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Students promote Sudan awareness

Group distributes green ribbons as part of a two-step plan to inform others of the genocide

By JEN ROWLING
News Writer

A group of Notre Dame students has collaborated on campus to build awareness and take action against the atrocities in Sudan.

Senior Stephanie Aberger, one of the founders of the group, said this group was a collaboration of many ideas.

"It was originally a sub committee of Peace Collation but grew into a bigger group drawing from students from groups all over the campus," Aberger said. "What happened was that individuals with different ideas about organizing Sudan events

came together and determined that there was a need for an umbrella organization to oversee and coordinate events regarding the Sudan."

The group has formulated a two-step plan, awareness and action, to battle the situation in Sudan. Currently the group is in the awareness phase while finalizing plans for action.

"The campaign is now focused on raising awareness — making people aware that genocide is happening right now," Aberger said.

Patrick Corrigan, an original member of the Notre Dame Sudan Steering

see RIBBONS/page 6



GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

The Notre Dame Sudan Steering Committee are distributing green ribbons to promote genocide awareness.

OIT hails tech plan a success

By AMANDA MICHAELS
Associate News Editor

The Office of Information Technologies is hailing the deal with SBC Communications to install a new Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) network as Notre Dame's move to join the technological wave of the future, and is optimistically looking toward the five-year transition to the new system.

Negotiations for the VoIP network — which will be one of the largest of its kind in the country — began approximately a year ago, and the contract was signed in early fall, according to OIT's chief technology officer and assistant provost DeWitt Latimer.

The new system boasts a unified mailbox — allowing users to read their voicemail from their e-mail client and listen to their e-mail on their phone — "click-to-call" functionality from computers, "find me, follow me" call routing options and a "plug-and-play" service for the addition of new phones and service and location changes.

"It [the VoIP system] is going to be the technology of choice," DeWitt said. "All the features it makes possible are viewed as future needs that our users are going to want. Not all of them will be necessary at first, but over next five to seven years, they will become more and more common for [the] entire user community."

Officials are currently debating whether to extend the service to students, or keep it isolated to faculty, staff and administrators. DeWitt said the

see OIT/page 6



CHUY BENITEZ/The Observer

Students play water polo as a club sport. However, water polo is one club sport that is not covered by MegaLife's Insurance.

University reviews MegaLife insurance

Policies do not cover all intramural sports

By TRICIA de GROOT
News Writer

For the past 20 years, MegaLife Insurance Company has served as the insurance provider for Notre Dame undergraduate and graduate students, but it was not until shortly before this academic year that the University came to the understanding that MegaLife did not cover all club sports.

Although many of the 29 club sports affiliated with the University are covered by MegaLife, those in which students are traveling and competing — rather than partici-

pating on campus — are not.

"Mega has always covered our 'club' sports that act like intramurals on campus and only Notre Dame student participants," said director of University Health Services Ann Kleva. "It was an unfortunate assumption by the athletic department that Mega covered any club sport."

The actual policy was identified this year when an undergraduate parent was considering purchasing MegaLife for her child who wanted to play organized intercollegiate sports, Kleva said. The parent contacted

see MEGALIFE/page 3

Notre Dame celebrates International Education Week

Association of International Educators names University's abroad programs among the top 13 in the nation

By ADRIENNE RUFFNER
News Writer

As International Awareness week came to a close at Notre Dame, executive director of the Alliance for International Educational and Cultural Exchange Michael McCarry spoke Friday at a forum on international policy and its effects on American higher education.

The weeklong celebration coincided with a report released by the Association of International Educators naming Notre Dame's study abroad programs among the top 13 in American universities.

McCarry, a 1971 Notre Dame alumnus, described his involve-

ment as a foreign service officer in the U.S. Information Agency and answered students' questions about his experiences and about general U.S. policy.

He emphasized the importance of international study not only for personal experience but also for widening students' understandings of international relations.

The report praised the programs' vast curriculum and students' enthusiasm about studying abroad.

McCarry cited statistics comparing the number of American students abroad to the number of foreign students in the United States.

"[About] 575,000 foreign students study here each year, while only 175,000 Americans study

abroad each year," McCarry said. "More American students should

study abroad to expand their perspectives. This is why the recognition of Notre Dame is so important."

He also noted a proposal in Congress to establish a Lincoln Fellowship program,

which would help fund programs that send students abroad.

"Our national leaders are beginning to understand that study

"Our national leaders are beginning to understand that study abroad is really important. To me, that's a home run."

Michael McCarry
Alliance for International
Educational and Cultural
Exchange
executive director

abroad is really important," McCarry said. "To me, that's a home run."

After graduating from Notre Dame, McCarry studied in Melbourne, Australia as a Rotary Scholar. He noticed major differences

between American universities and more specialized Australian

universities. McCarry also spent a great deal of time traveling.

"I traveled and was hooked for life," McCarry said.

These experiences drew McCarry to the U.S. Information Agency. He worked in China shortly after the Tiananmen Square massacre and focused on reestablishing diplomatic relations between the United States and China through education.

The Alliance for International Educational and Cultural Exchange, where McCarry currently works, oversees 75 foreign exchange programs in the United States.

Contact Adrienne Ruffner at
aruffner@nd.edu

INSIDE COLUMN

A picture is worth...

It's tough to describe adequately a powerful picture with pedestrian words, but there are some times when it's worth trying. One I saw Saturday night deserves the effort, as it accomplishes what only the great pieces of art do — it tells the story of something seemingly unrelated to the subject matter that is terribly important.

Ken Fowler

Sports Writer

On the left, this photo shows Chilean President Ricardo Lagos and first lady Laura Bush smiling at reporters as they enter the ballroom in which an APEC gala dinner is about to commence. To the right, President Bush has stopped his progress, and he appears to be deciphering the reason for the commotion coming from the background.

He is stuck between going forward and turning back to resolve the problem.

In this case, his problem is that a Chilean police officer refused Bush's top on-site Secret Service agent entrance into the building. Clearly, a question of security arises when a foreign police force prevents the American president's personal security detail from escorting him into a large building.

Stuck with the options of either continuing on the path set before him — walking away from the confrontation and trusting a foreign force to maintain security and safety in what could be a dangerous situation — or going back and ending the possible security threat immediately, Bush chose the latter. Not surprised at the decision? Then picture is doing its job.

The scene that ensued was not as breathtaking as some have made it out to be. Bush reached into the pile and snapped his fingers, and the dispute was settled — the Chilean police would allow his Secret Service agent into the dinner. It took a little while for the scene to calm down, but Bush's presence was the deciding factor in how the situation would turn out.

In analyzing the sequence of events, maybe you will affectionately joke about the brazen attitude of our cowboy president and that he solves problems the way real people do.

On the other hand, the Pacers-Pistons brawl may come to mind, and you might think that the most powerful man in the world should not be meddling in the middle of a melee.

Whatever you think of the situation, the picture itself includes that story of something completely unrelated but incredibly important — a foreign leader walking ahead (to the left) as an American president, to the right, says "Hold on, I have to take care of something."

It demonstrates how tough decisions can tumult a president and a country, and it embodies the active, provocative policy of the Bush administration in foreign lands.

In a picture full of personifications, that's the overriding theme; in a world full of analogies, that's the main conflict of the day.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu.

CORRECTIONS

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT ARE YOU NOT THANKFUL FOR?



Tim Chlon
sophomore
Siegfried

"Organic Chemistry."



Landen LaSyone
sophomore
Dillon

"I'm thankful for everything."



Tara Makowski
Chloe Bekavak
sophomores
Badin

"The freezing weather in South Bend."



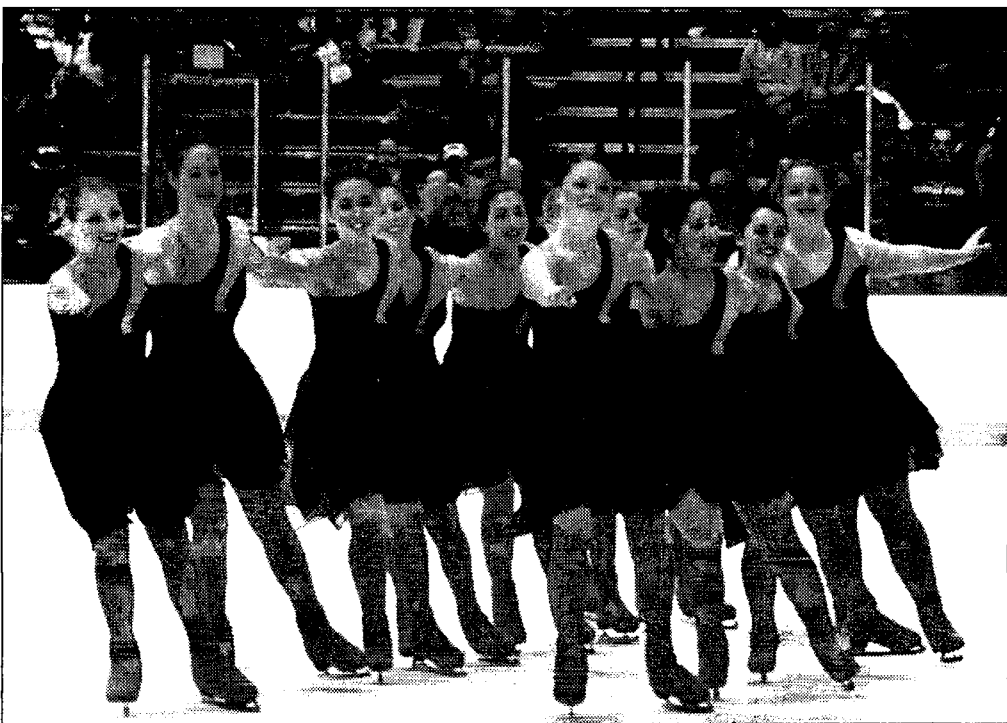
Lindsey Martin
freshman
Welsh Family

"The state of Ohio."



Tony Schweiss
sophomore
Morrissey

"Superman or the wind tunnel effect on South Quad."



JOANNA PAXTON/The Observer

Members of the Notre Dame figure skating club perform between the first and second periods at Friday's hockey game. The club was founded in 1997 under the Student Activities Office. One year later, it became a club sport under the University's RecSports program.

OFFBEAT

Norwegian senior roughs up purse snatcher

OSLO, Norway — A purse snatcher in a small Norwegian town picked the wrong 88-year-old woman to rob, since she was with a tough younger man at the time.

And her 78-year-old friend end up sending the thief to the hospital, and then to jail this week, the local newspaper Moss Avisen reported Friday.

The report said the thief was on a bicycle when he snatched the purse in Raade, a small town about 30 miles south of Oslo.

The 78-year-old man

reacted instantly, grabbing hold of the purse and struggling with the 30-year-old thief.

During the struggle, the senior citizen dragged the young man off his bike and onto the asphalt.

New crime grips Alabama: Potty tipping

DOTHAN, Ala. — A new crime has reared its stinky head in southeast Alabama: Potty tipping. Someone has been overturning portable toilets at four construction sites in the Dothan area, with one company reporting that

four or five were flipped in

a week. Several firms have complained.

"They are very upset about it," said police Capt. John Givens said. "And we want it to stop."

Givens said it costs companies to clean the mess. So officers plan to step up patrols in areas where the vandalism has occurred.

"We have started paying closer attention to those sites," Givens said.

Anyone caught vandalizing a portable toilet would be charged with criminal mischief, a misdemeanor.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

The lecture "Gender and Transgender Identities: Issues Faced by Transgender College Students" will be given today by Syracuse University professor Rob Pusch from 12 to 1 p.m. at Saint Mary's College in Stapleton Lounge.

The Notre Dame women's basketball team will take on Colorado State tonight at 7 p.m. in the Joyce Center Arena.

Kellogg fellow Michael Coppedge will give the lecture "The Conditional Impact of the Economy on Democracy in Latin America" on Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. in C-103 Hesburgh Center.

The seminar "An ice-active protein from an Antarctic nematode" will be given by David Wharton, associate professor of Zoology at the University of Otago, New Zealand on Tuesday at 4 p.m. in room 283 of the Galvin Life Science Building

The Saint Mary's basketball team will take on Manchester College on Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Angela Athletic Facility.

The Notre Dame men's basketball team will take on IPFW on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Joyce Center Arena.

The Notre Dame men's soccer team will play Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at Alumni Field against Ohio State in the second round of the NCAA tournament.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 48 LOW 28	HIGH 40 LOW 28	HIGH 50 LOW 35	HIGH 45 LOW 27	HIGH 34 LOW 22	HIGH 37 LOW 25

Atlanta 65 / 56 Boston 52 / 36 Chicago 49 / 36 Denver 53 / 23 Houston 76 / 68 Los Angeles 66 / 47 Minneapolis 44 / 30 New York 56 / 42 Philadelphia 56 / 38 Phoenix 58 / 44 Seattle 50 / 40 St. Louis 52 / 39 Tampa 82 / 66 Washington 46 / 23

Alumna named Professor of Year

Campbell Free selected for her outstanding teaching, commitment

Special to The Observer

Rhona Campbell Free, a University of Notre Dame graduate and professor of economics at Eastern Connecticut State University in Willimantic, has been named 2004 U.S. Professor of the Year.



Campbell Free

Selected for her outstanding teaching, commitment to undergraduate students and influence on teaching, Free received top honors in the master's universities and colleges category, which includes more than 600 colleges and universities nationwide. The award is presented annually by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Free is the second Notre Dame figure in three years to earn a U.S. Professor of the Year award. Chemist Dennis Jacobs, now a University vice president and associate provost, was honored in 2002 in the research and doctoral universities category.

"What makes Rhona Campbell Free unique is the creative and open approach

she brings to teaching," said John Lippincott, CASE president. "While she is deeply committed to her discipline of economics, she enthusiastically uses pedagogical approaches and tools more common to other disciplines to reach and motivate students. Dr. Free starts with the premise that all students can be successful in her economics courses, and her optimism enables her to devise different ways of reaching students whose levels of experience and interest vary."

A member of the economics faculty at Eastern Connecticut State University since 1983, Free earned her master's and doctoral degrees in economics from Notre Dame in 1980 and 1983, respectively. She is known for her innovative ideas and cross-disciplinary approaches to instruction. "Some professors take a difficult subject and complicate it," former student Mark Yeomans said. "It takes a special teacher to be able to take the same subject and make it accessible for all students."

Since 1981, the U.S. Professor of the Year program has recognized excellence in undergraduate teaching and mentoring. Campus provosts and academic vice presidents make nominations, and current and former students, colleagues and peers from other institutions participate in the selection.

"These U.S. Professors of the Year have distinguished themselves in their profession by their commitment to advancing knowledge and to motivating, inspiring, and empowering their students."

Lee S. Shulman
Carnegie Foundation
president

National winners in four categories receive a \$5,000 prize from the Carnegie Foundation.

"These U.S. Professors of the Year have distinguished themselves in their profession by their commitment to advancing knowledge and to motivating, inspiring and empowering their students," said Lee S. Shulman, president of the Carnegie Foundation. "Through their contribution to excellence in teaching and extraordinary dedication to their students, they have dignified and elevated the profession of teaching and created a legacy of knowledge and practice that others can build upon."

MegaLife

continued from page 1

department of risk management with her question about coverage, and the issue was brought to the attention of Kleva and the athletic department — leading to a change in the understanding of what activities are covered by the policy and the exact benefits of the plan.

The athletic department has been educated on what the student insurance plan entails, Kleva said, including an understanding of the difference between the insurance definition of intramural and club sports.

Many students also assume MegaLife covers all sports, Kleva said, but do not realize that club sports that involve travel — including water polo, sailing and crew — are not included in the package. Explicit information to the contrary is available, Kleva added.

"It is specifically stated annually in the insurance brochure under 'exclusions' that club sports are not covered," she said. "It is unfortunate that students don't read their brochure or check their policy, or attend educational classes that are offered to answer questions and to discuss their program."

In January 2005 there will be a reviewing of the current policy, Kleva said, in which MegaLife will provide the University with two plans, one with complete club sport coverage and one without the new consideration.

The Student Medical

Insurance Advisory Committee will be helping reevaluate the policy in the upcoming months and will take into consideration the expense increase a more inclusive plan would require, Kleva said. Unfortunately, it is predicted a more inclusive plan would be extremely expensive, possibly even prohibitively expensive, she said.

"We can only have one plan, as the number of students who would use the sport benefit is not high enough to bear the total financial risk," Kleva said.

Students playing club sports are not the only group the University will need to take into consideration during its review process.

Currently, there are 1,850 graduate students and 175 undergraduate students using MegaLife as their insurance provider. The University requires all graduate students either to enroll in the school-sponsored plan or to show proof of comparable insurance coverage, while such a mandate has not been established for the undergraduates.

Therefore, the needs of the graduate students, including allergy medicine coverage and increased coverage for nuclear medicine, must also be taken into consideration.

However, in the mean time, Health Services does not see the current plan as a problem.

"I have never received a question or complaint about this [club sports] exclusion while I have received many questions about other exclusions," Kleva said.

Contact Tricia deGroot
pdegroot@nd.edu.

