, USC secured a berth in the lucrative Orange Bowl and the Irish were left with a lot of questions and a Gator Bowl berth.

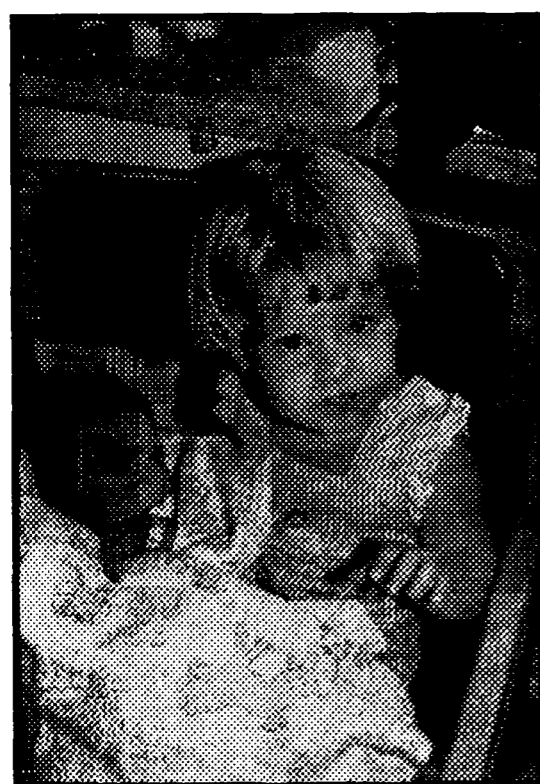
The bleeding didn't end there. Another lopsided loss, this time a 28-6 beating at the hands of North Carolina State on New Year's Day, made an 8-0 start appear a thing of the past.

Yet Willingham and the Irish, who finished the season 10-3 and ranked 17th, weren't deterred. And NFL teams took note of the Irish prospects, as seven Irish prospects — the most since 1999 — were selected in the NFL Draft.

And so Willingham, who maintained as steady a perspective in the latter stages of the season as he did in Notre Dame's hot start, remained confident the Irish could prove the 2002 success wasn't a one-year fluke.

"Someone told me once, 'You're never as high as they say you are, and you're never as low as they say you are,'" the coach said at one point during the season. "If we keep our focus on what we have to do, we'll be OK."

Contact Andrew Soukup at
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SPORTS

Friday, May 16, 2003

OUTSTANDING SENIOR ATHLETES

Best of the Class

◆ Watson steps out of the shadows to be Notre Dame's top runner

By CHRIS FEDERICO
Sports Writer

Ask people what they consider the greatest accomplishment in sports, and running a four-minute mile is likely to be high on that list.

For years, people thought the feat was impossible. But on May 6, 1954, a now famous British physician named Roger Bannister shattered that belief by completing the mile race in 3 minutes, 59.4 seconds.

In the 49 years since that day, nearly 1,000 people in the world have accomplished the feat.

And on Feb. 8, Notre Dame senior Luke Watson joined that prestigious list by conquering the Mevo Mile in a time of 3:57.83 against an extremely competitive field — four other runners broke the four-minute mile mark in the race.

"[The four-minute mile] has been a career long goal of mine," said Watson, The Observer's 2002-03 Notre Dame Senior Male Athlete of the Year. "To accomplish that was tremendous. I was really happy to just get that done and etch my name in with that



Luke Watson and Andrea Loman have been named The Observer's 2002-03 Outstanding Notre Dame Senior Male and Female Athletes of the Year.

see WATSON/page 24



◆ Loman leads by example to get the job done

By MATT LOZAR
Associate Sports Editor

Compare Andrea Loman, The Observer's 2002-03 Outstanding Notre Dame Senior Female Athlete of the Year, to last year's recipient Jarrah Myers, and the scorebook shows striking similarities.

Throughout their four-year careers, both Loman and Myers played their way into the top five for batting average, runs, home runs, walks, RBI, steals and fielding percentage in the Notre Dame record book.

But then you talk to softball coach Deanna Gumpf and she explains the two star players couldn't be any more different.

"Jarrah was very intense and was the heart and soul of the while 'Drea is very a quiet leader. She gets in there and does her job," Gumpf said. "They are different types of leaders but effective. Two of the most opposite types of leaders."

Myers needed to be more of a leader on the field, especially her senior year, calling her own pitches and catching a pitching staff that relied on two freshmen. This season,

see LOMAN/page 32

Ryan's aggressive play results in tennis success

◆ Belles senior helps lead team to third MIAA conference crown

By JOE HETTLER
Sports Editor

Elisa Ryan doesn't think she plays tennis like most of her competitors. That's probably because she thinks she plays the game like a guy.

"The way I play is different than the way most of the girls in our conference play," said Ryan, The Observer's 2002-03 Outstanding Saint Mary's Senior Athlete of the Year. "It's a little less accurate, which is negative, but it's a lot more aggressive. I play like a boy to an extent."

No matter what style she may play, it

has worked for the Saint Paul, Minn. product throughout her career as a Belle. Ryan's helped lead Saint Mary's to three straight MIAA championships. She's won the conference title at No. 6 and No. 5 singles during her career, as well as at No. 3 and No. 2 doubles. A two-time captain of the Belles squad, Ryan has been a difference maker in pushing Saint Mary's to the top of the MIAA tennis standings every season.

"She brings the most spirit to the team," Saint Mary's tennis coach Dee Stevenson said. "She's the one that goes out and gets people pumped up and

enthused every day."

Learning early

It didn't take long for Ryan to become interested in tennis. When she could barely hold a racket, Ryan and her family would watch their dad play at the local tennis courts. In between sets, Ryan and her sister would get a chance to grab a racket and hit some balls. As she grew older, Ryan and a male friend would practice and play against each other. This helped mold

Ryan's aggressiveness and athleticism, which she would use to mow down her opponents in college.

"The best basketball players are the rugged ones, the ones that play pickup ball," Ryan said. "I play dirty, scrappy, pickup tennis. I play ticked off sometimes and my stroke isn't as graceful as other girls, but at the same time, athletically, I think I'm more well-rounded."

Ryan credits her intense summer tennis matches as good preparations for high school and college tennis. Each summer, Ryan would travel around the Midwest to play other highly-competitive girls, and at one point was ranked as high as No. 17 in the Midwest's 18-year old and under division. This competition made Ryan battle-tested for college tennis.

"If you look around the conference, all the big name players have played on the USTA summer tour," Ryan said. "It's

see RYAN/page 25

"She's the one that goes out and gets people pumped up and enthused every day."

Dee Stevenson
Belles coach

SPORT AT A GLANCE

ND MENS TRACK

Notre Dame wins Big East Championships

The mens team won 2nd Big East title of the year.

page 29

BASEBALL

Notre Dame at Virginia Tech

Saturday-Sunday

The Irish close out the Big East regular season.

page 28

ROWING

Central Regions Saturday-Sunday

The seniors have one last chance to qualify for NCAA Championships.

page 24

ND SOFTBALL

NCAA Regionals Thursday-Sunday

The Irish look to qualify for their first College World Series.

page 23

WOMENS TRACK

Notre Dame 2nd at Big East Championships

A number of Notre Dame athletes earn individual honors.

page 22

ND WOMENS TENNIS

Vanderbilt 4 Notre Dame 0

The No. 21 Irish lose in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

page 22