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INSIDE COLUMN

Buffalo's cold reality

Ahh, Super Bowl season once again, a treasured time for sports fans. For me, however, this time of year brings a host of tortured memories.

Let me clarify. I'm from Buffalo. Besides wisecracks about the snow, Buffalo also has a history of athletic letdowns.

Where do I begin? Maybe with the loss of our NBA franchise in 1978? Or perhaps with our failed bid for a Major League Baseball team? Or how about with former Buffalo Bill O.J. Simpson's murder trial?

These events all wounded the Buffalo pride, but nothing hurt as badly as our four-year Super Bowl run in the early '90s.

Julie Bender

News Wire Editor

Though I was only six years old when the Bills faced the New York Giants in Super Bowl XXV, I remember it vividly. Buffalo had never been to a Super Bowl before, and football fever invaded our snowy city.

I remember having "Bills Days" at school, which I took to an extreme with my Bills sweatshirt, my large helmet earrings and my "Zubaz" striped hat. Bills songs played on the radio, and young boys had the Buffalo logo buzzed into their hair.

Everyone knows how the story ends, but only those from Buffalo know the pain of watching Scott Norwood attempt the 47-yard field goal with four seconds to go and Buffalo down by one. The echo of that infamous kick still resounds in my head, as do those awful words, "Wide right."

Stunned, Buffalo fans consoled each other with the sad chorus, "There's always next year." And, for once, they were right as we were blessed with four Super Bowls in a row. The pain of losing those four Super Bowls, though, took its toll on the fans. I still remember our last Super Bowl loss to the Dallas Cowboys. I felt disgusted as they showed a television close-up of Jimmy Johnson. As I turned around, I felt sadness watching my brother brush away tears as my dad hugged him.

Though Buffalo football has never been the same, we got another chance at a national championship with the Sabres in 1999. My family sat on the couch, our eyes glued to the TV as game six of the Stanley Cup went into its third overtime against the Dallas Stars. We weren't giving up.

That is, we didn't give up until the Stars' Brett Hull tapped in the game-winning goal. As the Stars poured onto the ice in celebration, the replay showed that Hull's skate had been in the crease. Despite a review of the goal, Dallas was declared the winner. To this day, Buffalo fans protest the game with "No Goal" bumper stickers on their cars.

Buffalo has gotten the raw deal in sports too many times, but our fans are resilient. Maybe it's our naive hope and constant pride — or maybe it's that we've come to grips with the cold reality of losing.

Either way, up in Buffalo, we're used to the cold.

Contact Julie Bender at jbender@nd.edu.







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

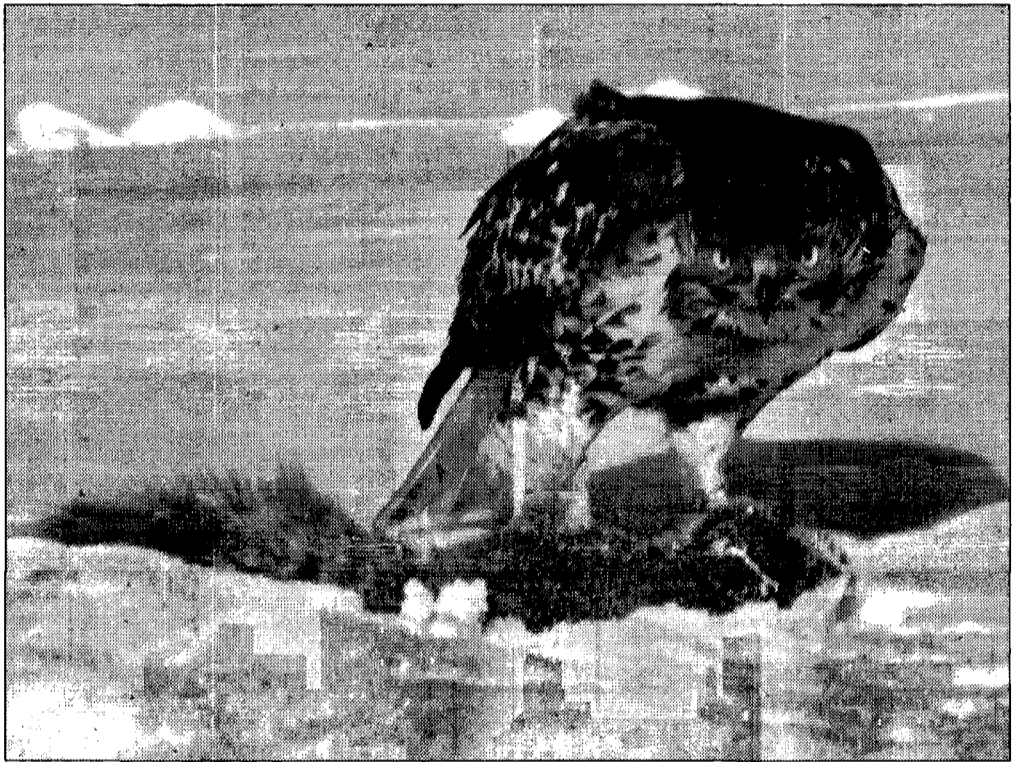
CORRECTIONS

Due to incorrect information provided by the Judicial Council, an article in the Jan. 27 issue of The Observer stated that on the student body presidential ticket of Peter Harig and Will Marra, Harig was running for president and Marra was running for vice president. Actually, Marra is running for president and Harig is running for vice president.