**WANT TO SEE YOUR DESIGN ON THE BACK OF THE
"CHEERING THOUSANDS"?**

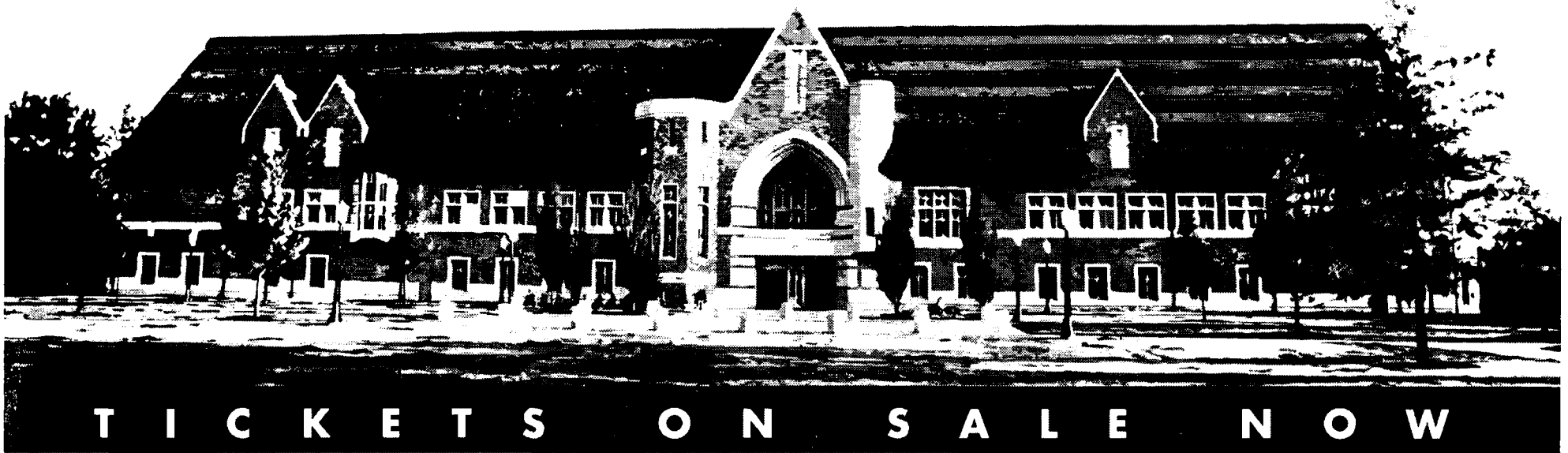
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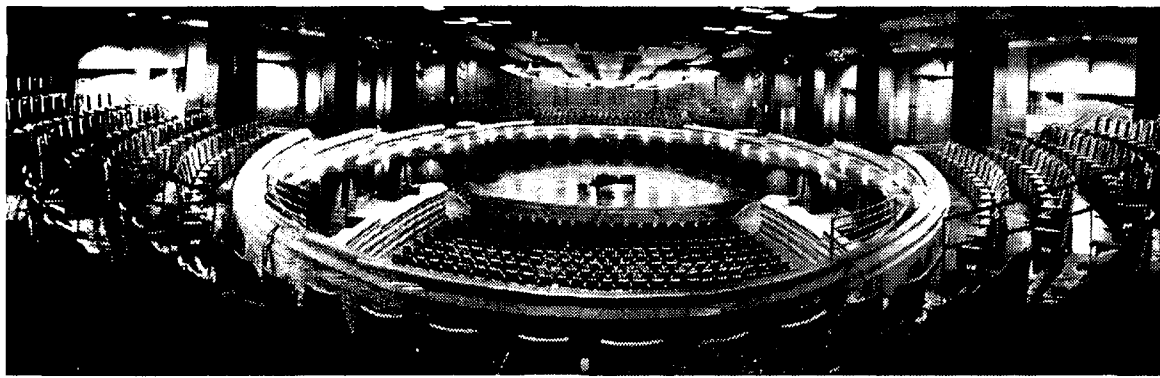
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DEADLINE: MONDAY, DECEMBER 6

**ALL DESIGN SUBMISSIONS MUST INCLUDE:
YOUR NAME, E-MAIL, AND PHONE NUMBER.
QUESTIONS? E-MAIL THESHIRT@ND.EDU**



DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC PRESENTS



Notre Dame Chorale and Chamber Orchestra

Thursday, December 2, 2004 at 8 p.m.
 Friday, December 3, 2004 at 8 p.m.
 Handel's Messiah
www.nd.edu/~music/ensembles/chorale.html
www.nd.edu/~music/ensembles/corch.html
 Leighton Concert Hall
 Tickets \$6, \$5 faculty/staff, \$3 all students

The Notre Dame Glee Club Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 4, 2004
 at 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
<http://gleeclub.nd.edu>
 Leighton Concert Hall
 Tickets \$6, \$5 faculty/staff, \$3 all students
 All proceeds benefit the Center for the Homeless.
www.cfhn.net

ND University Band

Sunday, December 5 at 3 p.m.
www.nd.edu/~ndband/
 Leighton Concert Hall
 Free and open to the public

ND Jazz Bands

Sunday, December 5 at 7 p.m.
www.nd.edu/~ndband/
 Leighton Concert Hall
 Free and open to the public

ND Collegium Musicum

Wednesday, December 8 at 8 p.m.
www.nd.edu/~music/ensembles/collegium.html
 Reyes Organ and Choral Hall
 Free and open to the public

D P A C PRESENTS

A CHRISTMAS CONCERT AND A CONCERT TO GIVE FOR CHRISTMAS



Empire Brass Christmas Concert

Friday, December 10 at 8 p.m.
<http://performingarts.nd.edu/empire.shtml>

Start your holiday season at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center with a Christmas Concert by The Empire Brass in the Leighton Concert Hall. These fabulous musicians will play some familiar holiday favorites as well as some music from Christmases past. There will even be a sing-a-long. The Empire Brass enjoys an international reputation as North America's finest brass quintet, renowned for its brilliant virtuosity and the unparalleled diversity of its repertoire.

Tickets \$44, \$35 faculty/staff, \$15 all students



The Chieftains

Sunday, January 30 at 8 p.m.
<http://performingarts.nd.edu/chieftains.shtml>
 Leighton Concert Hall

The first word in Irish Music is the Chieftains. In 1989 the Republic of Ireland appointed them the official musical ambassadors for Ireland. They have exported Irish music to every corner of the world and finally they come to Notre Dame. Their appearance is far overdue. There are a lot of groups who play traditional Celtic music, but they all owe a great debt to the Chieftains who paved the way for them. There are few concert experiences as completely fulfilling as an evening spent in their company.

Tickets \$48, \$38 faculty/staff, \$15 all students

N D PRESENTS

LIVE AT THE MORRIS



St. Petersburg State Ballet Theatre

performing *Romeo and Juliet*
 at the Morris Performing Arts Center
 Thursday, January 13 at 8 p.m.

A timeless love story danced by one of the leading ballet companies in Russia. This *Romeo* was choreographed by Serge Vikulov to the beautiful score by Sergei Prokofiev.

St. Petersburg State Ballet Theatre draws upon the long and storied history of Russian Ballet. Under the direction of Askold Makarov, former leading soloist of the Kirov Ballet, the company enjoyed a growing reputation for its ability to innovate while interpreting the classics of the Romantic period. After Makarov's death in 2000, Yuri Petukhov took the reins of the company and has considerably widened the scope of the company.

Tickets \$15-\$38

Call the Morris Performing Arts Center Ticket Office at 235-9190 or buy on line at www.MorrisCenter.org

Discounted tickets are underwritten by the Marie P. DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts. There are a limited number of student discounts available.



MARIE P. DEBARTOLO CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

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Call 574-631-2800

WORLD & NATION

Monday, November 22, 2004

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Violence continues in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Insurgents battled American troops in the streets of Baghdad on Saturday, killing a U.S. soldier in an ambush and gunning down four government employees in signals that the guerrillas remain a potent force despite the fall of their stronghold of Fallujah. Nine Iraqis also died in fighting west of the capital.

In Fallujah, where U.S. Marines and soldiers are still battling pockets of resistance, insurgents waved a white flag of surrender before opening fire on U.S. troops and causing casualties, Marine spokesman 1st Lt. Lyle Gilbert said Saturday without elaborating.

Al-Arabiya television quoted Iraqi guerrillas fleeing Fallujah as saying they had run out of ammunition and many fighters who stayed behind were badly wounded.

Scientists warn of fish toxins

SETE, France — Each day at 4 p.m., the trawlers come back, alive with giant bass, mackerel and squirming eels, at the end of a food chain that links family dinner tables to poisons in the sea.

Besides mercury which can damage the brains of fetuses and young children and can affect healthy adults, there are PCBs, dioxins and flame retardants with unknown long-term effects.

It is the same from ancient Mediterranean towns like Sete to big city docks in Asia, America's Gulf ports, or harbors in seemingly pristine Nordic waters. Industrial waste permeates every ocean.

Although rich in omega-3 fatty acids vital to the heart and brain, many fish contain toxins that build up over time in the human body.

NATIONAL NEWS

House passes \$388-billion bill

WASHINGTON — Republicans whisked a \$388 billion spending bill through the House on Saturday, a mammoth measure that underscores the dominance of deficit politics by curbing dollars for everything from education to environmental cleanups.

Lawmakers approved the measure by a bipartisan 344-51 margin on what might be the last day of their postelection session.

Though not in doubt, passage was taking longer in the Senate. Abortion-rights supporters there were opposing a provision in the bill making it easier for health care providers to decline to provide abortions or offer counseling and referrals.

9/11 commission reforms fail

WASHINGTON — In a defeat for President Bush, rebellious House Republicans on Saturday derailed legislation to overhaul the nation's intelligence agencies along lines recommended by the Sept. 11 commission.

Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., sought unsuccessfully to persuade critics among the GOP rank and file to swing behind the measure.

Hastert's decision to send lawmakers home without a vote drew attacks from Democrats and capped an unpredictable day in which prospects for enactment of the measure seemed to grow, then diminish, almost by the hour. He left open the possibility of summoning lawmakers back in session early next month.

LOCAL NEWS

Plans for shelter put on hold

VALPARAISO — Plans to convert a Porter County motel to a homeless shelter have been shelved after the state turned down a social agency's request for funding.

Christian Community Action officials said the Indiana Housing Finance Authority turned down its grant and loan applications to fund the proposed \$3 million project to turn the 54-room Best Western into a shelter.

CHILE

Bush attempts to improve image

The president met with leaders of Mexico and Chile to build relationships, U.S. reputation

Associated Press

SANTIAGO — President Bush aims to dispel the perception of U.S. neglect of Latin America and burnish an American reputation damaged by the Iraq war, undertaking a second-term diplomatic offensive in the region akin to his recent courting of Europe.

Bush was meeting Sunday with the leaders of Mexico and Chile on the last day of a 21-nation economic summit of Pacific Rim leaders in this scenic capital.

Mexican President Vicente Fox's top goal in relations with the United States is the reform of American immigration laws. Bush has proposed allowing undocumented workers to get visas to work legally, but the visas would be only temporary and provide no path to citizenship — an approach that Mexican officials have signaled they would embrace, even if reluctantly.

Meanwhile, Bush's top goal with Mexico remains enhanced border security and he has done little to push his immigration reform plan since he proposed it in January. Aides suggested ahead of the meeting between the two leaders, once the tightest of foreign allies in a relationship strained by the Iraq war, that more support for the immigration legislation would be forthcoming from Bush.

The Asia-Pacific gathering was ending Sunday. But the president was remaining in Santiago after the forum's close for an official state visit with Chilean President Ricardo Lagos. The two nations last year signed a free-trade pact and will likely look for ways to expand the trade between them.

The president also was expected to have a brief



President Bush shakes hands with Mexican President Vicente Fox after they attend the Reading of the Final Declaration at the APEC Summit in La Moneda Sunday.

"pull-aside" conversation with Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo during the summit. And on Monday, on the way back to the United States, Bush is stopping in Colombia for a few hours of meetings with President Alvaro Uribe, a conservative whose war against narcoterrorists and leftist rebels has received major funding from the United States.

Taken together, the emphasis on a few allies during Bush's Latin American stay has broader goals for the White House.

The high-profile meetings with the Chilean leader, for instance, are

Bush's Exhibit A for how free trade can benefit two countries, said a senior administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity. That could be helpful as Bush pushes for forward movement on a hemisphere-wide accord, resisted by countries such as Brazil and Venezuela.

Meetings with the leaders of Colombia and Peru also could help the president focus on lowering trade barriers, as the United States is in the process of negotiating an Andean free-trade pact covering those two nations as well as Ecuador.

But mostly, visiting Colombia allows Bush to

make a very visible statement about the U.S. commitment to fighting terrorism and to highlight American contributions that have helped to bring some stability to a country ravaged by decades of guerrilla war, the official said.

"We put a lot of political support into Uribe," the official said. "We want to underscore that commitment and show that this is something that, number one, is paying big dividends for the American people, it's paying big dividends for the Colombian people."

But turning around the U.S. reputation in South America will not be easy.

Lawmakers hope for intelligence bill

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Unwilling to concede defeat, congressional leaders expressed hope Sunday that lawmakers could return next month to resolve a turf battle that has blocked passage of an overhaul of the nation's intelligence agencies. Much depends on whether President Bush is more active in bringing his own troops in line, they said.

"For us to do the bill in early December it will take significant involvement by the president and the vice president," said Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn. "It will take real focus on their part."

During a chaotic Saturday that was intended as the final meeting of the 108th Congress, negotiators announced a compromise on the intelligence bill. Hours later, opposition from the Republican chairmen of two committees stymied the legislation, which would create a national intelligence director.

Reflecting Pentagon concerns about the legislation, California Rep. Duncan Hunter of the House Armed Services warned that the bill could interfere with the military chain of command and endanger troops in the field. Wisconsin Rep. James Sensenbrenner of the House Judiciary Committee demanded that

the bill deal with illegal immigration.

Congress did manage to pass a 3,000-page, \$388 billion spending bill that covers most nondefense and non-security programs for the budget year that began Oct. 1.

But there will be a delay in getting President Bush's signature. The hang-up is because of a single line in the bill that would have given two committee chairmen and their assistants access to people's income tax returns.

The Senate approved a resolution nullifying the idea; House leaders promised to pass it on Wednesday. Then, the spending bill will head to the White House.

Ribbons

continued from page 1

Committee, believes there is a larger message that needs to be spread.

"The important thing about this situation is that the genocide is preventable if the international community would act," Corrigan said. "The Sudanese government would likely disarm the Janjaweed militia and prevent them from killing Africans in Darfur if the international community put pressure on it to do so."

The Notre Dame Sudan Steering Committee consists of about 20 students campus-wide with a large number from Amnesty International and Africa Faith and Justice Network.

"Most people don't know about this," Corrigan said. "If people at Notre Dame learned of the atrocities, it would shock their conscience, and they would want to take action."

The team of students comprising the steering committee has finalized plans to build awareness. Members of the committee are passing out green ribbons, as part of a larger national campaign which began at Harvard

University. One hundred humanitarian and faith-based organizations are now wearing green ribbons.

Each ribbon distributed at Notre Dame contains information about Sudan. A petition has also been submitted to pass the ribbons out at dorm masses. In the meantime, students can find the green ribbons at the Center for Social Concerns.

"Wearing a green ribbon is something for everyone," Corrigan said. "People from engineers to business people to peace studies majors and everything in-between can wear these ribbons, because we are all responsible for our government's response to terrible situations in the world."

The committee has posted signs around campus with a photo of an innocent victimized young girl reading "Never Again" and is providing facts on the genocide. Currently, the group is also working to place a petition to be read at Sunday dorm masses.

After heightening awareness, the group plans to take action. Tentatively set for Jan. 26, the committee will formulate a symposium composed of the most highly-qualified speakers on the Sudan genocide. A possible speaker is Nick Kristof, a New

York Times journalist who has written on Sudan.

"We are currently inviting speakers and fundraising as we need to raise a great deal of money to bring in the caliber of speakers," Aberger said.

A writing campaign will accompany the panel speakers in the action plan. The steering committee's plan includes writing letters to the U.S. Catholic Bishops and

asking them to condemn the genocide and provide a moral voice. Letters will also be written to the U.S. government requesting that humanitarian aid be provided along with pressure on the Sudanese government.

Civil war in Darfur began in 2003, after two primarily black African rebel groups, Sudanese Liberation Movement/Army and the Justice and Equality Movement, revolted against the government that they claimed neglected western

Sudan. Government attacks have resulted and the Janjaweed, armed nomadic Arab tribesmen, have been used to subdue the rebellion.

Arab militias have been accused of ethnic cleansing, killing, raping and torturing innocent victims. The Sudanese government has also been convicted of assisting the militia in air bombings over the region.

The United Nations called the Darfur situation the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The violence has claimed at least 70,000 lives and has forced 1.8 million people from their homes.

Father Robert Dowd, political science and Kellogg Institute Faculty member, said the genocide in Darfur is a complex situation.

"This is genocide for political reasons. While it seems that some progress has been made, I fear this crisis is once again slipping outside our radar screen. More pressure

must be asserted on Sudan," Dowd said. "I'm not a big fan of sanctions. I don't think they all work that well and often they hurt the very people they are intended to help. However, targeted sanctions on the bank account of elites and travel bans on leaders of the Khartoum (Sudanese) government may work."

Daniel Lindley, a political science and peace studies professor, said the United States has classified the situation in Sudan genocide. Secretary of State Colin Powell referred to the case as genocide.

With more people taking notice throughout the government, organizers on campus are hoping students will take notice too.

"I think our effort to raise awareness about Sudan is going to grow exponentially ... every day the green ribbons are more and more of a presence on our campus," Aberger said. "Students recognize that this is a genocide and they understand that promises of 'never again' after the holocaust, after Rwanda are empty if we remain bystanders to the current genocide."

Contact Jen Rowling at jrowling@nd.edu

OIT

continued from page 1

problems lies in the fact that surveys have shown students don't find value in the current dorm phone systems, and the University is reluctant to extend the service if it won't be used.

"We are cognizant that lifestyles are changing, so we're looking the idea that if it's not a cell phone or instant messenger or e-mail, is it a mode of communication that students want to or will use," DeWitt said. "That's why there's a hesitancy. We're not sure where the students will be two to four years out."

DeWitt said that the University was motivated to switch to the new service in part because its current Legacy phone system contract is set to expire in January 2006.

"With the contract expiring a little more than a year from now, we needed to take some type of definitive action," he said. "Instead of reinvesting with Legacy system, we saw this as the right time to take Notre Dame down the path they were eventually going to need to go down."

Despite being more technologically advanced, DeWitt said the new system will come at no extra cost to what the University currently pays for phone service.

The transition between the current Centrex-based system and VoIP will take place over a period of three to five years, starting with a six-month trial with a limited set of users early next year, said DeWitt.

"If all goes well with the trial, we'll start rolling it out to the balance of the campus," DeWitt said. "The exact order of doing that hasn't been decided, but new construction like the Jordan Hall of Science will get it by default."

Regardless of how many users the University connects to the system, DeWitt said he sees a potential problem in users' adaptation to the new technology.

"I don't foresee any problems with the actual system, but I think most of the energy and potential angst will come around the training aspect of it," he said. "We know some people are apprehensive about the transition, which is why we're really going to put the emphasis on user training aspect of this."

Contact Amanda Michaels at amichael@nd.edu

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MARKET RECAP

Stocks

Dow Jones 10,456.91 -115.64
 Up: 949 Same: 139 Down: 229 Composite Volume: 1,523,990,016

AMEX 1,364.81 -0.55
NASDAQ 2,070.63 -33.65
NYSE 6,947.19 -55.72
S&P 500 1,170.34 -13.21
NIKKEI(Tokyo) 11,082.84 0.00
FTSE 100(London) 4,760.80 -44.50

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
SIRIUS SAT RADI (SIRI)	+9.53	+0.45	5.17
APPLIED MATL (AMAT)	-3.74	-0.66	16.99
INTEL CORP (INTC)	-2.58	-0.64	24.16
MICROSOFT CP (MSFT)	-0.78	-0.21	26.86
CISCO SYSTEMS (CSCO)	-2.61	-0.51	19.01

Treasuries

30-YEAR BOND	+1.29	+0.62	48.75
10-YEAR NOTE	+1.92	+0.79	41.96
5-YEAR NOTE	+2.53	+0.88	35.64
3-MONTH BILL	+0.43	+0.09	20.96

Commodities

LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+2.51	48.89
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	+4.10	447.00
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-0.73	99.00

Exchange Rates

YEN	103.1900
EURO	0.7674
POUND	0.5382
CANADIAN \$	1.1930

IN BRIEF

Legal complaint filed against Russia

MOSCOW — The main shareholder of the embattled oil company Yukos has filed a legal complaint against Russia over the planned auction sale of Yukos' biggest production unit, the Interfax news agency reported Saturday.

The Russian government announced a day earlier that it will sell a majority stake in production unit Yuganskneftegaz to meet Yukos' multibillion-dollar back-tax bill.

Group Menatep Ltd, the main Yukos shareholder, took legal action under the Energy Charter, an international treaty for protecting investments in the energy sector, Group Menatep's managing director Tim Osborne said, according to Interfax.

"We are talking about the expropriation of our property, and we intend to protect it through all possible legal means," Interfax quoted Osborne as saying. The news agency translated the comment into Russian.

Osborne said Group Menatep initiated legal action under the auspices of the Energy Charter, an international treaty that establishes a legal framework to protect investments in the energy sector.

Two more airlines plan bids for gate

INDIANAPOLIS — At least two more discount airlines plan to bid for the gates used by bankrupt ATA Airlines for its hub at Chicago's Midway International Airport.

Lawyers for America West Airlines and Southwest Airlines told a federal bankruptcy court judge on Thursday that the companies intended to make separate bids for part or all of ATA.

That action came two days after AirTran Airways formally offered to pay nearly \$90 million to take over operations at all 14 of ATA's Midway gates.

Judge Basil Lorch III on Thursday set Dec. 10 as the deadline for interested buyers to submit bids. The bids will be opened and reviewed Dec. 13, with Lorch to pick a winning bid Dec. 16.

Gilbert Viets, ATA's chief restructuring officer, said that Orlando, Fla.-based AirTran was the only one of 10 other airlines to respond to inquiries ATA made this summer about a possible merger or sale of the Midway gates.

Nike co-founder resigns position

Phil Knight steps down as president and chief executive officer of company he built

Associated Press

PORTLAND — Phil Knight, who built Nike Inc. into the world's largest shoe maker while catapulting celebrity-athlete endorsements to new heights, has stepped down as president and chief executive officer of the company he co-founded.

Knight, who left the helm of the \$12 billion athletic shoe and clothing company on Thursday, will be succeeded by William D. Perez, head of S.C. Johnson & Son Inc., maker of Glade air fresheners and Drano drain cleaner.

Knight, 66, will remain chairman of the company's board of directors, the company said. He did not give a reason for his resignation, which is effective Dec. 28.

"I am confident that as CEO of Nike, Inc., Bill will lead Nike's extraordinary team of people to create an even bigger and better global company," Knight said in a statement.

A former University of Oregon track star, Knight founded Blue Ribbon Sports, Inc., with Bill Bowerman in 1968. Knight's first shoes, which he sold out of the trunk of his car, had soles made on Bowerman's waffle iron. The company was renamed Nike in 1972.

Under Knight, Nike redefined celebrity-athlete endorsements, lauding stars such as Michael Jordan and Tiger Woods as emblems of the company's ethic.

Along the way they've made the swoosh one of the most recognized trademarks in the world.

In September, Nike reported a 25 percent increase in first-quarter profits. The company also reported a large increase in its U.S.



Phil Knight stepped down as president and chief executive officer of Nike Inc. He will be succeeded by William D. Perez, head of S.C. Johnson & Son Inc.

orders, up 11 percent to \$1.4 billion — reversing a declining trend in the national shoe market over the last several years.

Knight's combined salary and bonuses for this year were nearly \$3.7 million, up from nearly \$2.5 million last year.

He was ranked No. 22 on this year's Forbes list of the 400 wealthiest Americans, with an estimated net worth of \$7.4 billion.

Knight still owns about 28 percent of the voting shares of Nike Class B stock and 92 percent of the nonvoting Class A stock, according to filings with the Securities

and Exchange Commission.

Nike has had its share of critics — including activists who brought attention to working conditions at the company's foreign factories. Nike says it has improved conditions.

Perez, 57, has been president and chief executive of S.C. Johnson since 1996. He has worked for the consumer products company for 34 years.

Perez said he would stay true to Knight's vision.

"You can feel the innovative spirit that Phil and his team inspires from product design, to retail to athlete partner-

ships. And I'm a strong believer in 'Just Do It,'" Perez said in a statement.

Analysts said the move did not come as a complete surprise.

"It can be likened to when an Andy Grove steps aside at Intel or Bill Gates hands the reins to Steve Ballmer at Microsoft. It's somewhat the passing of the torch," said Paul Swangard, managing director of the Warsaw Sports Marketing Center at the University of Oregon in Eugene.

"I think it's a natural transition — though a rather significant one in the history of this company," Swangard said.

PeopleSoft rejects Oracle's bid

Associated Press

PLEASANTON — PeopleSoft Inc.'s board of directors said it rejected Oracle Corp.'s \$9.2 billion takeover bid Saturday, continuing its staunch resistance a day after the company's own shareholders tendered more than 60 percent of stock to Oracle.

The board unanimously concluded that Oracle's latest \$24-per-share bid is inadequate, the company said in a statement posted on its Web site Saturday. It marked the sixth time the Pleasanton-based business software company snubbed its bitter rival since the takeover battle nearly a year and a half ago.

"The board reiterated that it will

not sell the company for less than it is really worth and that the company's business plan creates superior value for stockholders," PeopleSoft said.

On Friday, PeopleSoft's shareholders tendered 61 percent of the company's stock in support of Oracle's bid. Oracle had threatened to drop its \$24-per-share offer if it didn't receive an endorsement from most PeopleSoft stockholders — a threat that prompted 228.7 million shares to tender, according to a preliminary tally released late Friday.

Bolstered by the investor vote of confidence, Redwood Shores-based Oracle called upon PeopleSoft to surrender, sending a letter to

PeopleSoft's board requesting a meeting as soon as possible and extending its offer until Dec. 31.

But PeopleSoft decided to fend off Oracle, saying "numerous conversations we have had with our largest stockholders over the past 10 days" led the board to believe that a majority of stockholders don't think the offer reflects the company's real value.

"This majority is comprised of stockholders who did not tender their shares, as well as stockholders who tendered but told us that they believe PeopleSoft is worth more than \$24 per share," George "Skip" Battle, lead director on PeopleSoft's transaction committee, said in the statement.

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

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Monday November 22, 2004

THE OBSERVER

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

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ADVERTISING MANAGER: Carrie Franklin

AD DESIGN MANAGER: Kelly Nelson

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OFFICE MANAGER & GENERAL INFO

(574) 631-7471

FAX

(574) 631-6927

ADVERTISING

(574) 631-6900 obsnec@nd.edu

EDITOR IN CHIEF

(574) 631-4542

MANAGING EDITOR

(574) 631-4541 obsmc@nd.edu

ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR

(574) 631-4324

BUSINESS OFFICE

(574) 631-5313

NEWS DESK

(574) 631-5323 obsnec.1@nd.edu

VIEWPOINT DESK

(574) 631-5303 viewpoint.1@nd.edu

SPORTS DESK

(574) 631-4543 sports.1@nd.edu

SCENE DESK

(574) 631-4540 scene.1@nd.edu

SAINT MARY'S DESK

smc.1@nd.edu

PHOTO DESK

(574) 631-8767 photo@nd.edu

SYSTEMS & WEB ADMINISTRATORS

(574) 631-8839

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www.ndsmcobserver.com

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TODAY'S STAFF

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Giving God his kicks

I miss kickball. It can actually be quite calming to reminisce back to those halcyon days in elementary school when the most taxing issues on my mind were things like remembering to run to first base — not third — after booting the ball into the out-field, and when expressing my attraction to girls was as simple as not pegging them in the face as they trotted around the bases. Without a doubt, though, the most exhilarating aspect of playground kickball, at least for eight-year-old, popularity-driven narcissists like me, was the guaranteed-to-elicite-tears process of picking teams.

Of course, there were the natural athletes who were always among the first picked. Most often, after that, came some of the more athletic girls — the tomboys, as they were so flatteringly referred. Then, the rosters were usually rounded out with the necessary picks of the less-coordinated boys, the girly-girls and the kids who would clearly prefer to be reading Goosebumps books instead of getting their sneakers dirty on a kickball field. Finally, there was always the inevitable battle over which team would get stuck with the fat kid, regardless of how good he may or may not have been.

As silly as it sounds, that superficial playground process for choosing sides in a competition really has left lasting implications on the way in which adult society operates today, especially in the world of politics. America's two major parties, after all, have been picking and trading players for their teams from a lineup of issues and ideas for the past 150 years, each desperately searching for those key platform policies that will consistently clear the bases with their powerful kicks. Needless to say, today's Democratic Party is playing with a bench full of fat kids.

As the 22 percent of Americans who voted for their president based solely on his stance on issues of morality know, Democrats have been stuck with adding to their team two of the worst political kickball players ever conceived — the

pro-choice stance on abortion and the right for homosexuals to marry. These end-of-the-bench, guaranteed strike-outs, which certainly may represent positive characteristics of the Democratic Party's unending quest for equal opportunity, have really proven to be the Achilles heel of a kickball team that is already going up against one of the most formidable foes in the history of political competition.

Yes, the Republican Party clearly had the first pick in this indescribably significant process of team assembly, and they ingeniously chose the only invincible player to ever take part in the game of politics — the holiest of holies, the creator of Heaven and Earth, He who is what is, the one and only God almighty. Clearly, by choosing God to bat cleanup for their already loaded lineup of tax cuts and homeland security, the Republicans managed to pull off the equivalent of adding David Beckham's foot to a kindergarten kickball team. Naturally, they proved to be unstoppable against the Democrats' squad of fat camp dropouts.

Simply taking a look back at the election makes it quite clear how much the Republican team relied upon a few grand slams from its Heaven-sent all-star. Prior to the election, several Catholic priests and bishops openly admitted to sensing that divine providence would play a part in returning Bush to the White House, and exit polls from Nov. 2 eventually showed the born-again Evangelical managed to cross the transubstantiation gap and take 52 percent of the Catholic vote away from a practicing Catholic.

On top of that, while addressing the 2004 National Urban League Conference this summer, the supposed chosen candidate of Jehovah announced the federal government's political and

religious partnership with such groups as Boston's Black Ministerial Alliance, the Metro Denver Black Church Initiative and various other minority church groups, and in the end, this helped him piggyback on God's shoulders once again while garnering the votes of 30 percent of all non-white males and 24 percent of all non-white females — both sharp increases from 2000.

The funny thing is, for decades, the Almighty consistently played the role of the fat kid waiting against the wall in the electoral game of kickball, with no candidate ever wanting to blatantly cross the sacred barrier between church and state. John F. Kennedy, after all, America's only Catholic president, barely won his election because of voter fears that his policies would directly reflect the will of the Vatican. Sen. John F. Kerry, on the contrary, essentially lost this election because he could not convince voters that he was Catholic enough.

Clearly, times are changing. God has ceased to be that chubby playground wallflower who patiently waits on the bench with the girly-girls and the nerds while the cool kids battle it out on the kickball field. He has, instead, become so dominant and so popular, that it is safe to say that neither team can possibly win without Him. So now, the question becomes, will the Democrats make the wise decision and attempt to add God's powerful foot to their team in 2008?

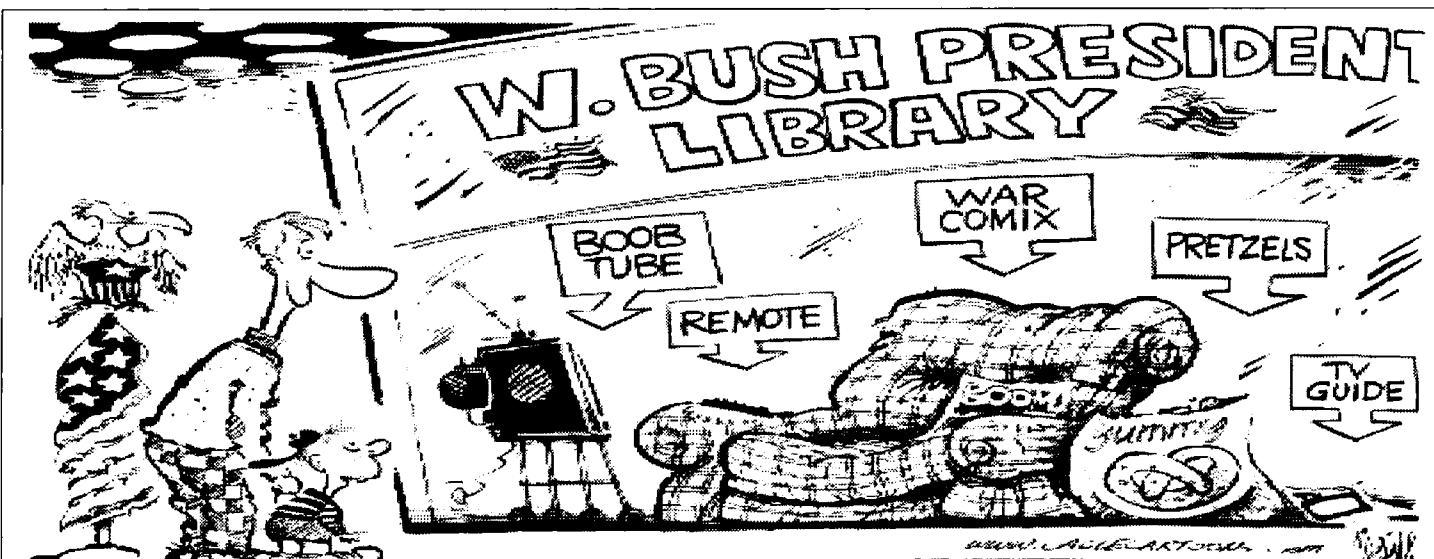
Or will they stubbornly stick with their lineup of fat kids?

Joey Falco is a sophomore American Studies major. He can be reached at jfalco@nd.edu.

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



EDITORIAL CARTOON



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"To err is human; to forgive, divine."

Alexander Pope
author

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Men always want to be a woman's first love — women like to be a man's last romance."

Oscar Wilde
author

Flexing the heart muscle



I have never been one to trust the supposed rite of springtime that involves one's fancies turning to love. The only loving going on in the spring is between the birds and the bees, who are getting together to make baby butterflies, as my understanding of reproductive science goes. Spring is too easy for love — with its flowers and tank-tops and pastel popped-collar polo shirts. Love should always be bold. There's nothing courageous about falling in love when the whole world smells like lilac and dew-drops. I don't buy into such simple purple-prose notions of affection. They're for Hallmark and my junior high school poetry. No, I'm from the Midwest. I'm made of sterner things.

Bob Masters

*Fall on the Floor
and I Laughing*

That's why for me, the greatest season for romance is the late fall. There's something about those days when snow and rain and grayness combine into one big stew called "Midwest November" that stirs my passions. The first brisk chill that requires me donning a sweater sends along a secret message: get up, get on your feet and get living. The last few days of the season when it's still possible to go out without a jacket speak volumes to me. They say, "listen my son, ask someone out, stop being so afraid and rage against the dying of that romantic light because there are only so many chances left before it starts getting dark at 4:30." The fall is a constant reminder that things must change and I, for one, don't want to be left on the romantic losing end because I sat out of the game. And, really, nobody can fall in love in February anyway. There are too many jackets in the way.

The end of fall is really a metaphor for acting on possibility. There's no greater reminder of the short time we have left to us to find that true love than watching the leaves turn color, realizing that we, like the leaves, are not meant to last forever. Yes, as the fall shows us, we must act and act now.

But above all, gentle reader, there is one ultimate reason why the fall is perfect for romance. This reason cannot be measured by the heart nor understood by the mind. No, it only can be explained by the good people at card services.

I'm talking, of course, about Flex Points.

With the coming of the frost and the Great Pumpkin, around this time every year I begin to run out of Flex Points. This, I have come to find out, is a common experience for most of our campus. Unlike the U.S. government, we cannot continuously spend money somebody else gave us for as long as we want. China

may graciously not come collecting on our national debt but tell that to the fine coffee-providers at Starbucks who have begun to look at me funny when I offer to pay for my latte with funds ear-marked for Social Security.

Like a boy playing backyard baseball up until the very last light of day, I've pushed my card-swiping ability to the limits, squeezing every last Flex decimal point out of my ID. Oh, how I lament my misspent August, when every coffee was venti and every value meal was supersized. The majority of my Flex Points were surely spent in this vain enterprise, feeding my body but neglecting my soul. Only now do I grasp the inherent connection between my heart and my meal plan.

A man of my average looks and simple social graces requires a well-funded romantic mobilization force to level the dating playing field so unfairly tilted in favor of the varsity athlete. What I lack in looks and letterman status must be made up for in the ability to purchase smoothies.

In days of yore I would simply ask my father for a piece of the family estate, thus providing a small yearly income that would allow me to maintain a cottage, a country wife and a pack of hounds. But alas, this is modern-day America and this is not the first time 21st century notions of dating have let me down.

As I have come to find out, for those of us not on the football team, wooing can't be done on the cheap. Like a big-money lobbyist firm, Flex Points peddle influence, convincing skeptical young ladies that I am a man worthy of their affection for I am the great provider of submarine sandwiches.

For the regular Joes of Notre Dame like me, the hope of impressing a young lady is an uphill battle. Thanks to Flex Points, however, we have two powerful allies — Burger King and quarter dogs. Yes, I believe it was Sir Francis Bacon who professed in his famous essay "On Love" that "love can find entrance not only into an open heart, but also into [the Huddle]." Ah Flex Points, the meal plan-melter of hearts.

Of course, if they should fail, there's always virtues such as sensibility, character, tenderness, personality, politeness, kindness, charity, gentleness, empathy, decorum, spirit and graciousness ... but Notre Dame didn't give me 230 of those.

Bob Masters is a senior English major. You may contact him at amasters@nd.edu.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Remember and respect SMC history

On Thursday, Student Activities Board hosted a feedback session to address the issue of the recent Pride Week T-shirt. The shirt featured a woman and the words, "Women with Knowledge." Like so many other issues, it has drawn the wrath of a few women for promoting the wrong stereotypes about Saint Mary's women. It has also led to identity forums where women have gathered to discuss what exactly a SMC Chick really is. The ideas put forth varied from sluts to intelligent women with class. More recently, the debate has led to an attack on shirt colors, Saint Mary's mascots, the French Cross and even the American Flag.

Needless to say, Saint Mary's has a history as an elite women's college. We are the Belles for a reason. To disregard this part of our history is destroying a part of who we are. Of course, there are a few stereotypes that I believe all of us would like to change, but within reason. The pride shirt says who we are — women with intelligence and represents the majority of the students here on campus. If you disagree with the shirt, you have the freedom not to buy one.

I do not support the effort to have these symbols of who we are removed. Like it or not, we are Americans in America. This is our country and we should be able to express our sense of national pride.

Just because not all of us are American does not mean that we should walk around on eggshells. We should respect their right to display national pride, and in turn, they should respect our right as well. Once again, if they disagree with the symbols on our gear, then they have the ability not to wear it.

Similarly, we are a catholic college, founded by sisters of the Church. As a student, you choose to come here and in making that choice, you agree to accept the things that are a part of our culture and identity. If you disagree with what makes us unique, go find a college or university that is so wrapped up in political correctness that they are willing to give up their history, culture, traditions and identity.

Taking these concepts out of student life jeopardizes our right to liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Cheryl Barker
Regina Hall
junior
Nov. 18

U-WIRE

Powell leaves behind legacy of international popularity

Colin Powell's recent resignation as Secretary of State was bad enough. It was one thing to lose one of the greatest public servants this country has seen in years, but to make things worse, Powell's replacement will be National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice. So much for President George W. Bush's plan to bridge the gap in this already divided country.