The Observer regrets the error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: HAVE YOU EVER SOLD ANYTHING ON EBAY, AND IF SO, WHAT?

					
Christina Gullo freshman Lyons	Katie Mackin freshman Lyons	Patrick Nolan freshman Stanford	Eddie Villa freshman Alumni	Gina Venturelli freshman Lyons	Sean Sweany sophomore Keough Hall
"I tried to sell my roommate."	"My roommate tried to sell me!"	"No, I stick to the gambling business."	"Yes, my dignity ... not really. Just my guitar."	"No, I have nothing anyone wants."	"No, I would, but I don't know how."



A hawk warily eyes passers-by on South Quad Thursday afternoon, protecting its freshly slaughtered prey — an innocent squirrel.

OFFBEAT

Dogs audition for Broadway musical

NEW YORK — Two dozen dogs living in New York animal shelters got their shot at stardom on Friday with an audition for parts in a new Broadway musical and the chance to live out their days on a farm.

One hound mix and one collie won parts in the upcoming "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang," a stage musical of the popular movie to open on Broadway's new Hilton Theater in April.

As part of their prize, the dogs will live on a Connecticut farm owned

by the show's handler when the production closes.

An 8-months-old white-and-caramel hound mix called Fred, and a 10-month-old, 70-pound collie with a long and pointy snout called Argyle won the audition — and with it a dressing room, grooming, and secure retirement to Bill Berloni's farm.

Man incorrectly declared dead

RALEIGH, N.C. — A medical examiner studying a body in a morgue was startled when the man took a shallow breath.

Emergency medical technicians had declared 29-year-old Larry D. Green dead almost two hours earlier, after he was hit by a car.

Medical examiner J.B. Perdue was called to the accident scene Monday but did not examine Green then. Later, he was documenting Green's injuries when he noticed the man was breathing.

"I had to look twice myself just to make sure it was there, that's how subtle it was," Perdue said.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

The film "I (Heart) Huckabees" will be shown tonight at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. in the Browning Family Cinema. The event is sponsored by the department of film, television and theatre.

The film "The Incredibles" will be shown by the Student Union Board tonight from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturday from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. All three shows are in 101 DeBartolo Hall. Tickets cost \$3.

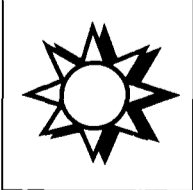
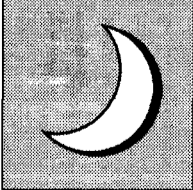
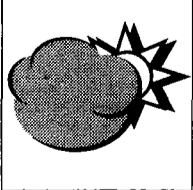
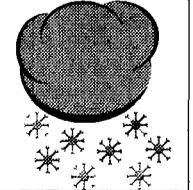
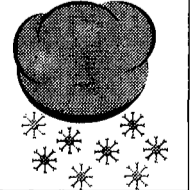
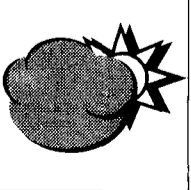
A performance of the French play "Les Fourberies de Scapin" by Moliere will be performed in the Philbin Studio theatre of the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts at 7:30 p.m. tonight and Saturday night. The event is sponsored by the department of romance languages and literatures.

The Bridal Expo comes to the Joyce Center Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be fashion shows at 10 a.m., noon and 3 p.m. Tickets are \$3 at the door and free from many local retailers.

The men's tennis team will face off against North Carolina Saturday at the Eck Tennis Pavilion. Matches begin at 2 p.m.

A Race and Religion symposium will take place from 7 until 10 p.m. Saturday night in the LaFortune Ballroom. The event is sponsored by the Student Union Board.

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	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 24 LOW 13	HIGH 16 LOW 3	HIGH 34 LOW 28	HIGH 37 LOW 25	HIGH 38 LOW 23	HIGH 33 LOW 10
	Atlanta 42 / 30 Boston 17 / 12 Chicago 32 / 22 Denver 48 / 23 Houston 58 / 50 Los Angeles 62 / 48 Minneapolis 28 / 18 New York 20 / 14 Philadelphia 24 / 12 Phoenix 64 / 49 Seattle 52 / 40 St. Louis 40 / 31 Tampa 70 / 55 Washington 28 / 18					

School of Architecture awards \$100,000 prize

Special to The Observer

London-based architect Quinlan Terry, principal of Quinlan and Francis Terry Architects, has been awarded the third annual Richard H. Driehaus Prize for Classical Architecture by the School of Architecture. Terry will receive a \$100,000 cash prize and a bronze and stone replica of the Choregic monument of Lysikrates in Athens at a ceremony March 19 at the University Club of Chicago.