Matthew Reid

*Massachusetts
Daily Collegian
University of
Massachusetts-
Amherst*

In his Nov. 3 acceptance speech, following the concession of Sen. John Kerry, Bush admitted he failed at unifying the people of the United States. The gap between the left and right was wider than ever when Bush won a second term, but

he said he would do everything in his power to fix the problem. He isn't off to a good start by placing someone who is possibly farther to the right than he is as the nation's top diplomat.

Any balancing that Powell was doing in the Cabinet has all but disappeared. And as the Iraq situation gets worse and worse, and the death toll rises higher and higher by the day, we need Powell's presence more than ever.

Rice replacing Powell, on the other hand, is about as far of a downgrade as you can get. She lacks the experience on the diplomatic stage that Powell possessed and has never been one for diplomacy. She represents everything that is wrong with the Bush administration, which would seem to hinder the whole "bridging the gap" thing Bush had in

mind. And on top of all that, she didn't even want the job in the first place, having said she was primarily interested in the Secretary of Defense position.

I do realize that Rice is a brilliant, strong-willed person. She was a professor (at Stanford, no less) in her mid-20s. Ten years later she was advising one President Bush, and a little over 10 years after that she was advising another President Bush. She is decisive, fierce and confident.

But does that make up for the fact that she played a crucial role in the pre-emptive invasion of Iraq, leading to the deaths of God-knows-how-many lives? Does it make up for the fact that she covered up the truth along the way? Does it make up for the fact that in the process, she helped ruin our alliances with several European

nations? Hardly.

With Rice in the driver's seat, there will be no question whether or not she believes in what the President is pushing for. Bush no longer has to deal with a Secretary of State that doesn't share his excessive fever for the war in Iraq, and all can be one big, happy family. In the end, that's seemingly the whole point of Bush's second-term team, to make a Cabinet of as many like-minded (and essentially right-minded) people as possible.

This article originally appeared in the Nov. 19 issue of the Massachusetts Daily Collegian, the daily publication at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

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

Top ten online time wasters

Taking a look into the top 10 ways that the Internet distracts college students from school

By MARIA SMITH, MOLLY GRIFFIN,
CHRISTIE BOLSEN and RAMA
GOTTUMUKKALA

Scene Writers

People have praised the Internet as one of the greatest tools ever to be invented. Its uses never end — communication, learning, e-mailing professors your papers instead of going to their offices, etc.

But even ignoring the fact that the Internet may be dominated by indecent Web sites, no one can deny that it has provided endless ways to avoid your work. In honor of the approach of finals, here are some of the biggest time wasters provided by the Internet.

1. AIM

AOL Instant Messenger ranks among the biggest computer time-wasters available today, and it has quickly become an integral part of the lives of many college students. You assign yourself a screenname, and you can “chat” with other people by typing using dialogue boxes. You get a buddy list with all of your friends’ screennames, and you can spend hours checking away messages that people put up when they aren’t around their computer. If you ask most college students, Instant Messenger is more than just a time waster — it’s an integral part of how they communicate with other people.

2. The facebook

Talk to anyone about the facebook, and you’ll probably hear them complain about how much time they waste on it. The facebook is a kind of online yearbook, but you get to choose your own photo and create your own profile. If you happen to be surfing the facebook and see someone that you know, you can invite them to be your friend, and they can confirm or reject you. The facebook is a spreading presence at universities across the nation, so it’s quite possible for you to spend hours looking for people from your high school, find that boy or girl you like in calculus class or browse through the wide variety of clubs, such as the Awkward White Guy Club or the Committee to Relocate Notre Dame to the Bahamas.

3. ESPN.com

Between the Facebook and AIM, there’s plenty of time wasting to go around. But just in case, ESPN.com is easily a top choice and a home away from home for procrastinators — at least those that happen to be sports fans. Whether you want the latest predictions and/or rants from Dickie V. (“You gotta love the Dukies and their diaper dandies this year, baby!”) or just want to see video and hear commentary on the fallout between the city of Detroit against the Pacers, ESPN.com is the place to go. On top of all that, it’s easily one of the best sites on the net for live scores, stats galore, columns from sports experts, game wraps and fantasy leagues that’ll keep you occupied until the wee hours of the morning — or at least until 15 minutes before that 8 a.m. biology exam.

4. Online shopping

The irresistibility of online shopping can be summed up in two words — convenience and selection. Even people who are too lazy to get up out of their chairs can max out their credit cards at the Gap, Best Buy and virtually any other store that more motivated shoppers actually walk around in to go shopping. Besides the allure of acquiring a new wardrobe or stereo system while sitting around in your underwear, there’s the fact that you can shop online at stores which might not exist in South Bend except on the World Wide Web.

5. Lyrics

When you need the perfect song for your profile or away message, your other time-wasting Internet pastime, you can now Google those mumbled songs that you hear on the radio. Plus, you can now use search engines to learn lyrics and impress people with your ability to sing all the words to “Callin’ Baton Rouge.” Whatever your

reason for needing to know all the lyrics to any song, you can spend your time on lyricsdepot.com instead of writing your papers.

6. Online Games

Back in elementary and middle school, it was easy to waste hours playing Tetris, solitaire or Snood on the computer. Sadly, nowadays, nothing has changed. At least back then you could take it off your computer. Now, you can look up almost any game online instantaneously, and before you know it another hour of your life is gone.

Particularly addicting games can easily be found at www.zone.msn.com, the appropriately named www.addictinggames.com and even our own www.ndtoday.com. Use with caution, because the closer finals come, the more tempting they are.

7. The Onion

The Onion is to newspapers what “The Daily Show” is to TV news. The Onion mocks everything from politics to the banal details of everyday life, and does so by making everything, no matter how silly, read like a real news articles. With news headlines like, “Teen Handed Awesome Responsibility of Closing Subway Alone” or editorials titled, “What Happens at Yucca Mountain Stays at Yucca Mountain,” you can waste a lot of time reading entertaining, albeit fake, news. The Onion also offers collections of its news articles in book form for those who wish to spend even more time reading slightly made-up news.

8. homestarrunner.com

If you want to figure out how big a time waster www.homestarrunner.com has become, try making your buddy icon a picture of Trogdor and see how many people recognize him. Then compare with how many people recognize a picture of Kofi Annan. The results may be frightening. Homestar Runner and his cartoon buddies can become a true addiction; at first, they may only be mildly funny, but before long, you may be spending the better part of an afternoon sifting through Strong Bad e-mails, cartoon shorts, character videos and of course Teen Girl Squad. You might even feel like the characters have become your friends. But remember, real friends will help you pass your classes.

9. Blogs

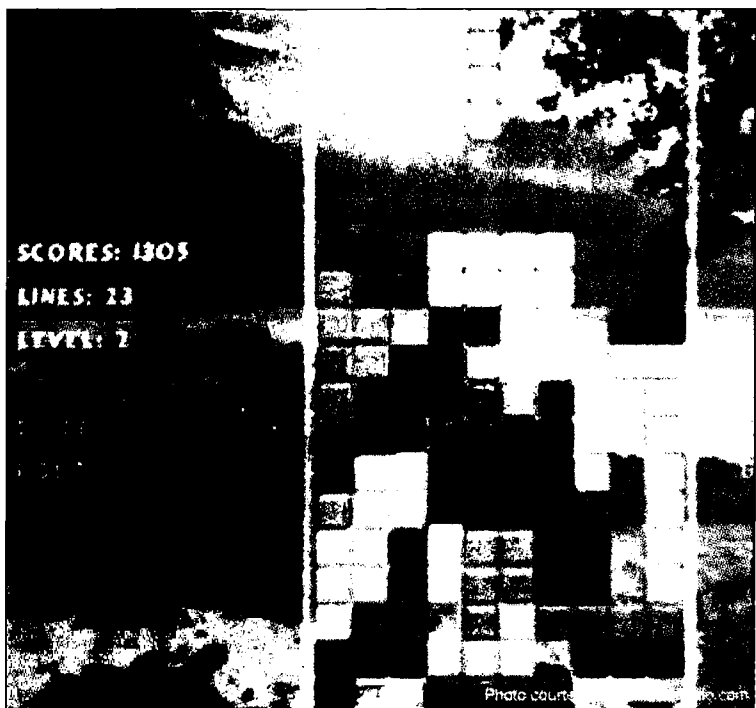
The blog scene has been growing continuously over the past several years, and has recently exploded. Admittedly, some of these blogs are useful. Political blogs, for example, can be a great way to find well-constructed arguments on public policy or international relations, which will never make it to newspapers. But keeping a livejournal or a deadjournal is not only an efficient way to waste not only your own time — you can waste the time of many of your friends simultaneously. Keeping in touch with your friends, you say? How many times have you read multiple entries out of a journal of someone you barely know or never met? This is clearly a huge time waster.

10. Maddox

A lot of people only know www.maddox.xmission.com from the famous page “I am better than your kids,” featuring critical commentary on children’s artwork. People who take the time to explore the rest of the site will discover that Maddox is rude to every other class of people. The kids’ pictures are funny, but an article about why Christopher Reeve is selfish and arrogant? Criticizing “The Lord of the Rings” for not having lesbians? How inappropriate can you be?

Maddox is proof that people love to have people to hate. The best way to stop him from writing is not, of course, to write hate e-mails and give him fodder for more postings, but people continue to write and he continues to make admittedly humorous, but invariably rude, responses. A sick cycle, you say? Don’t assume you’re immune, and be careful about visiting Maddox.

Contact Maria Smith, Molly Griffin, Christie Bolsen and Rama Gottumukkala at msmith4@nd.edu, cbolsen@nd.edu, mgriffin@nd.edu and rgottumu@nd.edu



Top, Tetris is one of the many online games that can waste hours of time. Middle, Sarah Jessica Parker greets online shoppers on the Web site for The Gap. Bottom, fans of Homestar Runner’s Web site follow Strong Bad and friends.

A "Fusion" of cultures

Saturday night's Asian Allure impresses a full house with fashion, dancing and more

By JANE MITSCH
Scene Writer

Roots and wings seemed to be persistent themes throughout Saturday night's Asian Allure. After last year's stint off campus, this year's performance came back to its original venue at Washington Hall, but took off with a new theme, "Fusion," featuring a whole new blend of traditional and contemporary fashion, dance and culture.

As in the past, the organizers and performers did not fail to pack the house. Crowd-pleasing featured guests at Asian Allure included TroopND, First Class Steppers and the brand new addition this year, Project Fresh. The emcee Liz Tran best described the "Fusion" performances as "a little bit of old school, a little bit of new school, a lot of crazy school."

Asian Allure model organizers combed campus for versatile clotheshorses to show off traditional, formal and casual fashion. "Old school" couture, belonging to the clubs and the models' own closets, included authentic traditional pieces ranging from India, Korea, Japan, Hawaii and the Philippines. Formal and street clothes were also picked out by the models.

The Vietnamese Student Association featured a new lineup this year with the flirtatious Non-La Bamboo Hat Dance and the humorous New Year Mua Las Dragon Dance. The Filipino American Student Organization performed its perennial crowd-pleaser, Tinikling, with the traditional costumes and steps, as well as a modern version with a hot hip-hop beat and street clothes. The brave men in loincloths also performed the solemn warrior dance, Uya-Uy. The Hawaiian Club performed a graceful hula dance. The Korean Student Association incorporated a rich Korean history with a beautiful fan-dance put on by the women, with a talented contemporary culture as shown by K-Pop's boy-band-worthy moves.

The Japan Club presented a

seamless blend of traditional and modern culture with its Fisherman's Dance Plus, with everything from kimonos to cheerleaders. The Indian Association once again put on a highly energized, colorful and well-received dance, culminating in an exciting gymnastic feat.

"Since most of us have never been to all these places in Asia, these clubs bring the exotic diversity right here to South Bend," sophomore Indian dancer Himanshu Kothari said. "If the students in the audience were unsure before about the value of diversity on campus, this entertaining show will convince them."

Some of the non-ethnic clubs featured at "Fusion" were also big hits. The Notre Dame Martial Arts Institute demonstrated the skillful grace and threatening strength of Tae Kwon Do and Jujitsu. TroopND brought the freshest moves to Washington Hall, putting the SYR and Boat Club dance floors to shame. The First Class Steppers outdid themselves again this year with more acrobatic moves and participation from the ladies. Last but not least, a brand new club on campus called Project Fresh made its debut, winning the crowd approval right away for an auspicious initiation into the hearts of students.

By now most of the individual ethnic clubs have their own performances, like the Indian Association's Bhangra Bash and FASO's Fiestang, but the coordinators and Asian Allure veterans believe this "Fusion" is still necessary.

"[We] thought that Asian Allure was a good chance for all the clubs to come together with a united front and feature a multifaceted Asian culture," senior model Joe Tan said. "And we all believe in the diversity dialogue. Not only ethnic diversity but other minority participation hopefully encourages some more students to break out of their comfort zone and see what we can do together."

Contact Jane Mitsch at
jmitsch@nd.edu



Above, the show featured dancers dressed as a dragon. At right, the Indian Association performs a bhangra dance. Bottom right, the Vietnamese Student Association performs the Non-La Bamboo Hat Dance. Bottom left, the Korean Student Association performs a fan-dance.

◆
PHOTOS BY
CLAIRE KELLEY



SMC BASKETBALL

Belles start season with disappointment in loss to Hanover

By KEVIN BRENNAN
Sports Writer

The Saint Mary's basketball season did not start out exactly as the Belles had hoped, as the team lost both of its games in this weekend's Tip-Off Classic held at the Angela Athletic Center.

On Friday night, the Belles fell to Hanover College 63-38. Saint Mary's struggled to get anything going offensively, scoring only 19 points in each half. The team shot an anemic 21 percent from the floor in the game.

"We just had a rough first game," Belles' point guard Bridget Lipke said. "Our shots

were off. We had a lot of turnovers, and I think we just panicked."

Saint Mary's had no answer for Hanover's star forward Laura Little. Little scored 17 first half points to give Hanover a 31-19 lead at intermission. The Belles were unable to gain any ground in the second half.

Center Maureen Bush led Saint Mary's with nine points, and forward Emily Creachbaum contributed seven points and seven rebounds.

The Belles played much better in Saturday's contest against Franklin College, despite failing to pick up the victory, losing 66-57.

Saint Mary's jumped out to

an early 12-6 lead, but experienced an offensive lull late in the first half, and Franklin led by a score of 38-29 at halftime.

The Belles refused to stop fighting, however.

Saint Mary's opened the second half with a 10-3 run, closing the gap to two points. The team stayed relatively even with Franklin for the remainder of the game. With 2:30 left, Bush hit a turnaround jumper in the lane to cut the Franklin lead to 55-53.

In the final two minutes, however, Franklin connected on 9-of-10 free throws, and Saint Mary's failed to come up with the big shots to make a final run.

Junior guard Bridget Boyce

led the Belles with 22 points. She hit several key shots during Saint Mary's comeback attempt.

Freshman Allison Kessler also played a vital role in the Belles' second half run. Kessler brought energy off the bench and contributed eight points in the second period.

"She really lit a spark and came out and played awesome," Lipke said.

Lipke had 10 assists, and Creachbaum pulled down 10 rebounds for Saint Mary's in the losing effort.

While disappointed with the outcome, the Belles were pleased with their performance on Saturday. The team showed excellent character by

battling back in the second half and refusing to give up. Lipke attributes this toughness to the makeup of this year's team.

"We were down, but came back," Lipke said. "I think that was because of the chemistry and the girls on the team. Chemistry is going to be a key for us for the rest of the season."

The Belles hope this chemistry will translate into success on the court in the future. Saint Mary's will look for its first win Tuesday night when it takes on Manchester College at the Angela Athletic Center.

Contact Kevin Brennan at
kbrenna4@nd.edu

WOMEN'S BOXING

Women hold first annual Baraka Bouts finals

By TOM DORWART, RYAN KIEFER and KATE SERYAK
Sports Writers

After three months of training, hundreds or thousands of push-ups and sit-ups and hours of running, the women boxers finally stepped into the ring this week. For 22 boxers, their hard work was surely well worth it.

Sunday at 2 p.m. the first bell sounded, at the Joyce Center, for the inaugural Baraka Bouts championships. For the first time ever, the women's boxing club was able to hold a tournament. Last year the women fought in exhibition bouts.

"No other school has women's boxing," Emily Rickert said. "It's a good opportunity"

White def. Paladino, flyweight

In the flyweight championship bout, junior Paige White defeated freshman Meghan Paladino, in a split decision, after three one-and-a-half minute rounds.

"You put in a ton of work during the season — long hours," White said. "Getting in the ring and coming out on top in front of a large crowd of people definitely makes it all worth while. It was a great match. I'm just excited to have come out on top."

Ruiz def. Fickey, featherweight

In the featherweight division, senior Grisel Ruiz overpowered junior Jessica Fickey for the title. Heading into the third round, the bout was still close, but Ruiz cornered Fickey nearly 30 seconds into the round and dealt several solid blows. Ruiz held on to her lead the rest of the way for the

title.

Rickert def. Burgin, junior featherweight

Emily Rickert edged senior Sarah Burgin in the final, in a tight, hard-fought match.

"It's a great workout," first-time boxer Rickert said. "I thought it was a really aggressive bout. It was a good fight."

Irvine def. McCormick, junior lightweight

Senior Melanie Irvine used her experience to her advantage as she defeated freshman Colleen McCormick in a unanimous decision.

The senior was savvy and aggressive, using combinations to gain the upper hand early.

McCormick gave a valiant effort, but found herself on the receiving end of too many blows from her opponent. Irvine wore down McCormick in the later stages, putting her on the defensive for the majority of the final round. Irvine's consistency throughout the three rounds reflected her seniority and was enough to give her the title.

Williams def. Jackson, lightweight

In a match marked by early aggression from both fighters, freshman Emily Williams emerged victorious in a unanimous decision over junior Erica Jackson. Williams used her left hand to keep her opponent off-balance, a strategy that gave her an early advantage in the fight. As the match progressed, she began using a right jab to set up her powerful left, using this technique to pin her opponent against the ropes in the second round. The final round featured an early

spurt, followed by defensive tactics from both fighters. Williams's strength in the early rounds proved enough for her to earn the victory.

Miller def. Wu, junior welterweight

Dominant from the outset, sophomore Kelsey Miller won the title over classmate Aileen Wu in a unanimous decision. Miller was poised to attack from the opening bell, using a barrage of punches that sent her opponent to the canvas within the first minute of the bout.

The trend continued in the second round, as Wu was unable to prevent Miller from backing her into the corner and gaining the upper hand. Despite having her strongest performance in the third round, Wu was still forced to go on the defensive as Miller tried unsuccessfully to deliver the knockout blow. Miller's consistency throughout was more than sufficient to award her the decision.

Borys def. Whealan, junior middleweight

Senior captain Amanda Borys was masterful in a textbook performance that resulted in a unanimous decision over junior Meghan Whealan. Borys came out firing, landing several punches early that forced the referee to step in and send the combatants to the corners.

Borys continued her dominance after the stoppage and into the second round, landing combinations to the head and body of Whealan. The junior was on the defensive for the majority of the match, suffering a big right from Borys in the third round that resulted in another stoppage.