Terry

Richard H. Driehaus, founder and chairman of Driehaus Capital Management in Chicago, endowed the annual award to honor a major contributor in the field of traditional and classical architecture.

Terry's work includes the redesign of three state rooms in the office and home of the British prime minister at 10 Downing Street, Merchant Square at Colonial Williamsburg, and the Richmond Riverside Development in Great Britain. Other projects include a series of villas in London's Regents Park; Richmond House, a Cambridge office building; Paternoster Square, an office block in London; and Brentwood Cathedral in Essex, England.

Terry, educated at London's Architectural Association, was a Rome Scholar in The British School in Rome, which promotes education in architecture, fine art and history. He received the European Prize from the Philippe Rotthier Foundation in 1984 and in 2002 he was honored with the Arthur Ross Award from the Institute of Classical Architecture and Classical America. His library at Downing College, Cambridge, was named the "Building of the Year" by the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1994, and a private residence he designed in Dorset, England, received the Best Modern Classical House award in 2003 from the Georgian Group.

The Driehaus Prize was established through Notre Dame's School of Architecture because of its reputation as a national leader in incorporating the ideals of traditional and classical architecture into the task of modern urban development.

The award's selection committee included: Driehaus; Tom Beeby, principal at Hammond Beeby Rupert Ainge and former dean of the Yale School of Architecture; Adele Chatfield-Taylor, president of the American Academy in Rome; Léon Krier, inaugural recipient of the Driehaus Prize; Michael Lykoudis, dean of the Notre Dame School of Architecture; and David Watkin, architectural historian and fellow at Peterhouse College, Cambridge.

Sorin addressed need for post office

University founder's vision brought campus benefits through the years

Special to The Observer

Anyone familiar with Notre Dame's history knows the University's founder, Father Edward F. Sorin, C.S.C., was a forceful, even blunt, leader who let nothing stand in the way of his vision for the institution. He was "one of those people who assume that they should be in charge and proceed accordingly," wrote Father James T. Connelly, C.S.C., editor of "The Chronicles of Notre Dame du Lac."

Among the early projects on which Sorin took charge was the petition for a U.S. post office on the University's grounds — with him, of course, as postmaster.

Beyond the convenience factor, Sorin knew there were many other benefits associated with having a federal facility on the campus, including the opportunity to generate revenue, the inclusion of Notre Dame on all official government maps, and the assurance that roads leading to the campus would be better maintained.

Given Notre Dame's proximity to South Bend, U.S. postal officials said there was no need for a separate office on campus and rejected Sorin's request in early 1850. Accustomed to getting his way, the French priest then turned to Henry Clay, the well known and respected U.S. Senator from Kentucky, for assistance. How or why Sorin and Clay knew each other is a mystery, but the extra clout proved

effective, and a post office was officially established at Notre Dame on Jan. 6, 1851. Sorin was appointed postmaster, a position he held until his death in 1893.

The post office was a modest operation in its first year of existence. There was no separate building and postal receipts amounted to just \$36.02, according to an article published by the Northern Indiana Philatelic Society. Business gradually grew, however, and the University first post office building — a small, brick structure — was constructed in 1856 on the east side of Notre Dame Avenue near the current site of the Law School.

The University's second post office building, at twice the size of the first, was constructed of yellow brick on the same site in 1914. It was in service for 20 years, during which time more than 200,000 pounds of published material alone were processed annually, a postal business equal to a city of 12,000 people.

The third postal facility again doubled the size of the previous when it was opened Nov. 16, 1934, on a site just south of



Photo courtesy of www.nd.edu

The first post office on University grounds was on Notre Dame Avenue.

Walsh Hall adjacent to the present-day Coleman-Morse building. Designed to blend with other campus architecture, the building now serves as home to the Notre Dame chapter of the Knights of Columbus.

From 1967 to 2005, the University's postal services were operated on Notre Dame Avenue, a location more accessible to the general public.

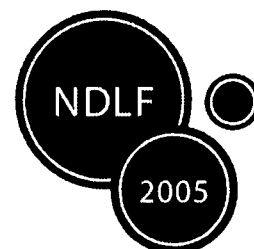
The new building on Holy Cross Drive is about the same size as the previous facility, but has numerous conveniences, such as a 24-hour lobby, and is even more accessible to the greater community, including 12 parking spaces.

got poetry? got songs?

The Notre Dame Lit Festival is looking for performers of the written and spoken word for its ND UNPLUGGED Night. As part of this year's festival, scads of talent will be unleashed on Wed Feb 16 from 7 pm - 10 pm.

Submit a sample of your original work to the Student Government Office in Lafortune 201 before February 01. Individual segments can run from 10-15 min, but we're flexible!

please visit sub.nd.edu to find out about the Notre Dame Literary Festival & other sub events!
brought to you by the student union board.



Priests

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the average person, Gaffney said his schedule is manageable. "It takes some practice. There's just a lot to do," Gaffney said. "You have to figure out how much you can manage and do it as well as you can."

Gaffney, who also serves as a chaplain at University Village, said he is not limited in his work to the religious side or the academic side.

"I came to the academic world as a priest," he said. "My whole professional life is woven into being a priest. It's hard for me to imagine functioning independently of that."

Because of this, Gaffney's role as a priest has a powerful impact on his teaching.

"I can't help but think the way I approach it [teaching] has everything to do with it [my religious background]," he said.

According to Gaffney, his religious background also prevents him from becoming a "one-dimensional scholar" and leads to him being more involved in students' lives and the community than an ordinary professor might.

"There are many ways to be involved in teaching at the University. One is to involve yourself in students, their interests and life stories — but for a priest, that's part of our life's work," Gaffney said.

"I'm always trying to juggle my responsibilities as priest and professor," diocesan priest and theology professor Father Michael Driscoll said.

Driscoll said his religious background overlaps with being a professor in liturgical studies, and that teaching is a part of his responsibility and role as a priest.

"Otherwise, you become an ivory tower liturgist," Driscoll said.

Although Driscoll must balance the two different occupations of teaching class and leading masses, he sees no difficulty or contradiction in his work.

"Everybody has to juggle [his] own life, figure out how to spend [his] time," he said.

Father Mark Thesing, Keenan rector and business ethics instructor, said teaching a class while managing issues in Keenan is a perpetual chal-

lenge.

Thesing said that while teaching is very structured and runs on a set schedule, being a rector is about being flexible and responding immediately to the needs of the 290 men living in Keenan. He describes the latter job he describes as "the most multifaceted I've ever had."

Commenting on priests living in dorms, Thesing said, "There's an important reason why the University puts an emphasis on residential life and putting priests in residential life."

"[A rector's job is] to live with the students, to be an example to the students, but also, just as importantly, to give them an opportunity to investigate their own spiritual life and relationship with God," he said.

According to Thesing, the nature of his religious occupation alone can impact students taking his course.

"To stand up and teach a group of students business ethics as a priest kind of says something different than a lay professor," Thesing said, referring to a societal perception of business as "dirty."

Most importantly, Thesing said, he hoped students could take a lesson from his involvement in both religion and business.

"You can bring your Christianity, faith, beliefs into what it is that you do," he said. "No matter what career choices students make here, what's important to realize is they don't have to compromise their religious beliefs in order to pursue it."

Sister Jean Klene, nun and English professor at Saint Mary's College, said students approach her differently than they would a lay professor.

"It helps me in terms of day-to-day teaching," she said. "They bring problems, [or] come to talk."

Klene said not only do students feel comfortable approaching her, but they also trust her advice regarding certain issues more deeply than they would someone without a religious background.

"Sometimes students come in who want to have an abortion, and we talk through that," she said. "I am aware of their lives, and they're aware of mine."

Contact Maddie Hanna at mhanna1@nd.edu

Trend

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seminarians from the student body.

Brother Donald Stabrowski, provost at the University of Portland, a Catholic university in Portland, Ore., said he also had experienced declining numbers of priest-professors.

"There aren't enough of them [priests]," Stabrowski said. "I would take 10 more if there were."

According to Stabrowski, there is a decided difference between the number of priest-professors available today and 30 years ago, when it wouldn't have been unusual for half of the faculty to be clerics.

Stabrowski said he felt recruiting priest-professors was not overly problematic and Portland "gets its fair share."

But because of nationwide priest shortages, priests are in high demand, Stabrowski said.

"Whenever there is an available priest, we certainly pay close attention," he said.

Portland, which, along with Notre Dame belongs to the Order of the Holy Cross, has 20 priests and brothers who work as professors or in administration, Stabrowski said. He did not know the exact number of sisters employed, but said there were at least seven in regular positions.

Chester Gillis, chair of Georgetown University's theology department, also stressed the difficulties in obtaining priest-professors.

"Jesuits and priests, especially with scholarly potentials, are at a premium in recent years," Gillis said.

Georgetown identifies candidates in graduate school every year in attempts to recruit new priests, with an emphasis on Jesuits since Georgetown is a Jesuit university, Gillis said.

Patrick White, vice president

and dean of faculty at Saint Mary's, said it was difficult to determine if the number of sisters teaching had decreased significantly, because the number has been small for a while.

But the percentage of nuns also serving as professors has clearly declined during the College's existence, White said. He said this is due to an increase in the number of lay faculty at Saint Mary's as well as fewer women becoming nuns in general.

"It's a decrease in the numbers of sisters in the congregation [Sisters of the Holy Cross]," White said. "The growth in the congregation is in Africa, Bangladesh and Brazil — it's not in the U.S."