Successive blows to the head of Whealan late in the third round sealed the decision for Borys.

Canavan def. Libardi, super welterweight

In a bout that proved to be one of the more closely contested fights of the day, Megan Canavan defeated her sophomore classmate Julie Libardi in a split decision. Both fighters threw aggressive combinations in the early going with Libardi backing Canavan into a corner, taking the early advantage.

Canavan came back with an inspired performance in the second round, however, attacking early, and landing a high percentage of her punches. It was Canavan's most effective round as it propelled her to a victory despite suffering a blow in the third round that sent her mouth guard flying out of the ring.

Oguchi def. Welch, middleweight

The final middleweight match up for the 2004 Baraka Bouts was between Leslie Oguchi from Farley and Maria Welch from Welsh Family. Oguchi hit Welch with several uppercuts during the second round, only to be bombarded by Welch in a last-second comeback. This bout was close until late in the third round when Oguchi pinned Welch up against the ropes. However, Oguchi came out as the winner in split-decision of a well-paired match.

"It was an excellent event," Welch said. "It was so great for the girls to showcase all of their hard work this season. We are working to make each other better and to raise money for the cause."

Galmarini def. Mooney welterweight

The battle of the Phoxes of Pangborn was won by sophomore Agus Galmarini who earned the unanimous decision over fellow sophomore Kathleen Mooney. The two combatants, who live on the same floor of Pangborn, were cautious at the outset as the first round yielded limited action.

The fight took a decisive turn in the second round; however, as Galmarini was able to land combinations that left her opponent on her heels. Galmarini's success continued in the third round, as she used her left jab to gain control of a match that appeared awkward for both of the combatants.

Runde def. Popoff, supermiddleweight

The final for the super middleweight title was the last of the night. Emily Popoff and Kate Runde, both from Walsh Hall, faced off in the ring.

Popoff started off strong, fiercely delivering several jabs and ending in a jab-cross. Runde, however, soon had her against the ropes. During the second round, she skillfully planted a huge right cross on Popoff. Runde continued to attack on the cross while Popoff struggled in her defensive position. The two circled several times in the third round, followed by a final meeting of gloves, however Runde was declared the winner by unanimous decision.

Contact Tom Dorwart, Ryan Kiefer and Kate Seryak at
tdorwart@nd.edu,
rkiefer1@nd.edu and
kseryak@nd.edu

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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Wow We are almost there!!

Chicago???

I Luv my sorority girls (And those who decided to stay in and study or go to Chicago)

UNCLE BILL!!!!

Yes, they lost they war.

AROUND THE NATION

Monday, November 22, 2004

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 13

College Football Polls

AP	Coaches
team	team
1 USC (48)	1 USC (48)
2 Oklahoma (9)	2 Oklahoma (7)
3 Auburn (8)	3 Auburn (6)
4 California	4 California
5 Utah	5 Texas
6 Texas	6 Utah
7 Louisville	7 Georgia
8 Georgia	8 Louisville
9 Miami	9 Miami
10 Boise State	10 Boise State
11 Virginia Tech	11 Virginia Tech
12 Iowa	12 LSU
13 Michigan	13 Michigan
14 LSU	14 Iowa
15 Tennessee	15 Tennessee
16 Virginia	16 Virginia
17 Boston College	17 Florida State
18 Arizona State	18 Wisconsin
19 Florida State	19 Boston College
20 Wisconsin	20 Arizona State
21 West Virginia	21 West Virginia
22 Texas A&M	22 Texas A&M
23 Oklahoma State	23 Oklahoma State
24 UTEP	24 Bowling Green
25 Florida	25 UTEP

Men's Swimming & Diving CSCAA Top 25

team	votes
1 Auburn	199
2 USC	189
3 Florida	188
4 Stanford	172
4 California	172
6 Minnesota	156
7 Arizona	155
8 Texas	144
9 Michigan	134
10 Virginia	130
11 Tennessee	119
12 Kentucky	112
13 North Carolina	97
14 Indiana	93
15 Northwestern	82
16 Georgia	80
17 Purdue	78
18 Hawaii	68
19 Texas A&M	49
20 Wisconsin	40
21 NOTRE DAME	37
22 BYU	31
23 Pittsburgh	24
24 Alabama	20
25 Florida State	14

Men's CCHA Hockey Conference

team	CCHA	Overall
Ohio State	7-2-1	9-4-1
Michigan	7-1-0	9-2-1
Nebraska-Omaha	5-4-1	7-4-1
Alaska Fairbanks	4-2-0	5-3-0
Bowling Green	3-2-1	6-3-1
Lake Superior	3-4-1	3-6-1
Northern Michigan	3-2-1	5-3-2
Western Michigan	3-6-1	5-6-1
Miami	3-5-0	5-7-0
Michigan State	3-5-0	5-6-1
NOTRE DAME	1-4-3	2-5-4
Ferris State	1-6-1	4-9-1

NBA



NBA commissioner David Stern handed out suspensions Sunday to nine players on the Indiana Pacers and Detroit Pistons for their involvement in Friday night's brawl. Stern suspended Pacers forward Ron Artest for the entire season.

NBA suspends Artest and eight others

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Ron Artest was suspended for the rest of the season Sunday, and two of his Indiana Pacers teammates must miss a total of 55 games for fighting with fans during a melee that broke out at the end of a game against the Detroit Pistons.

Overall, the NBA issued some of the harshest penalties in its history by banning nine players for more than 140 games. Artest's suspension is the strongest ever levied for a fight during a game.

"The line is drawn, and my guess is that won't hap-

pen again — certainly not by anybody who wants to be associated with our league," commissioner David Stern said.

Indiana's Stephen Jackson was suspended for 30 games and Jermaine O'Neal for 25. Detroit's Ben Wallace — whose shove of Artest after a foul led to the five-minute fracas — drew a six-game ban, while Pacers guard Anthony Johnson got five games.

"I'm sick about that for Indiana. I'm devastated for them," Pistons coach Larry Brown said. "And we lost our heart and soul."

Four players — Indiana's

Reggie Miller, and Detroit's Chauncey Billups, Elden Campbell and Derrick Coleman — were suspended one game apiece for leaving the bench during the initial fracas.

All of the suspensions are without pay. Artest will lose approximately \$5 million in salary, while O'Neal's suspension will cost him nearly 25 percent of his \$14.8 million salary for the current season.

Players union director Billy Hunter, calling the penalties excessive, said an appeal would be filed Monday.

"We have to make the point that there are bound-

aries in our games," Stern said. "One of our boundaries, that have always been immutable, is the boundary that separate the fans from the court. Players cannot lose control and move into the stands."

Artest, O'Neal and Jackson began serving their suspensions Saturday.

Artest's penalty was the most severe because of his checkered history. Artest being provoked into running into the stands by a fan who threw a drink did not appear to be a mitigating factor in Stern's decision.

"It was unanimous, one to nothing," Stern said.

IN BRIEF

Brehaut wins Pebble Beach Invitational by one stroke

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — Jeff Brehaut made a 5-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole Sunday for a final-round 3-under 69 and a one-stroke victory over Kevin Sutherland at the Pebble Beach Invitational.

Brehaut, who is winless in five PGA Tour seasons, finished at 9-under 279 at Pebble Beach Golf Links and was one of just three golfers who broke par in windy conditions. The event included players from the LPGA, Champions, Nationwide and PGA Tours, as well as mini-tour players, club pros and amateurs.

"All of us were in trouble out there," said Brehaut, who finished 149th on the money list with \$448,914. "But I hung in there and did I want had to do."

Strong winds blew throughout the round, leading to firm greens and comparisons to the course's conditions when it hosted the U.S. Open.

"The wind was tough, and it was a tough day to get a birdie and an easy day to get bogeys," said Brehaut, who earned \$60,000 of the \$300,000 purse. "The final putt was a perfect, easy putt and I knew I had to do something with it."

Freshman point guard leads Virginia over Arizona

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Highly touted freshman Sean Singletary came to Virginia to play in the ACC. He arrived at a school picked to finish eighth in the conference and not expected to make much noise.

Two games into his college career, the former Philadelphia schoolboy star is already working to change that. He had 15 points and made several big plays Sunday night as the Cavaliers beat No. 10 Arizona 78-60.

"We just have something to prove," the 6-foot point guard said. "I know a lot of people are overlooking us. They picked us to be in the bottom of the ACC. We're just going to stay humble about this win."

"We're in the beginning of the season, so it's nothing to be all hyped up about. We're going to stay humble and go to practice and work hard."

The Cavaliers (2-0) looked like the more highly touted team against the Wildcats (2-1), who left after the game for New York and a Preseason NIT semifinals game against Michigan on Wednesday night.

Eagles move to 9-1 behind McNabb's four touchdowns

PHILADELPHIA — Rattled, hurried and battered for 2 1/2 quarters, Donovan McNabb kept his poise, stayed in the pocket and picked apart Washington's secondary.

McNabb tied a career high with four touchdown passes, leading the Philadelphia Eagles to a 28-6 victory over the Redskins on Sunday. Three of those scoring passes came in the second half.

The Eagles are 9-1 for the first time since the 1980 season, when they opened 11-1 and went to the Super Bowl.

around the dial

NFL

New England at Kansas City, 9 p.m., ABC

NCAA BASKETBALL

Davidson vs. Duke, 7 p.m., ESPN2

BYU vs. North Carolina, 9 p.m., ESPN2

VOLLEYBALL

Irish deserved more in wins

PITTSBURGH — The Irish were gypped.

Junior Lauren Brewster earned a unanimous selection to the All-Big East First team and was name **Ann Loughery** *Sports Writer* Tournament MVP, while

junior Lauren Kelbley and senior Emily Loomis garnered spots on the All-Big East Second team and honorable mention respectively. Still, somehow that doesn't seem sufficient.

Notre Dame was the first Big East Champion ever to fail to win a major award, as Pittsburgh collected honors for the player of the year and rookie of the year. It is surprising that Big East coaches—who vote to determine the awards' recipients—didn't recognize more Irish players.

Notre Dame has proven itself more than deserving of accolades and praise throughout the season.

The Irish argued their case this weekend, handing losses to the bewildered Boston College and Pittsburgh teams — both of which anticipated wins against Notre Dame for the Big East Championship.

After defeating the Irish earlier this season, Boston College expected to repeat its success and cruise to a spot in the championship game. Pittsburgh had its sights set on a back-to-back championship after beating Notre Dame last year at the Joyce Center en route to a Big East title.

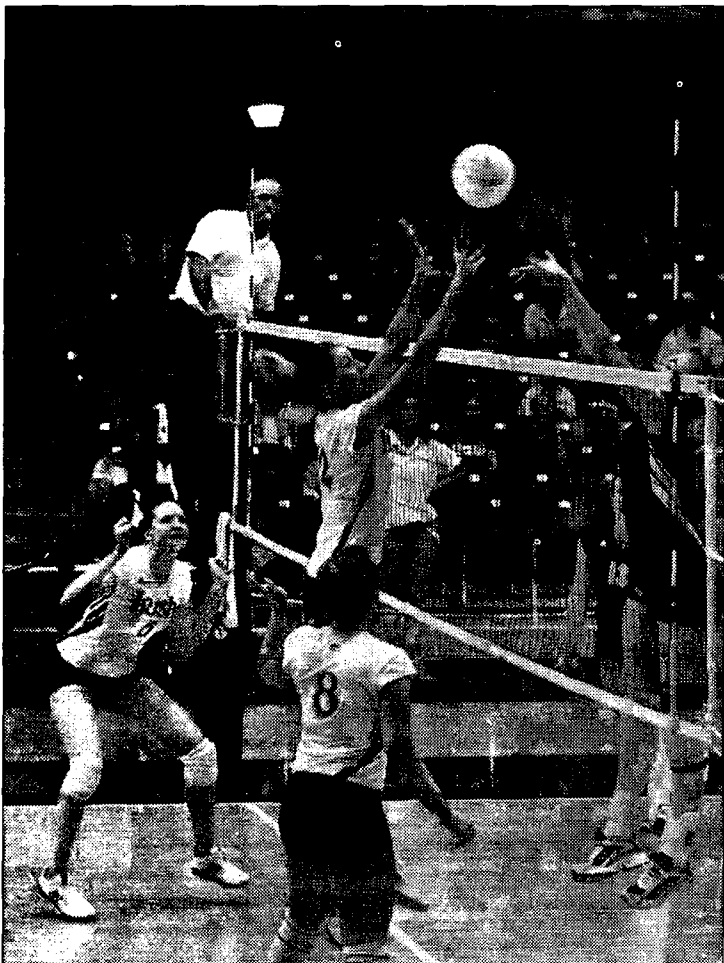
But the Irish had other plans.

Boston College kept Notre Dame at arm's length throughout the first game, capitalizing on the collectively listless Irish team. Wide-eyed and visibly frustrated, the Irish relied on individual efforts and could not put together a group-based attack to overcome the Eagles.

However, after a brief respite between games, a renewed and focused Irish team walked onto the courts. The hard-nosed Notre Dame defense forced Boston College into negative numbers with the Eagles recording a .083 hitting percentage, just seven team kills, and ten errors.

Kelbley, freshmen Ashley Tarutis and Adrianna Stasiuk, Brewster and junior captain Meg Henican each chipped in three digs and sophomore Danielle Herndon also added a dig to the Irish effort.

The Irish played textbook offense as well, finishing with a .500 on hitting and 17 kills in the second game, led by Loomis, Tarutis, and Brewster. Tarutis contributed 12 sets, creating opportunities for each of her teammates to take their share of swings. Brewster tallied nine kills and registered .900 on hitting and Loomis followed up with



CLEMENT SUHENDRA/The Observer

Irish middle hitter Lauren Brewster blocks a ball in the Irish game against Pittsburgh over the weekend.

three kills and .286 on hitting.

Bouncing back from such a disheartening loss in the first game is a noteworthy accomplishment for any team. But what makes this recovery especially praiseworthy are the circumstances the Irish had to face.

Heading into the Big East Championships, the Irish set lofty expectations for themselves.

As the first-seeded team in the tournament, defeat seemed like an unlikely option for the talent-laden Notre Dame team.

Thriving on their momentum from the second game, the Irish col-

lected wins in each of the following games they played last weekend — including those in their match against Pittsburgh Sunday.

Notre Dame was the first Big East Champion ever to fail to win a major award.

the team seemed overlooked in regards to individual awards, at the end of the day, they walked away with what was most important — the Big East Championship.

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

Contact Ann Loughery at alougher@nd.edu

MEN'S SWIMMING

Irish defend rank versus Louisville

By RAMA GOTTUMUKKALA
Sports Writer

With a national ranking to defend, the Irish wasted no time in presenting the new direction for their program over the weekend.

Swimming at Louisville in a three-session, championship-style meet, No. 21 Notre Dame (6-1) finished strong in its first-ever meet as a nationally-ranked team, posting a 242-117 victory against the Cardinals.

"That was very exciting news for us but we're trying to pay absolutely no attention to [the ranking]," Irish head coach Tim Welsh said. "We're glad that the ranking happened and we think that it gives some validity to what our ambitions are for the year. But we know that ranking doesn't make us one one-hundredth of a second faster and we know that if we're not faster in February, we're not going to be happy."

After being tied with Louisville 45-45 after Friday's events, Notre Dame came out strong and pulled away on Saturday. The Irish won 11 of the 15 events on the final day of the meet, garnering strong performances from senior Frank Krakowski. Krakowski led the way for the Irish, winning both the 100-yard butterfly and 100-yard freestyle and also taking part in the first-place 200-medley relay.

The Irish rotated their swimmers out of their normal events during the meet but won twice on Friday despite missing some of their top competitors, who were unable to miss class on Friday but joined their teammates in Saturday's events. Swimmers such as Krakowski, who were used to swimming key strokes in relays, were rotated to individual stroke events and they performed very well.

"Balance and depth are our two best features," Welsh said. "Because we were not limited by the number of swimmers we could put in each event [at this meet], we

did a bunch of things we hadn't done before. But it was all within the structure of [asking] how we supplement what we've done so that we get better."

Krakowski, the current Notre Dame record holder in the 50-yard freestyle, helped his teammates Doug Bauman, Tim Randolph and Louis Cavadini post a first-place time of 1:36.96 in the 200 medley relay. He would go on to win the 100-yard butterfly race, with a time of 51.51, and set the pace again in the 100-yard freestyle (47.88) event.

The 100-yard freestyle race proved to be one of the two points caches for the Irish, as the Irish claimed seven of the top eight spots in the event. Junior Tyler Grenda led the way in the other race, winning the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 59.06, as Notre Dame took the top nine spots in the event.

"I think one of the key features of this team is that they are a very focused group of guys," Welsh said. "We have been focused on our ambitions and our desires for achievement ever since the first time we met in August and we've been able to sustain that in each one of our meets."

The Irish will take to the water again on Dec. 2-4 as they return to the Rolf's Aquatic Center to participate in the Notre Dame Invitational. The annual championship-style meet will close out the team's fall semester campaign and it will be the tenth year that the Irish have hosted the event on the first weekend after Thanksgiving.

"We think of it as our final exam for the first semester," Welsh said. "We look at this event and say, 'Okay, where are we at the end of the fall?' and then we try to adjust what we're going to do next after that meet. I think what we're all learning is that we have a chance to be a pretty good team. We know that we have to keep on improving to do it, but we have a chance to be a pretty good team."

Contact Rama Gottumukkala at rgottumu@nd.edu

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ND WOMEN'S SOCCER

Not this time

Notre Dame beats Connecticut, avenging its only loss of the season

By DAN TAPETILLO
Sports Writer

The No. 2 Irish turned in another impressive performance during the third round of the NCAA tournament with a 2-0 shutout over conference rival Connecticut, who dealt the Irish their only loss of the year in the Big East Tournament.

From the beginning of the match, Notre Dame controlled the game offensively. At the end of the first half, the Irish held a 12-3 lead in shots made.

However, this dominance offensively did not help the team to convert these early opportunities into points.

The team struggled to score until the 66th minute of the game, when senior Candace Chapman headed a ball in off a cross from freshman midfielder Ashley Jones for her

11th goal of the season.

"She comes on immediately and handles it like a veteran," Irish coach Randy Waldrum said of Jones. "The hard part is now [because of the Irish talent] getting her the minutes she really needs and deserves. She just gets better each week. I thought she was fantastic tonight."

Despite the difficulties in scoring up until the goal made by Chapman, Waldrum was not troubled with the team's inability to put the ball into the net.

"The whole night I felt like we created enough chances that we would get one," Waldrum said. "I felt like we had a good handle on the game from the opening whistle."

The Irish extended its control on the field, into second half by scoring another goal

see UCONN/page 18



HILLARY THORNTON/The Observer
Notre Dame's Amanda Cinalli dribbles the ball Saturday night during the 2-0 Irish win over Connecticut in the NCAA Tournament.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Men win against Harvard

By MATT LOZAR
Sports Writer

Irish coach Mike Brey summed it up best.

"If you get 18 more shots than your opponent, turn them over 19 times but only score 66 points it's going to be interesting," Brey said.

It was interesting to say the least

Friday night in Notre Dame's 66-59 win over Harvard in the season opener at the Joyce Center.