Saint Mary's, which currently employs six sisters in administration — some of whom also teach — and three in faculty, does recruit sisters, White said.

White said he does believe in some ways recruiting sisters has been more difficult in recent years, primarily because "there are fewer sisters going into teaching and academic life, and because a number of colleges and institutions want these sisters."

All of the officials agreed upon the importance of having clerics teach at their respective schools.

"There's clearly a very strong commitment to having a faculty that practices and understands the Catholic mission of this university," Linney said.

The campus also benefits from the unique approach priests bring to the classroom, she said.

"Their seminary training provides them with a different perspective," she said. "For a priest who studied history, their perspective on history is going to be different [than a lay professor's]."

Stabrowski said priest-professors are "crucial" in perpetuating the image of the Holy Cross university.

"They provide continuity to an institution, the history, the mem-

ory," he said. "That is very, very important."

Gillis, however, focused on the more "concrete contact" aspect of having priests as teachers. He said the greater the presence of Jesuits in the classroom, the greater the student's understanding of the Church.

White said the presence of sisters at Saint Mary's has an important role in the story of the campus.

"It's important for all of us to live out the tradition and the mission of the college as written and designed by the Sisters of the Holy Cross," White said.

In response to the idea of "publish versus parish," which compares the importance of having professors who publish work to professors who are members of the clergy, Linney said Notre Dame has a unique arrangement that allows more faculty members more flexibility.

Notre Dame has two categories of faculty, Linney said. There are those in Teaching and Research, who are "expected to generate and publish new knowledge," and those in Special Professional, who are "valued because of their unique experience," she said.

Special Professional faculty, according to Linney, are "stellar instructors who like to devote more time teaching than to publishing." Therefore, the expectations for publication are different.

Despite this distinction, Linney maintained Notre Dame expects the same level of quality from all its professors. There are both priest and lay professors in both categories of faculty, she added, meaning priests are not held to different standards than lay professors.

"Notre Dame is not about compromising its standards," she said, "but we recognize that people have different ways of contributing overall to excellence."

Contact Maddie Hanna at mhanna1@nd.edu

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

U.S. begins security operation

BAGHDAD — U.S. troops packed extra uniforms and ammunition before moving out of their main base Thursday to take up positions around Baghdad, part of a massive security operation to protect voters during weekend elections that insurgents have vowed to disrupt.

Iraqi police and soldiers will play the more visible role, manning checkpoints and securing the polls — many of which have already been bombed and rocketed by insurgents ahead of Sunday's vote.

American troops will be around, nonetheless — backing up the Iraqis in the event of major violence the Iraqis can't handle, U.S. and Iraqi commanders said.

The U.S. presence could make American troops easier targets, and it also has raised concerns the United States might be seen as orchestrating the elections.

Insurgents launch attacks

BAGHDAD — Insurgents stepped up attacks Thursday against polling centers across Iraq, killing at least a dozen people, including a U.S. Marine, in the rebel campaign to frighten Iraqis away from participating in this weekend's election.

As part of an intensifying campaign of intimidation, an al-Qaida affiliate led by Jordanian terror mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi posted a videotape on the Internet showing the murder of a candidate from the party of interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi.

The tape included a warning to Allawi personally: "You traitor, wait for the angel of death."

NATIONAL NEWS

Rice plans trip to Middle East

WASHINGTON — Condoleezza Rice worked the phones on her first day on the job as America's top diplomat Thursday, reaching out to European allies and partners in the war on terrorism and echoing President Bush's inaugural charge to promote liberty across the globe.

"The president has set forth a really bold agenda for American foreign policy," Rice said in a brief address to State Department employees who applauded as she entered the lobby. "I can't think of a better call than to say that America will stand for freedom and for liberty, that America will stand with those who want their aspirations met for liberty and freedom."

Blake's daughter testifies

LOS ANGELES — Robert Blake's first wife and the adult daughter of his slain second wife took the witness stand at the actor's murder trial Thursday, testifying about Blake's troubled relationship with Bonny Lee Bakley.

Bakley's daughter, Holly Gawron, 24, told the jury that while living in Arkansas with Bakley, Gawron sometimes answered the phone and heard Blake "yelling, cursing obscenities" when he thought he was talking to Bakley.

Bakley, 44, was shot to death in May 2001 as she waited in a car for Blake outside a restaurant. Blake said he returned briefly to the restaurant to retrieve a gun before finding Bakley mortally wounded.

LOCAL NEWS

More flu vaccine available

INDIANAPOLIS — Flu shots in Indiana are now available to anyone who wants a vaccination, regardless of age or health conditions, as long as supplies last, after federal public health officials today gave the OK for eliminating restrictions and state and county public health agencies followed the recommendation within hours.

Visiting Nurse Service, generally the largest source of flu shots in central Indiana, scheduled eight first-come, first-served clinics for the general public beginning Feb. 6.

Leaders remember victims

Ceremony in Poland honors victims and survivors of Auschwitz death camp

Associated Press

BRZEZINKA, Poland — As candles flickered in the snowy, winter gloom, world leaders and Auschwitz survivors Thursday remembered victims of the Holocaust on the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi death camp.

The ceremony, which opened with the recorded rumble of an approaching train, was held on the spot where new arrivals were brought in by rail to the vast camp and put through "selection" — meaning those few who were deemed able to work were separated from the rest who were taken immediately to the gas chambers.

"It seems if you listen hard enough, you can still hear the outcry of horror of the murdered people," Israeli President Moshe Katsav said. "When I walk the ground of the concentration camps, I fear that I am walking on the ashes of the victims."

Joining in the commemoration were Vice President Dick Cheney, and presidents Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland, Vladimir Putin of Russia, and Jacques Chirac of France. German President Horst Koehler sat on the platform without speaking in recognition of his country's responsibility for the Holocaust, in which 6 million Jews died during World War II.

Barbed wire and brick barracks stretched as far as the eye could see. The ruined crematoriums loomed nearby, all covered with a layer of fresh snow.

Girl Scouts brought blankets to elderly survivors sitting in the freezing cold.

"For a former inmate of Auschwitz, it is an unimaginable and overwhelming emotion to be able to speak in this cemetery without graves, the largest one in the history of Europe," said Wladyslaw Bartoszewski, a survivor who later became Poland's foreign minister.

When he arrived in 1940,



Silvio Berlusconi, Prime Minister of Italy, sets a candle onto the memorial in the former Nazi concentration camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau during the commemoration.

he recalled, "I never imagined I would outlive Hitler or survive World War II."

Soviet troops liberated Auschwitz and the neighboring camp at Birkenau, or Brzezinka in Polish, on Jan. 27, 1945. Some 1.5 million people, most of them Jews, had died at the two camps from gassing, starvation, exhaustion, beatings and disease.

Other victims included Soviet prisoners of war, Poles, Gypsies, homosexuals and political opponents of the Nazis.

"We think of the suffering of our brothers, of the special ties that link us, Poles, with the Jewish nation," Kwasniewski said.

Putin compared the Nazis with the terrorists of today.

"Today we shall not only remember the past but also be aware of all the threats of the modern world," he said. "Terrorism is among them, and it is no less dangerous and cunning than fascism."

The leaders placed candles, in blue glass holders, at a memorial as they left. New Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko made the sign of the cross after gently setting his down.

Earlier in Krakow, Cheney noted that the Holocaust did not happen in some far-off place but "in the heart of the civilized world."

"The story of the camps shows that evil is real and must be called by its name and must be confronted,"

he said.

Putin won long applause when he acknowledged that anti-Semitism and xenophobia had surfaced in Russia, tackling an issue that the Kremlin had long failed to confront directly. Putin said many in the world should be ashamed of new manifestations of anti-Semitism six decades after the defeat of fascism.

"Even in our country, in Russia, which did more than any to combat fascism ... we sometimes unfortunately see manifestations of this problem and I, too, am ashamed of that," Putin said.

Survivor Franciszek Jozefiak, 80, said efforts to educate new generations about the Holocaust should

Train wreck suspect faces charges

Associated Press

GLENDAL, Calif. — The suicidal man who authorities say caused the chain-reaction train derailment that killed 11 people has been charged with multiple counts of murder and could face the death penalty, the district attorney said Thursday.

Juan Manuel Alvarez, 25, left his sport utility vehicle on a railroad track Wednesday after changing his mind about committing suicide, authorities said. He was held without bail at a hospital's jail ward after apparently slitting his own wrists and stabbing himself in the

chest.

In addition to the 11 dead, nearly 200 people were injured. The last person reported missing was accounted-for Thursday and firefighters ended recovery efforts. All but one of the dead had been identified.

Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley said prosecutors filed charges late Wednesday for 10 counts of murder with "special circumstances" of committing murder through a train derailment. Cooley stressed however that the case were still being evaluated. Under state law, special circumstances allegations could make a

defendant eligible for the death penalty.

Cooley said the complaint would be amended to add another count to refer to the 11th victim, found in the wreckage late Wednesday night. And he said the defendant's suicidal intent didn't make any difference to him.

"He's not going to engage my sympathy because he was despondent. His despondency doesn't move me," the district attorney told The Associated Press.

Arraignment was initially planned for Thursday afternoon but was put off until Friday because of Alvarez's medical condition.

Damage

continued from page 1

father, Gregg. "Once she found out we had a professional plumber come it to look at everything, she stopped threatening."

Russwurm did not respond to repeated requests from The Observer for comment for this article.

According to Trench, the cause of the damage was not in fact that the heat was turned off (though the tenants claim it was indeed left on), but rather negligence on the part of management to correct a flaw in the piping system that caused a similar situation several years ago.