After building a 16-point halftime lead, the Irish allowed the Crimson back into the game in the second

see CRIMSON/page 16

See Also
"Irish needed an early scare" page 16

ND CROSS COUNTRY

Irish travel to Terre Haute for NCAA Championships

By STEVE COYER
Sports Writer

Notre Dame has consistently proven itself to be among the best in the nation this year. Today at the NCAA championships, the team looks to con-

tinue that pattern.

With second-place finishes at the Great Lakes Regional, the No. 5 ranked men's team and the No. 6 women's team qualified for the NCAA championships along with 31 other teams.

Despite beginning the season unranked, the men's team has

delivered in big meets — most notably a one-point victory over Georgetown to claim the Big East title.

"It's been an amazing year to go from unranked to fifth," Irish coach Joe Piane said. "They've been on a high for the past six weeks, and we hope to continue

that for the next five or six days."

The women's team began the season with high expectations but has had to overcome injuries and other setbacks along the way.

After missing the regional race with a sore foot, star runner Molly Huddle may still not run

today. Huddle had been a top finisher all season and placed 41st overall at last season's NCAA championship.

"At the beginning of the year we had better hopes but things have not fallen into place," Irish

see NATIONALS/page 18

ND VOLLEYBALL

Wins over Pitt, BC give ND title

By MIKE GILLOON
Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH — Their coach likes to call them the "two Laurens." Others just call them Big East champions.

Notre Dame swept Pittsburgh 30-23, 30-26, 30-26 to win the Big East Tournament title behind the consistent, strong play of Lauren Brewster and Lauren Kelbley.

Brewster, named the tournament's most outstanding player, recorded five blocks in the cham-

see CHAMPS/page 18



CLEMENT SUHENDRA/The Observer
Irish defensive specialist Meg Henican digs a ball Sunday in the Irish win over Pittsburgh in the Big East Tournament Championship.

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Batteast named MVP of WNIT in Irish win

By JOE HETTLER
Sports Writer

On the best offensive night of her career, it was Jacqueline Batteast's defense that sealed Notre Dame's victory.

Batteast tallied a career-high 32 points and made a critical block of a potential

See Also
"Team responds to challenge" page 17



RICHARD FRIEDMAN/The Observer
Irish forward Jacqueline Batteast goes up for a shot.

see OSU/page 17

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

HOCKEY

U.S. National Team 7, Notre Dame 2

The Irish fail to play solid defense as the Under-18 National Team dominates.

page 17

WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Notre Dame 189, Bowling Green 112

The No. 21 Irish used their depth to improve their record to 4-2.

page 16

MEN'S SWIMMING

Notre Dame 242, Louisville 117

Notre Dame dominated behind the strong performance of Frank Krakowski.

page 14

NBA

NBA Commissioner David Stern announces suspensions from the Pacers-Pistons game brawl.

page 13

SMC BASKETBALL

Hanover 63, Saint Mary's 38

Franklin 66, Saint Mary's 57

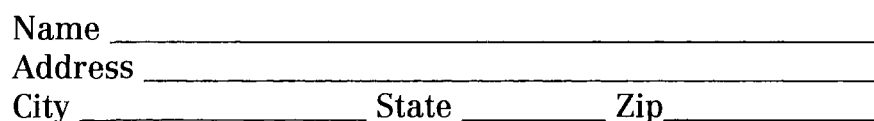
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WOMEN'S BOXING

Baraka Bouts

The women's first bouts were a success, as 11 championship bouts were fought Sunday.

page 12

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

Champs

continued from page 20

pionship match and disrupted the Panther offensive attack all afternoon.

"Lauren [Brewster] does so much for us," Irish coach Debbie Brown said. "Hitting out of the back row, playing defense and good serving ... I'm just happy for her and happy for the team. It'll be a fun bus ride back home."

Kelbley should enjoy a rest on that bus as she played this weekend for the first time since Nov. 5 due to a nagging foot injury. However, her play was anything but painful. She led the Irish in kills for the match with 14 and had only two errors on 35 swings for a .343 hitting percentage.

"[Kelbley] was awesome all weekend," Brown said. "The committee [that selects the tournament MOP] had a hard time picking between the two Laurens. Coming off of her injury and playing with a ton of heart and executing really well. She was huge for us at the net hitting and

blocking."

Brewster and Kelbley, first and second team all-Big East selections respectively, have now been a part of two conference tournament championship teams in their three years on the squad.

Notre Dame's two freshman starters, Adrianna Stasiuk and Ashley Tarutis, played steadily in their first collegiate postseason tournament. Stasiuk was second on the team with 10 kills while Tarutis hit .429 and added 34 assists from her setter position.

"It's really exciting [to win the tournament] because it's my first year here," Stasiuk said. Neither team performed particularly well offensively as the Irish and the Panthers hit only .191 and .225 respectively. However, Notre Dame's defense forced Pittsburgh into making 24 errors.

"When your side is consistent it's easy to force errors on the other team," Stasiuk said. "We just controlled our side of the net and let their errors come."

Notre Dame will head to California for the Baden Thanksgiving Tournament Friday and Saturday against UC-Irvine

and Long Beach State. The NCAA tournament then starts Dec. 2 and Brown feels the Irish have a shot against whoever they draw.

"We know that we're playing better volleyball now than we were a week ago," Brown said. "We're more confident and that's important. We want to play our best volleyball at the end of the season."

NOTRE DAME 3, PITTSBURGH 0 at the FITZGERALD FIELD HOUSE

NOTRE DAME 30 30 30
PITTSBURGH 23 26 26

NOTRE DAME — Kills 49 (Kelbley 14), Assists 47 (Tarutis 34), Digs 64 (Henican 25), Blocks 13 (Brewster 5), Hitting percentage .225 (Tarutis .429), Aces 1 (Kelbley 1)
PITTSBURGH — Kills 53 (Andreyko 15), Assists 52 (Macke 33), Digs 75 (McGrane 23), Blocks 1 (Miller, Whaley, Macke 1), Hitting percentage .191 (Whaley .529), Aces 0

Notre Dame 3, Boston College 1

After losing to Boston College in the regular season, the Irish returned the favor in Saturday's semifinal match with a four-game 25-30, 30-15, 30-26, 30-20 victo-

ry over the Eagles.

Notre Dame hit .339 for the match, paced by Brewster's stellar second game in which the junior hit .900 with nine kills on 10 attempts and no errors. She could not have come through at a better time. The Irish looked sluggish in the game one loss, hitting only .222 with five errors and barely threatening the Eagles.

"[Brewster] just decided that [losing the match] was not going to happen," Brown said. "She said 'I'm going to take over' and she obviously has the ability to do that."

Kelbley was thrilled to be a part of a win on Saturday.

"It felt wonderful to get back on the court," Kelbley said after posting a match-high 20 kills with only three errors for a hitting percentage of .425. "I've been waiting for this moment all week. It's really hard to be on the sidelines and watch your teammates play."

"[Kelbley] came up with a lot of really key swings," Brown said. "I just think that the team is more comfortable and plays with a lit-

tle more confidence when she's in there."

The Eagles scorched the Irish defense with a .316 hitting percentage in game one. But Brewster's five blocks and Meg Henican's three digs held Boston College to a percentage of .083 in the pivotal game two. The outstretched arms of Kelbley and Emily Loomis at the net forced the Eagles into making 10 hitting errors compared with only two for the Irish.

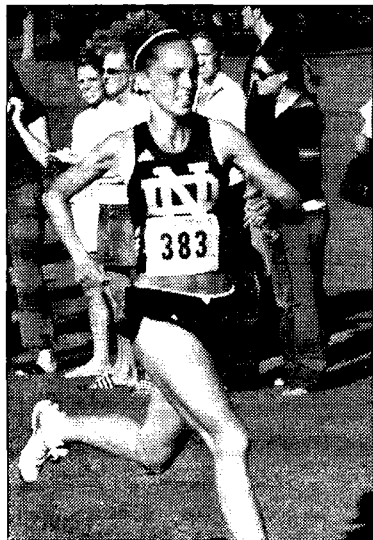
NOTRE DAME 3, BOSTON COLLEGE 1 at the FITZGERALD FIELD HOUSE

NOTRE DAME 25 30 30 30
BOSTON COLLEGE 30 15 26 20

NOTRE DAME — Kills 74 (Kelbley 20), Assists 66 (Tarutis 53), Digs 74 (Henican 20), Blocks 13.5 (Brewster 6), Hitting percentage .339 (Cooper .524), Aces 1 (Tarutis 1)

BOSTON COLLEGE — Kills 54 (Andersen, Niemczewska 14), Assists 52 (Rost 44), Digs 70 (Anderson 22), Blocks 8 (Hasebroock 3), Hitting percentage .168 (Niemczewska .370), Aces 7 (Andersen 2)

Contact Mike Gilloon at mgilloon@nd.edu



ERIC SALES/The Observer

Stephanie Madia and the Irish take to the course today.

Nationals

continued from page 20

coach Tim Connelly said. "We have enough talent for a top-10 finish or better."

The Irish will rely on Lauren King, Stephanie Madia, and Kerry Meagher to have strong performances if they are to finish in the top 10. King led the Irish with a 21st place finish at nationals in 2003.

The men's squad will be at full strength for today's race lead by Kurt Benninger, Kaleb Van Ort and Tim Moore. Van Ort was Notre Dame's top finisher at nationals in 2002 and Moore placed 89th overall in 2003. Vincent Ambrico, AJ Andrassy, Ryan Johnson and Sean O'Donnell also will compete.

"We're healthy and enthusiastic," Piane said. "They'll be ready to run once we get on the bus on Friday."

Both Irish teams have had their share of experience at the NCAA meet. The men have competed in 11 of the past 13 national championships while the women have qualified for the past five years.

This year's national race will be held in Terre Haute at the La Vern Gibson Championship Course. The Irish have previous experience on the course and hope to use this to their advantage.

"The kids love the course and are comfortable with it," Connelly said. "In the past we've run fairly well there."

Contact Steve Coyer at scoyer@nd.edu

UConn

continued from page 20

game off a penalty-kick. Junior Katie Thorlakson knocked the goal into the center of the goal, directly under the crossbar for the 2-0 lead and final margin.

Waldrum attributed the team's success in the second half to its composure on the field and not losing focus after the first half.

"I think the most important thing is that you keep your game plan and maintain your composure," Waldrum said. "You just have to keep plugging away and getting those opportunities."

In addition to the many opportunities the team had offensively, the Irish defense played a critical role in stopping Connecticut's offense.

"[Defense] has been the cornerstone for us the past couple of years," Waldrum said. "I think this could be one of the best backlines Notre Dame has ever had."

In addition to the strong performances in the back by Melissa Tancredi and Gudrun Gunnarsdottir, sophomore Kim

Lorenzen was a dominant presence for the Connecticut offense.

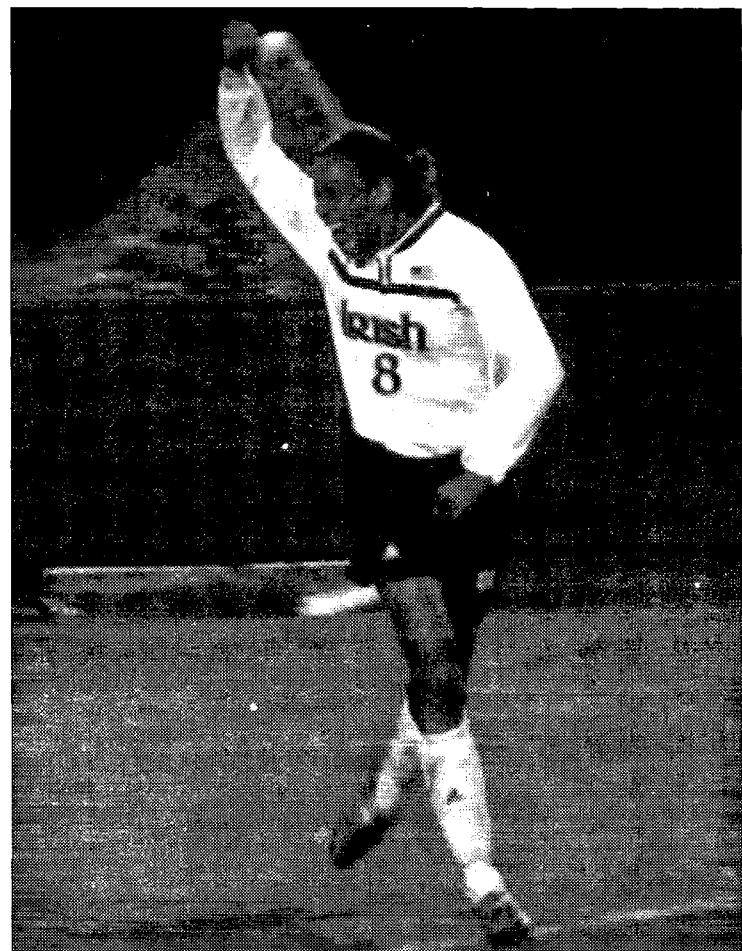
"She gives you so many weapons," Waldrum said. "She is just a warrior. I think she is one of our best players and one that we can't do without. And she is probably one of our more underrated ones."

The Irish improved their all-time record in the NCAA tournament to 29-10-1. Notre Dame will now face the second highest seed left in the tournament, No. 5 Portland in the quarterfinals.

Heading into the next round, Notre Dame is the highest seed remaining in the tournament. Top-seeded North Carolina fell to Santa Clara 1-0 in the quarterfinals, No. 2 Penn State loss to Maryland 1-0 in the second round and No. 3 Virginia was upset by Duke 3-0 in the second round.

"I think even as short of a time period of eight to 10 years ago, it was still just Carolina, and it was a shock in some ways that they got knocked out this soon," Waldrum said. "[But now] I think there are a lot of teams that can win it."

Contact Dan Tapetillo at jtapetil@nd.edu



HILLARY THORNTON/The Observer

Notre Dame's Candace Chapman celebrates her goal against Connecticut Saturday night in the 2-0 Irish win.

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HOCKEY

U.S. National Team defeats Irish handily

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Associate Sports Editor

Youth was served at the Joyce Center Friday night, as the U.S. National Team Developmental Program's Under-18 team defeated the Irish 7-2 in an exhibition game.

Special teams accounted for five of the Under-18 team's seven goals, with three goals coming on the power play and two goals scored while Team USA was shorthanded.

"It was a tough night all-around for us," Irish coach Dave Poulin told und.com.

Team USA outshot the Irish 29-27 on the night, but Poulin felt the stat was misleading in terms of saying who dominated.

"We let our goaltenders out there all alone tonight," he said. "The shots were very misleading. They had quality chances all night long."

The Irish led early in the game, and Team USA came back to tie the contest at one goal apiece after the first period. Team USA then exploded in the second period, scoring three unanswered goals — including two shorthanded tallies — to take a 4-2 lead after the Irish scored a goal late on the power play.

Three more goals for Team USA in the third period put the game away completely.

The Under-18 team continued its impressive performance so far in the 2004-05

season. Team USA improved its record to an impressive 4-2-2 record against Division I collegiate teams.

Notre Dame forward Josh Sciba opened the scoring at 14 minutes, 24 seconds of the opening period to give the Irish a 1-0 lead. Sciba collected a pass from Wes O'Neill, and then whipped around behind the net to score on a wraparound goal before Team USA goalie Jeff Frazee could get back in position.

The Irish lead was short-lived, as just 22 seconds later Ryan Stoa beat Irish goalie David Brown for a goal.

Stoa would score again just 1:15 into the second period, and Phil Kessel followed at 8:02 — both goals were shorthanded.

"The two short-handed goals were the game," Poulin said. "We couldn't bounce back from that."

Jack Skille scored for Team USA at 10:11 of the period, but Notre Dame's Tim Wallace came back to score for the Irish at 12:18 of the second.

Kessel, Jason Lawrence and Jack Johnson scored goals for Team USA in the third period to put the game out of reach.

Notre Dame returns to action this weekend when it travels to Alaska Fairbanks for a two-game series with its conference rival.

Contact Justin Schuver at jschuver@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Team responds to challenge

Irish use late 12-0 run to put away Buckeyes

There were just over five minutes left in the game. Down by eight, it was time for the Irish to decide if they were going to make a run for the game or just chalk it up as an early-season learning experience.

Five minutes later, they were raising a trophy, waving to their fans as the pre-season WNIT champions.

Notre Dame could have easily given up Saturday night. The Irish could have gone home with their heads up and proud of the way they played against No. 6 Duke earlier in the week, proud of the way they fought that night against Ohio State. But not this team.

Not this year. "We definitely didn't want to leave here with any moral victories," Irish forward Jacqueline Batteast said.

And it was Batteast who wouldn't let her team do just that.

The All-American finished with 32 points and dominated the Ohio State defense. She played good defense and rebounded. She was the heart and soul of the Irish team.

With four seconds to go in the game, point guard Megan Duffy turned the ball over and Buckeye Caitly Matter was wide open in the corner, ready to

shoot the game-tying three-pointer. But Batteast was ready to help her teammate. She sprinted from half-court and got to the corner just in time to block the shot, preserving the Irish win.

It was Batteast who wasn't leaving with a moral victory. With 2:30 to play and the Irish down 64-60, Batteast shot from the right elbow. The ball hit the front of the rim, bounced up, rolled around and went in. Batteast ran down the court yelling in exuberance. Batteast had taken the Irish team on her shoulders, scoring seven points in their 12-0 run to end the game. It didn't matter how Ohio State tried to guard her. It didn't matter where she was on the court.

She was going to score. She was going to win.

And so was the Notre Dame defense.

After they were down eight points, the Irish decided to step it up on defense. They scrambled to get in shooters' faces, rebounded and didn't let the Buckeyes score. No shots went in — not even a free throw. The Irish played man-to-man, but it was their team defense that was most impressive. Helping, talking, rebounding — they played textbook defense.

Ohio State was held scoreless the last 5:18 of the game. This Irish team responded. Batteast

responded.

The Irish were intense. They played this game like it was an NCAA tournament game. It was unlike a year ago at this time, when Notre Dame lost to Colorado in overtime, 67-63, after failing to come through in the stretch, both offensively and defensively.

This year's team was up to the challenge. They stepped it up on defense, and on offense, they did what needed to be done — got the ball to Batteast.

"We definitely didn't want to leave here with any moral victories."

Jacqueline Batteast
Irish forward

For Notre Dame it was a game to build on, a game to turn back to. It was NCAA tournament-type experience without the repercussions.

But Notre Dame played as though this game had repercussions. They played like their season was on the line. Every last player on this Irish team wants to win, and it shows.

So the Irish lifted the trophy to the crowd as they extended their home-winning streak and showed the country they are a different team from last year.

And as a result, No. 10 Ohio State was left with the learning experience.

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

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvanhoeg@nd.edu

OSU

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game-tying 3-point attempt from Ohio State's Caitly Matter with two seconds left to secure No. 11 Notre Dame's 66-62 victory against the No. 10 Buckeyes in the final of the pre-season Women's National Invitation Tournament on Saturday evening at the Joyce Center.