In the inspection report given to Gregg Boyd, Trench wrote due to repair work that had already been performed, he "could not see any damaged piping." Instead, "the pipes were in an open chase that was open to the attic ... these pipes will freeze again if not corrected properly," Trench noted. "Insulation will not solve the problem."

"Trench told us, 'I was the plumber that worked on this problem before, and I told them how to fix it, and they wouldn't pay for it,'" Gregg Boyd said. "They just paid for the patch. Heat wouldn't have affected it. It wasn't the tenants' fault."

The inspection was completed on Jan. 6, he said.

Since Jan. 12 further damage has been discovered in the apartments, and communication with Paramount has become increasingly difficult, Kristin Boyd said.

"Yesterday I found mold growing in our closet," she said. "But management has been telling us for weeks there is no mold and yet won't give us back the mold test we requested."

Her roommate, senior Elizabeth Cain, said Russwurm's absence from her office the past week has made obtaining the results of the mold test nearly impossible.

"The company [who performed the mold test] said that the test was completed but that they were not allowed to disclose the results," Cain said. "So I called Paramount. But they said Patty was out of town."

In the Jan. 12 Observer article, Russwurm said huge efforts

were put forth to ensure the apartments returned to a livable condition.

"It has been very difficult to try to get students back in to their apartments," Russwurm said. "We have had contractors, cleaning crews, disaster relief agencies, all working 24/7 to repair the damage."

But now the tenants are seeking an explanation for why their furniture, now covered in dry wall, was not removed from the apartments before the repairs were made.

Local general contractor Philip Mosby, Jr., who was hired to repair the drywall in the apartments, defended Paramount, commending the company's professionalism and practicality.

"I did suggest that it would be a good idea to move the furniture out before I began working, but they [management] told me that they couldn't move the furniture because the students had to be there to give them the okay," Mosby said.

Gregg Boyd and his daughter, however, maintain a different story.

In a document Gregg Boyd compiled of the problems he has encountered with Paramount, he wrote, "Paramount refused to pay the fees required to move out the furnishings of the tenants. Thus they were piled up in the middle of the rooms, left wet, getting mold."

Amid all the controversy, other students living in the damaged apartments are seeking a peaceful reconciliation.

"I would just like to move on and just make sure everything is covered," said Kristin Boyd's neighbor, senior Conner O'Keefe. "But as far as my anger is toward Paramount, I'm still disappointed in the way they handled it."

For the Boyds, filing a lawsuit is the next step.

"The suit would be against all the parties that have been involved," Gregg Boyd said. "They have been persecuting these students that have been devastated by something that did not need to happen."

Russwurm told The Observer for the Jan. 12 article that Paramount did not intend to file lawsuits against the student tenants.

Contact Mary Kate Malone at mmalone3@nd.edu

Tickets

continued from page 1

presidency. They also claimed to be free of the "greed, vice and corruption" they said plagued student government.

The fact that half of the candidates have worked side by side on some of this year's hot-button issues has led to similar platforms — focusing on points like putting a student on the Board of Trustees, securing a concert endowment and finding a new process for ticket distribution — but they all indicated the solutions they offer are what set each ticket apart.

"We all respect each other, but at the same time have different ways to approaching issues, which is why many of us are running," Leito said.

As the Notre Dame student body proved last year after electing Adam Istvan and Karla Bell, relative newcomers to the student government scene, experience is not the ultimate measuring stick. The candidates agreed, calling a working knowledge of the student government useful in accomplishing goals, but indicated the need for a deeper motivation.

"Experience is no doubt a benefit in terms of knowing the system, relating to administrators and trustees, and mobilizing the student body. However, experience will only take a president and vice president so far," Baron said. "It takes ingenuity and resourcefulness to make real changes happen."

Contact Amanda Michaels at amichael@nd.edu

ITALY

Country begins 2006 Olympic preparation

Associated Press

TURIN — Figure skaters glide across the freshly laid ice at the renovated Palavela arena. Short-track speedskating is a big hit with the locals. Ski and bobsled races come off without a hitch in the surrounding Alps.

One year before the 2006 Winter Olympics, Turin and the Piedmont region of northwestern Italy are getting a taste of the real thing.

So far, so good.

Despite continuing budget, sponsorship and housing problems, a series of successful test events has eased concerns over the state of preparations for the Feb. 10-26, 2006, showcase — the first Winter Games in Italy since Cortina d'Ampezzo in 1956.

"I don't want any triumphalism — I'm aware that we still have a lot of work to do," organizing committee chief Valentino Castellani said. "But we don't have delays or emergencies."

A few months ago, Turin's preparations were being compared to Athens' frenzied, last-minute race to get ready for the 2004 Summer Olympics. Now there's a sense of relative calm among local organizers and International Olympic Committee officials.

"I don't think there is any possible comparison between Athens and Turin," said Gilbert Felli, the IOC's executive director for the Olympic Games. "The venue for figure skating is

ready. The venues for cross-country, ski jumping and all the Alpine skiing are ready, so there is nothing to compare with Athens. They are on track."