"I think the biggest play of the game was Jackie's block," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "She had to run about 20 feet to get that. She had a spectacular night, a career night. I think in every huddle we said 'Go to Jackie,' no matter what play we're running."

The Irish trailed 62-54 with 5:18 remaining when Matter made a layup. The Buckeyes did not score the rest of the game as Notre Dame went on a 12-0 for the come-from-behind win.

Batteast started the run by sinking two free throws and then converting a 3-point play with 3:59 left. The All-American had her back to the basket and defender Stephanie Blanton on the left side of the court before spinning toward the baseline and banking in the field goal. Batteast's free throw made it 62-59.

After freshman Charel Allen grabbed the rebound on Ohio State's next possession, Notre Dame guard Megan Duffy drilled a tough 3-point shot with a defender's hand in her

face to tie the game at 62-62 and send the almost 4,000 fans at the Joyce Center into a frenzy.

"I was most proud of when we got down eight late in the game and we made our run," McGraw said. "We didn't give up. We didn't panic. We tightened up on defense and we were able to get the ball to Jackie and Megan hit a three. We did a lot of smart things. We didn't turn the ball over a lot during that stretch."

Batteast agreed with her coach.

"We were at home, we had the crowd behind us," the senior forward said. "We were very determined. There was a lot of time left to just be down by eight. Everyone on this team is so confident. We knew as long as we had no more mental lapses, we could start to swing things our way."

Appropriately, Batteast put the Irish ahead for good at the 2:45 mark when she hit a jumper. Notre Dame had the ball and a three-point lead with just 11 seconds left, when Duffy turned it over. Ohio State's Tamarah Riley grabbed the ball and fired it to a seemingly free Matter in the right corner of the baseline.

But Batteast anticipated the pass and dashed over just in time to stuff the shot and finalize Notre Dame's fourth victory of the season.

"I was thinking I didn't want this game to go into overtime," said Batteast, who was named the Most Valuable Player of the tournament and to the all-tour-

namment team moments after the game ended. "Matter was wide open, and I just did my best to get in her way; I just happened to hit the ball."

Duffy, who was also named to the all-tournament team, finished the game with 15 points on 5-of-7 shooting and added six assists. She also had an uncharacteristic nine turnovers. No one else for the Irish scored more than six points.

Ohio State was led by center Jessica Davenport, who was nearly unstoppable for much of the game, en route to 23 points on 7-of-10 shooting. But Notre

Dame didn't allow her to take a shot during the final four minutes of the game.

Notre Dame finished the pre-season WNIT with wins against two top-10 teams and an all-but-guaranteed spot in the top-10 rankings when the newest poll comes out. But the Irish won't have much time to enjoy the 4-0 start. Colorado State visits the Joyce Center tonight for a 7 p.m. tip.

Notes:

♦ Batteast moved into 10th place on Notre Dame's all-time scoring list with 1,401 points during her career.

♦ The Irish have won 24 straight games at the Joyce Center, which is the second-longest streak in school history.

No. 11 NOTRE DAME 66, No. 10 OHIO STATE 62 at the JOYCE CENTER

NOTRE DAME (4-0, 0-0)

Batteast 11-23 10-12 32, LaVere 1-7 1-2 3, Borton 1-4 2-2 4, Duffy 5-7 2-2 15, Gray 1-2 2-3 4, Allen 3-3 0-0 6, D'Amico 1-2 0-0 2, Erwin 0-5 0-0 0

OHIO STATE (3-1, 0-0)

Munoz 3-4 0-2 6, Davenport 7-10 9-9 23, Hoskins 3-6 0-0 6, Wilburn 3-6 0-1 7, Matter 5-15 3-3 13, Howe 0-0 0-0 0, Battle 0-1 0-0 0, Packer 0-0 0-0 0, Dark 0-2 0-0 0, Allen 2-5 0-0 5, Blanton 0-0 0-0 0, Riley 0-3 2-2 2

	1st	2nd	Total
NOTRE DAME	29	37	66
Ohio State	25	37	62

3-point goals: Notre Dame 3-6 (Duffy 3-4, Batteast 0-2) Ohio State 2-12 (Allen 1-2, Wilburn 1-2, Matter 0-6, Dark 0-1, Hoskins 0-1) Fouled out: None. Rebounds: Notre Dame 36-22 (Gray 6), Ohio State 28-19 (Davenport 7). Assists: Notre Dame 12 (Duffy 6), Ohio State 15 (Wilburn 6). Total fouls: Notre Dame 16, Ohio State 20.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish needed an early scare

First comes the preseason talk. Then begins the in-season walk. As Notre Dame found out Friday night, that walk is not an easy one.

But the Irish are safe after their first regular season game. And struggling for a half against Harvard may not have been a bad thing.



Pat Leonard

Associate Sports Editor

Notre Dame's first test — a home game against an Ivy League team that finished 4-23 last season — exposed areas of concern, even for a team whose senior point guard called for 30 regular season wins.

The Crimson out-rebounded the Irish and outscored them in the paint. Harvard had more second half points and a better field-goal percentage.

The most puzzling statistic at the game's final was the score, 66-59. How could Notre Dame, ranked No. 20 in the Associated Press poll and No. 21 in the ESPN/USA Today poll, only beat Harvard by seven points?

Simple.

It was Notre Dame's first game. Dennis Latimore was making his first appearance on the court since 2002.

There were only two Irish players in double figures. And among other reasons, perhaps the most significant: Harvard was not that

bad.

"I don't think I'm mad that it wasn't a blowout," Notre Dame forward Jordan Cornette said. "I guess if we had performed to the level that I had expected us to perform to, I think it might have been a blowout, just because I think we do have the more talented players, but Harvard played a heck of a game out there."

Notre Dame does have more talent. But the Crimson's two leading scorers, forward Matt Stehle and center Brian Cusworth, outplayed the Irish frontcourt and almost negated a woeful Harvard backcourt performance (19 turnovers).

Cusworth exhibited flashes of excellence that have appeared in only two other players in the past two seasons at the Joyce Center: in 2002, Marquette's Dwayne Wade; in 2003, Syracuse's Hakim Warrick.

Meanwhile, Irish shooting guard Chris Quinn had the best game of any of his teammates, scoring 20 points and hitting all seven of his fouls shots. Harvard coach Frank Sullivan even called Quinn one of the best players in the country.

But Quinn's efforts on offense were only good enough because Notre Dame pulled itself together for the final three minutes.

And after the game, Notre Dame coach Mike Brey was not mad, but he was not happy.

"If we average 65 points a game, we're dead," Brey said. "We've got to score more. It's real simple."

Being an offensive team that thrives on motion and shooting, the Irish can rarely afford hereafter to play poor offensive basketball. But Friday's game may have helped the Irish get a bad egg out of their system.

"[A close game] keeps everybody honest, but I don't think our guys got ahead of themselves at all," Brey said. "They know this is a long road, and I told them, 'You kind of start building your resume tonight.'"

Ultimately, that is just what Notre Dame did.

For every top-25 blowout Friday night (No. 10 Michigan State 104 Florida A&M 72), there was a closer call like Notre Dame's.

For every highly-ranked team that humbled its opponent (No. 19 N.C. State 100, East Carolina 66), there was a top squad who kept it closer than they would have liked (No. 25 Stanford 93 San Francisco 83).

And for every top-25 scare (No. 1 Kansas 68, Vermont 61), there was a lauded program with two-preseason All-Americans that saw things fall apart (Santa Clara 77, No. 3 North Carolina 66).

At the end of the night, the No. 1 team in the country had one loss. Notre Dame had one win. And as far as an optimistic Thomas is concerned, that means his team only needs 29 more.

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

Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu

Crimson

continued from page 20

half with lapses in defensive intensity and offensive efficiency.

"I just think it was focus," Irish forward Jordan Cornette said. "We were looking up at the scoreboard and saw we had a comfortable lead. I don't think in college basketball not matter who you are playing, you can get comfortable. It's going to be a battle for 40 minutes. I think we saw we got up double digits and thought we started playing comfortable and you can't do that."

"When you smell blood you have to go for the kill."

The Irish (1-0) used a 17-3 run in the middle of the first half to break open a game tied at eight to a 25-11 advantage. During that run the Irish had five steals and in the half, the Irish had 10 steals and forced 13 Harvard (0-1) turnovers overall.

Chris Quinn led the Irish in the first 20 minutes with 14 points on 5-of-9 shooting as the team shot 45 percent.

All of those turnovers led to a number of easy baskets at the other end, but in the second half, those easy baskets stopped and Quinn, along with the rest of the Irish went ice cold.

In the second half, Harvard only committed six turnovers, outrebounded the Irish 25-16 and had a 46 percent field goal percentage compared to Notre Dame's 21 percent.

That allowed the Crimson to chip away at the Irish lead. When the Irish couldn't force turnovers, their offense stalled relying on jump shots and their outside shooters went cold — Chris Thomas, Colin Falls and Quinn went a combined 4-for-22 in the second half.

"From about the 15-minute mark to the five-minute mark, we weren't moving or running the floor. You have to get a couple there," Brey said. "I can't complain because I think

back to the looks we got for our shooters, you've got to take those. Offensive efficiency put a lot of pressure on us tonight."

Harvard tied the game at 57 with just over six minutes remaining. The Crimson rode 7-foot sophomore's Brian Cusworth's 13 second-half points in the comeback.

The Irish then clamped down on defense, not allowing the Crimson to score for a stretch of 5:41 and slowly built a six-point lead by making their free throws and a tough jumper from Thomas.

After playing in the first half like all of the preseason expectations said they would, the Irish struggled in the second half to get an opening night win.

In the end, that's all that matters.

"It's the first game of the season, it's one of those games where you feel like you got a loss, but you look back at that Central Michigan game last year," Irish forward Dennis Latimore said. "Me personally, I'm happy we got the W. If it wasn't by 30, 4 or 10 whatever, I'll take that win."

NOTRE DAME 66,

HARVARD 59

at the JOYCE CENTER

NOTRE DAME (1-0)

Cornette 2-5 2-2 6, Francis 2-6 3-5 7, Latimore 2-10 2-2 6, Thomas 7-19 1-2 17, Quinn 6-15 7-7 20, Isreal 1-3 0-0 3, Cornett 2-4 0-3 4, Falls 1-4 0-0 3, Kurz 0-0 0-0 0

HARVARD (0-1)

Stehle 4-9 5-10 12, Norman 1-4 0-0 2, Cusworth 6-9 3-3 15, Rogus 4-9 0-0 10, Beal 1-5 2-4 4, Goffredo 2-3 0-0 5, Klunick 0-1 0-0 0, Giovacchini 2-5 2-2 6, McCrone 2-3 0-0 4, Beatty 0-0 0-0 0

	1st	2nd	Total
NOTRE DAME	43	23	66
Harvard	27	32	59

3-point goals: Notre Dame 5-20 (Thomas 2-7, Quinn 1-6, Falls 1-4, Isreal 1-1, Cornette 0-2), Harvard 3-14 (Rogus 2-7, Goffredo 1-2, Stehle 0-1, Norman 0-1, Cusworth 0-1, Beal 0-1, Klunick 0-1). Fouled out: None. Rebounds: Notre Dame 35 (Francis 9), Harvard 41 (Cusworth 13). Assists: Notre Dame 9 (Thomas 5), Harvard 11 (Giovacchini 3). Total fouls: Notre Dame 16, Harvard 19.

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING

No. 21 Irish test depth

Facing Bowling Green, the No. 21 Irish had more on their mind than just coming away with a victory. The team wanted to test its own depth, racing some swimmers who were lower on the depth chart and pushing their strongest swimmers to focus on their third and sometimes, fourth, events. That being said, the Irish took care of business this weekend, traveling to Bowling Green and winning 189-112 over the winless Falcons, improving their record to 4-2.

Freshman Caroline Johnson led the onslaught for the Irish, winning three events over the weekend. She won the 50-yard freestyle and the 200-yard backstroke, an impressive feat considering she had never before raced in those events for the Irish. In the latter event, the Irish took the top three spots, with senior Kristen Peterson and freshman Morgan Bullock touching the wall after Johnson.

"I was really pleased with [Caroline's] swims," Irish coach Bailey Weathers said. "Her swim in the 200-free was real helpful for us, and it makes [our other

freestylers] more flexible."

Johnson also swam the backstroke leg of the 200-medley relay. She was joined on that team by freshman Natalie Burke, junior Christel Bouvron and sophomore Krissy Archer.

Sophomore Ann Barton led two dominating Irish performances, leading the way for the Irish to take the top four spots in the 100-yard backstroke and setting the pace for a 1-2-3 finish in the 400-meter individual medley. Sophomore Ellen Johnson, freshman Noemie Brand and sophomore Kiley Gooch finished behind Barton in the backstroke, and Barton's sister and senior co-captain Kelli finished in second and freshman Laura Stafford finished third in the Individual Medley.

Ellen Johnson led yet another medal sweep for the Irish, winning the 100-yard freestyle, trailed by sophomore Jessica Stephens and freshman Kayla Graham. Johnson also won the 200-yard freestyle, winning the event by more than two seconds with a time of 1 minute, 53:39 seconds.

Stephens did not come away from the meet without a victory, however, taking first place in the 100-meter breaststroke. The win gives her 10 for the season, tying her for first place with Ellen Johnson among Irish swimmers.

In the 200-meter breaststroke, senior co-captain Georgia Healey won the event with a time of 2:26:04.

On the diving board, senior Meghan Perry-Eaton continued her dominance this season, winning both the 1-meter and 3-meter events easily. The victories give her 11 out of 12 in the events she has entered.

Weathers is optimistic for his team after the strong performances of swimmers who haven't always led the charge in the pool. "We've hoped from the start to have a lot of people to help us and that's come to light for us," he said.

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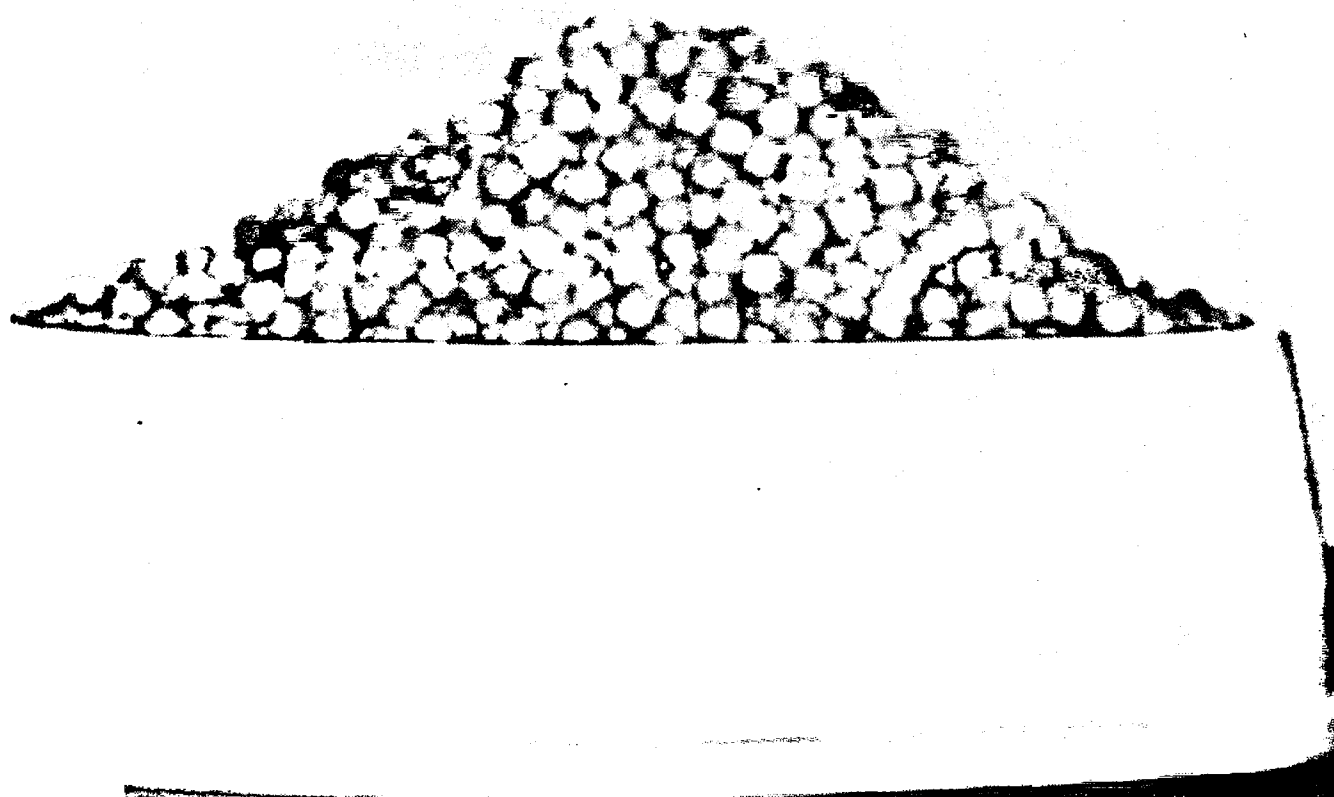
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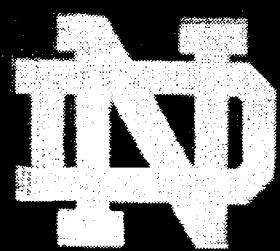
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IRISH INSIDER

Monday, November 22, 2004

THE
OBSERVER



**MEN'S
SOCCER**

**1988, '93, '94, '96, 2001-03
NCAA TOURNAMENT**



**WOMEN'S
SOCCER**

**1994-'97, '99, 2000
NCAA FINAL FOUR**



**WOMEN'S
SOCCER**

1994-'97, '99, 2000-03



SOMETHING TO PROVE

After an early exit last year, the toughest defense in the country is focused on leading the Irish to a national championship

Photo illustration by Notre Dame Sports Information and GRAHAM EBETSCH/The Observer

Irish hope to avoid the pain of penalty kicks

Heartbreak wears a variety of masks.

When Michigan midfielder Mike White beat Irish goalkeeper Chris Sawyer in the deciding fifth-round of penalty kicks in the Sweet 16 of the NCAA tournament last season, the Irish and their faithful were greeted with the crushing blow of the tie-breaking shootout loss.

Almost a year later, in the quarterfinals of the Big East Championships Nov. 6, the Irish found themselves swallowing the same bitter pill.

After a pair of early-season, hotly contested losses to the No. 2 seed Indiana (14-4-1) and Big East rival West Virginia (12-7-1) — both on the road — nearly dropped the Irish out of the NSCAA/Adidas rankings, No. 5 Notre Dame (13-2-3) hit its stride, rattling off 11 consecutive matches without a loss (9-0-2).

However, the double-edged sword of tournament soccer allows for advancement without victory and elimination without defeat.

Heading into the Big East Championships as the No. 1 seed courtesy of a regular season conference title — the program's first since joining the Big East in 1995 — Notre Dame's bid to win the conference championship for a second consecutive season earlier

this month was short-lived.

Hosting No. 8 seed Seton Hall at Alumni Field Nov. 6, the Irish battled the Pirates for 110 grueling minutes — 90 regulation minutes plus a pair of 10-minute golden-goal overtime periods — yet neither squad was able to find the back of the net.

The necessary evil of penalty kicks was the consequence.

Removing defense — save the goalkeeper — from the equation, penalty kicks function not as an appropriate measure of a team's talent, but instead, of nerve, and often, sheer luck.

Matching Seton Hall shot-for-shot through the first seven rounds, the heavily-favored Irish continued to stave off elimination. But when Pirate Matt Salotti slotted the ball past Sawyer in the eighth round and Notre Dame midfielder Nate Norman's attempt sailed over the crossbar, the Irish found themselves with a tally in the tie column — and a "thanks for playing" ticket home.

In the end, then, if the Irish are to continue to build on the impressive foundation coach Bobby Clark has built over the past four years and move into the Elite Eight for the first time in program history, not only will the vaunted Notre Dame defense — the undisputable backbone of this Irish team — need to continue to play the asphyxiating shutdown defense that has resulted in the nation's lowest goals-against-average, but it's equally essential the

young, growing Irish offensive unit take advantage of prime scoring opportunities and finish those chances — a problem that has plagued the team for much of the season.

Without a doubt, the seeds of a potent Irish attack to buttress a nationally-acclaimed lockdown defense are present.

Sophomore forward Justin McGeeney has paced the offense thus far this season, posting 12 points (five goals, two assists), while classmate midfielder Ian Etherington has flashed the unique ability to both set up goals (with a team-high five assists) and find the back of the net, himself (three goals).

Factor in a pair of talented freshman forwards in Joe Lapira (three goals, two assists) and Alex Yoshinaga (three goals, two assists), Irish co-leader in goals scored junior forward Tony Megna (five goals), Norman (two goals, three assists) and the veteran leadership of senior midfielder Luke Boughen (two goals, four assists), and it's apparent the Irish have the ability to score — they simply must capitalize on opportunities, albeit a task easier said than done.

While an Irish defense that yielded a meager seven goals in 18 contests affords Notre Dame slightly larger room for error on the offensive side of the ball than the typical soccer squad, following last year's heart-breaking Sweet 16 exit and Nov. 6's stunning upset loss to a



BRAD CARMEAN/The Observer

Forward Justin McGeeney battles for possession of the ball in Notre Dame's 3-0 victory over Michigan at Alumni Field in October.

clearly inferior Seton Hall squad, no one needs to remind the Irish of the potentially crushing consequences that an offensive drought would have on a post-season NCAA Championship run — or, should Notre Dame fail to put away the opposition during both reg-

ulation and overtime, the fickle nature of tournament soccer's shootout.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Matt Puglisi at mpuglisi@nd.edu.

THE TOP 16 SEEDS

TOP SEEDS AND THEIR SECOND ROUND OPPONENTS



The final goal

They want a national title — and the nation's toughest defenders are ready to prove they can bring it home

By KATE GALES
Sports Writer

Seven.

If a defense is measured by the number of goals it allows, then the Notre Dame defense is second to none.

In 163 shots over 18 games, goalkeeper Chris Sawyer has reached into the back of net just seven times with the tangible proof that the rock-solid Irish back line has broken down.

For anyone without a calculator handy, that works out to a 0.37 goals-against average — the lowest in the country and a crucial factor in the Irish record of 13-2-3. So what's the secret to this remarkable success?

"It's really just the defense plays as a whole," said Sawyer. "It's really the concept of team defense that we work on every single day at practice — it starts right up with the forwards and gets all the way to the back."

The three senior co-captains — Sawyer, Jack Stewart and Kevin Goldthwaite — have led the team on and off the field, but particularly in their stingy defensive play. Stewart, a central defender, has controlled the danger zone as well as notching two goals in crucial early-season matches. Goldthwaite, the left

back, missed the first seven games of the season with a knee injury. Since his return, the Irish have given up just one goal.

Add in Christopher High working the middle with Stewart and Ryan Miller patrolling the right side, and you see a team that allowed an average of just 9.1 shots per game this year.

The numbers they've put up aren't too shabby for a program that is making history every year under coach Bobby Clark. In his fourth season with the Irish, Clark emphasizes the importance of defensive mindsets.

"[It's been] coach Clark instilling that defense wins championships," Stewart said, "and all the guys on the teams' dedication to our defensive shape and not getting beat off the transition."

A loss to defending national champion Indiana, who is seeded second in this year's NCAA tournament, marked the only game in which the Irish have given up multiple goals.

The Irish rebounded quickly from the early-season setback, going 8-1-1 in conference play and winning the Big East regular season title. A strong defense is undoubtedly part of that.

"Our back four is absolutely amazing" Sawyer said. "They're absolutely amazing — the best



TIM SULLIVAN/The Observer

Captain Kevin Goldthwaite gives an pep talk to his team at the Seton Hall game on Nov. 6. The Irish tied that game 0-0 and were eliminated on penalty kicks from the Big East Tournament.

back four in the country."

Aside from their primary responsibility of protecting Sawyer in the net, the four backs have contributed to a rebuilding offense throughout the season. Stewart and High both put up two goals and Goldthwaite registered two assists.

"Everyone on our team is at license to go forward but everyone must also take the responsibility of defending," Clark said.

The team attitude is also reflected in the player's individual achievements.

The Irish brought a gold mine's worth of hardware back to South Bend after the Big East Conference named its top awards for the 2004 season — with particularly glowing recognition of the defense.

Sawyer repeated as Goalkeeper of the Year and Jack Stewart was named Defensive Player of the Year.

Goldthwaite joined his co-captains on the first-team all-conference.

On the second team, central midfielder Greg Dalby, outside midfielder Ian Etherington and forward Justin McGeeney were honored.

According to Clark, the awards reflect on the depth of the program.

"We're very conscious that individual honors reflect the general success of the program," he said. "We take it really as a team honor ... we put it down to a plus for the team."

Clark's players reflect similar team-oriented attitudes.

"It's more of a tribute to the team than it is to me," Stewart said. "The guys like Dalby and the mids and the forwards make our job as a defense a lot easier."

Named an All-American last year, Sawyer credited the strong defense as crucial to bringing home the Goalkeeper of the Year title.

"My award, and Jack's award as well, is really a compliment to the entire defense," Sawyer said. "I'm sure I wouldn't be in a position to get an award if we didn't have such a low goals-against average."

In a group that emphasizes teamwork to such an extent, individual awards seem peripheral to the overall goal of winning an NCAA championship.

"Whether it's the top player on the team or the practice player on our squad, everyone has contributed to getting the team to where it is," Clark said. "It's a team game."

It's the all-pervasive sense of the teamwork concept that makes the Irish believe this could be their year to bring home the most coveted trophy in collegiate soccer.

"Our main goal from the beginning of the season was to win a national championship and be the best team in the country," Stewart said. "For me and the other seniors, this is our last hurrah — we have to make it count."

After a heartbreaking penalty-kick elimination by Seton Hall in

the first round of the Big East tournament, they have something extra to prove, even with a No. 5 seeding in the Big Dance.

"One of the positives of being eliminated by Seton Hall [was that it] gave everyone a timely reminder of what could happen in the NCAAs," Clark said.

It was reminiscent of last year's early trip home after being eliminated by Michigan in the Sweet 16.

"Perhaps if we get into the same situation again it will be [the] third time lucky for the Irish," Clark said.

Last year's historically successful finish did not result in a championship, and that is something the returning players have carried with them all year.

"The past few years we've taken it one step further every single year," Sawyer said. "We just have to realize as a team that we are perfectly capable of winning a national championship, and that's what we're in it to do."

In fact, an early exit from the conference championship might be just what the doctor ordered for the Irish if they are to achieve this goal. In the last week of regular-season play, a nasty stomach virus ran through much of the team, leaving them in Health Services instead of the practice field. Fully recovered, the Irish were able to spend the extra time off getting into top physical shape.

"Our team mood is, I think, right here it should be," Sawyer said. "We're just completely focused on taking this one game at a time. I think having almost two and a half weeks off before this game could really be a blessing in disguise."

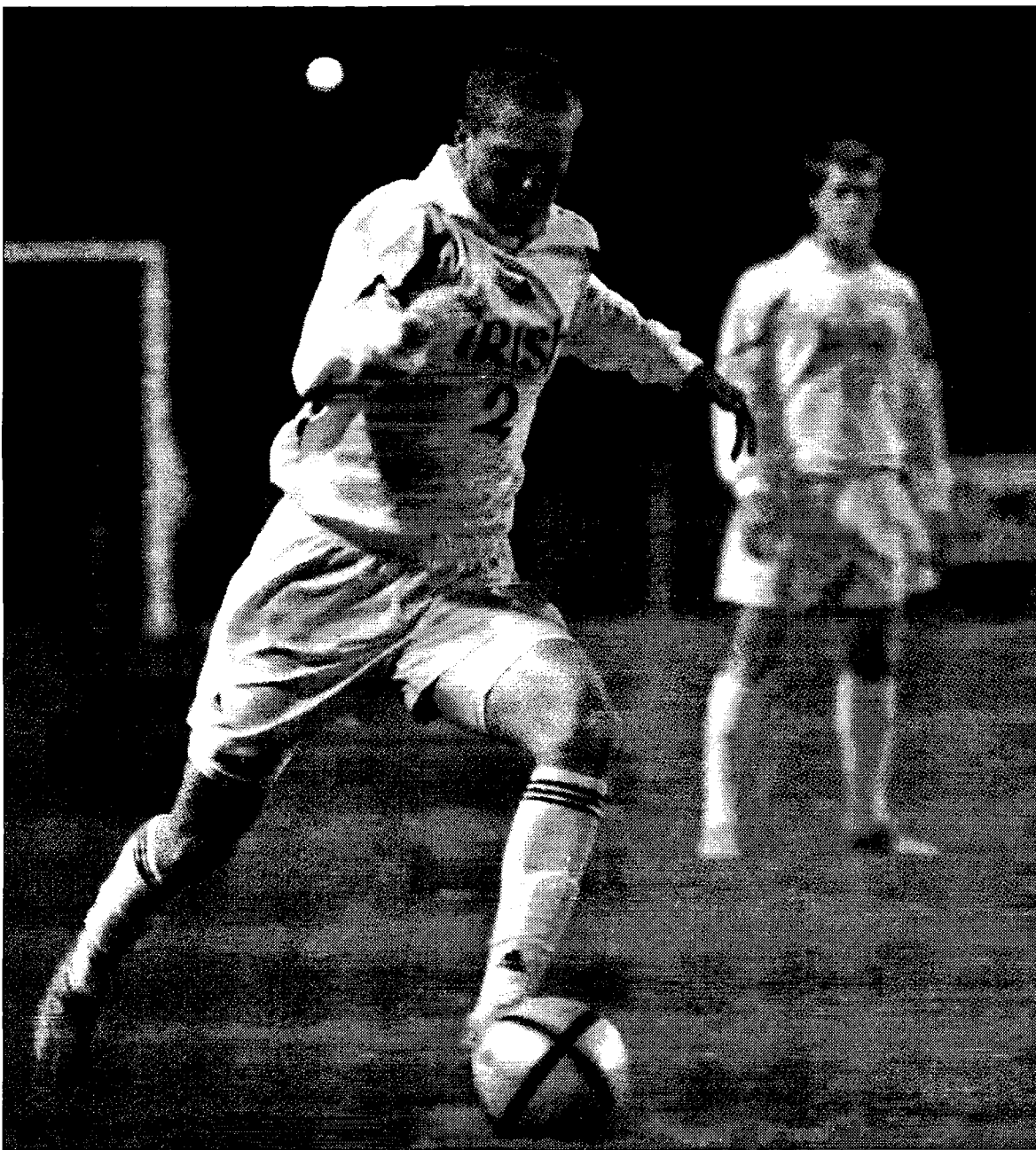
The Irish are ready to move ahead, however — and they don't plan to stop anytime soon.

"[After] the hard work and dedication we put into it ... the guys are ready to come out and show the country what Notre Dame soccer is all about," Stewart said.

Sawyer agreed.

"It's five games from here on out," he said. "If we focus on each game individually, I think we'll be perfectly fine."

Contact Kate Gales at kgales@nd.edu



TIM SULLIVAN/The Observer

Outside defender Ryan Miller carries the ball up field against Connecticut on Oct. 30. The Irish defeated the Huskies 2-0, scoring twice late in the second half.

Offense has stepped up to season's challenges

Young players and team attitude prove crucial to team's successes in 2004

By KATE GALES
Sports Writer

Filling the cleats of last year's quick-striking offense wouldn't be easy for any collegiate soccer team.

For a young and opportunistic Irish offense, however, the challenge was a welcome one.

"I think our team, our young players have stepped up a lot this year," said midfielder Ian Etherington, who has registered three goals and five assists so far in 2004. "The leadership on our team helped our young players to step up so quickly, they were able to guide us."

"A lot of people have played well all season, it obviously has been nice," coach Bobby Clark said. "Someone had to step up due to injuries and one thing or another."

The score-sheet points have been spread generously among the front line and midfield players, with forward Justin McGeeney leading the team with five goals and two assists.

In the 13 games he played this season, forward Tony Megna put up five goals, and Alex Yoshinaga and Joe Lapira added three goals and two assists apiece.

In addition to Etherington, midfield players Nate Norman, Luke Boughen, John Mousino and John Stephens added crucial points to the Irish score-board.

"All our midfield players look to get on the score sheet," Clark said.

With Greg Dalby, the team's central midfielder, playing in a more defensive mindset, the outside mids are able to pene-

trate deep into the opponent's territory — and that has been key to Irish success so far.

"If we're going to go far its going to be very important for John Stephens and Luke Boughen to get a lot of the goals, we need goals to come from that area," Clark said. "It's very important that [they] get some goals in this run in."

The defense has been crucial to offensive efforts, and not always in immediately

visible ways. Although Christopher High and Jack Stewart combined for four goals this year, the defensive strength of the team allows midfielders to become more involved in scoring plays.

"From our system, the outside mids are able to

get forward a lot more, and I'm comfortable leaving Kevin [Goldthwaite] behind me," Etherington said. "If I lose the ball ... I'm comfortable with our backs and our defense to be able to play down men."

The task goes both ways, according to Clark.

"Everyone has to be challenged to get forward and attack but everyone has to take up the cause of being good defenders," Clark

said.

As the season progressed, however, different players

were able to step into the role of go-to man when it came to finding the net.

"Our team is just team-oriented — we try to stick and play all together," Etherington said. "I think the reason we're so successful is that everyone's out for the team, for all 26 or 27 of us — I don't think any-

one on this team is playing for himself. Everyone's coming out and playing his hardest for every other player on the team."

Despite its impressive accomplishments so far, the team is ready for more.

"Our plan is to win the national championship and if we're going to win that — the loss to Seton Hall — it just helps us reassure that every game's important," Etherington said. "We played really good that game, we

were just kind of unlucky and it doesn't really hurt our mindset."

He also noted the positive aspect of having the additional time to prepare for the most important target — the NCAA tournament.

"We just had tons of time to prepare, just preparing for the tournament," Etherington said.

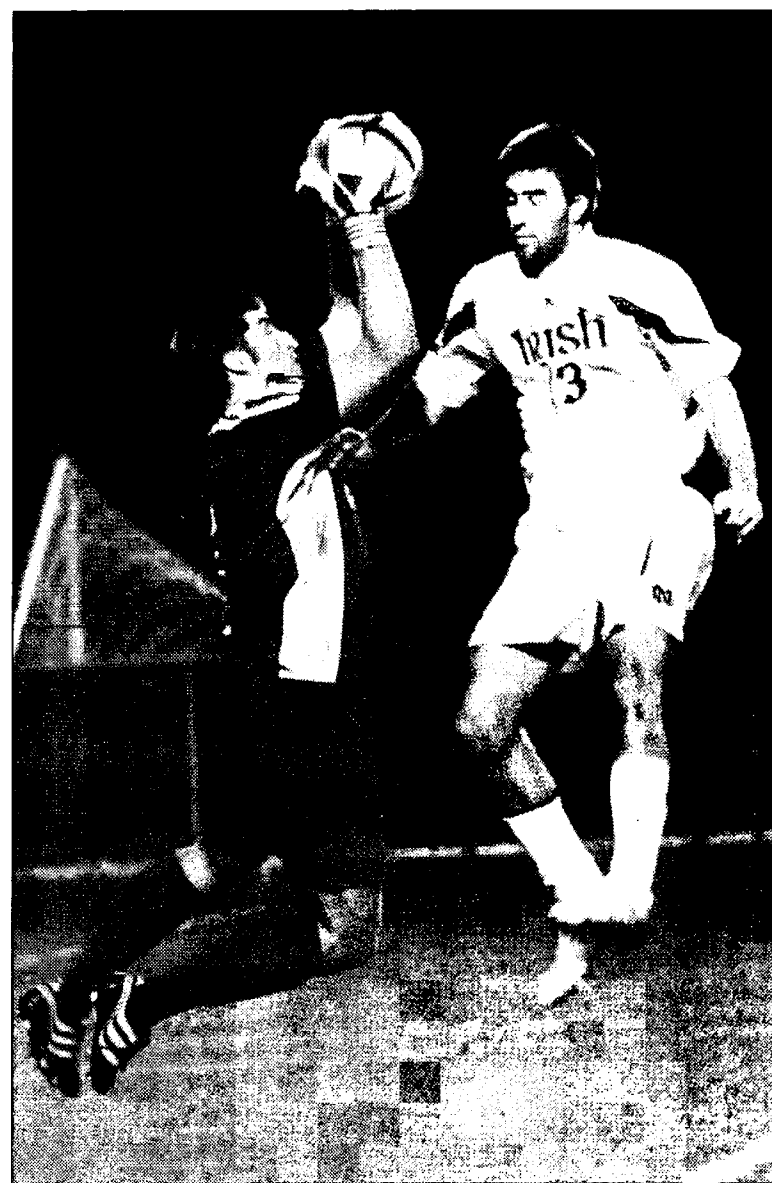
Finishing 8-1-1 in the Big East conference means that the Irish know tough competi-

"Everyone has to be challenged to get forward and attack but everyone has to take up the cause of being good defenders."

Bobby Clark
Irish coach

"I think the reason we're so successful is that everyone's out for the team, for all 26 or 27 of us — I don't think anyone on this team is playing for himself."

Ian Etherington
Irish midfielder



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Central defender Jack Stewart challenges the Georgetown goalkeeper in a Sept. 18 game. Defenders like Stewart played important roles in scoring plays for the Irish this season.

tion. Six teams from the conference received berths in the NCAA tournament. The Irish aren't looking to change their agenda — just step up the firepower.

For a team that has scored 28 goals in the past 18 games, it should come naturally by now.

"I think [if] we start scoring

a lot more goals and just creating more opportunities, we'll have a lot easier opportunity to win the national championship," Etherington said.

Behind a hungry young offense, this may be the just team to do it.

Contact Kate Gales at
kgales@nd.edu



TIM SULLIVAN/The Observer

Left, midfielder Ian Etherington lines up for the second goal in a 4-0 Irish victory over Loyola-Chicago on Oct. 3 while teammate Tony Megna crashes the net. Right, freshman Alex Yoshinaga battles a Cal State-Fullerton defender at Alumni Field on Sept. 12 in a 0-0 early season-matchup.