Felli spoke after attending this week's opening of the European Figure Skating Championships at the 8,250-seat Palavela, featuring an arching cement roof resembling a billowing sail.

Workers were still painting and tinkering with wires days before the event, but completed the job just in time.

The Palavela also hosted the European short-track speedskating championships this month, drawing full crowds for a sport with little following in Italy.

Cross-country ski races took place Jan. 22-23 in Pragelato; bobsled and skeleton events were held Jan. 20-23 and luge events are scheduled for Feb. 5-6 in Cesana-Pariol. In December, the World Cup ski circuit made its annual stop in Sestriere, a resort founded by Fiat's Agnelli family that will be the center for Alpine events during the Olympics.

Ice sports will be in downtown Turin and snow events in Sestriere and surrounding villages, about 62 miles from the city. There will be three Olympic villages — one in Turin for 2,500 athletes and coaches and two more in the mountains for an equal number of competitors. Housing problems remain in the Alpine zone for fans, media and others.

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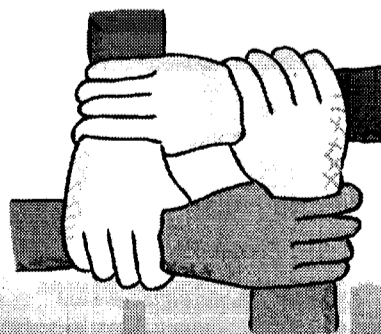
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Stocks			
Dow Jones	10,002.33	-74.85	
Up: 1,081	Same: 163	Down: 2,233	Composite Volume: 1,320,088,960

AMEX	1,273.40	-3.56
NASDAQ	1,920.53	-4.64
NYSE	6,556.53	-53.18
S&P 500	1,113.65	-8.19
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	11,195.99	0.00
FTSE 100(London)	4,634.80	-13.10

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
INTEL CORP (INTC)	+3.50	+0.71	20.99
SIRIUS SAT RADI (SIRI)	-0.27	-0.01	3.74
CISCO SYSTEMS (CSCO)	-1.57	-0.30	18.86
MICROSOFT CP (MSFT)	0.00	0.00	28.03
YAHOO INC (YHOO)	+0.73	+0.73	34.96

Treasuries			
30-YEAR BOND	-0.18	-0.09	48.71
10-YEAR NOTE	-0.59	-0.24	40.78
5-YEAR NOTE	-1.04	-0.35	33.19
3-MONTH BILL	+2.06	+0.34	16.87

Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+0.96		53.14
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-2.00		414.60
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+0.10		94.30

Exchange Rates			
YEN			109.7700
EURO			0.8102
POUND			0.5577
CANADIAN \$			1.2564

Bank agrees to \$16 million fine

Riggs Bank pleads guilty to charges of failing to report suspicious transactions

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Riggs Bank pleaded guilty Thursday to failing to report suspicious transactions in the accounts of foreigners, including two dictators, and agreed to a \$16 million proposed fine.

It would be the largest criminal penalty ever imposed on a bank of Riggs' size, according to prosecutors, and comes atop a record \$25 million civil fine levied on the bank by a Treasury Department agency last May.

The plea agreement still needs the approval of U.S. District Judge Ricardo Urbina, who expressed skepticism about the penalty's adequacy at a hearing Thursday.

The plea could throw into question Riggs' deal, announced in July, to be acquired for \$779 million by regional bank PNC Financial Services Group of Pittsburgh.

Riggs, an old-line Washington bank that drew prestige from its near-exclusive franchise on business with the capital's diplomatic community, is a midsize institution with some \$6.4 billion in assets.

The Justice Department has been investigating the bank executives' handling of some foreigners' accounts, including those held by Saudi diplomats in Washington, former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet, and officials of Teodoro Obiang's regime in Equatorial Guinea.

"Riggs aggressively cultivated the Pinochet and Equatorial Guinea accounts, and profited from their business," Kenneth Wainstein, the U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia, said at a news conference.

"Despite numerous warnings from regulators, Riggs courted customers who were a high risk for money laundering and helped them shield their financial transactions from scrutiny," Wainstein said. "This long-



U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia Kenneth Wainstein, right, speaks during a news conference after Riggs Bank pleaded guilty to criminal charges.

term and systemic misconduct was more than simply blind neglect; it was a criminal breach of the banking laws that protect our financial system from exploitation by terrorists, narcotics dealers and other criminals."

Earlier, at the hearing before Urbina, prosecutors detailed a lengthy list of deceptions they said were used by Riggs managers to conceal Pinochet's ownership of the assets, including setting up dummy offshore companies and altering his name on some of his accounts. This occurred at a time when prosecutors in several countries were trying to freeze Pinochet's assets and bring him to justice for alleged crimes

against humanity. Riggs managers also helped Obiang set up an offshore shell corporation that took in deposits of more than \$11 million over a two-year period of questionable transactions, the prosecutors said.

"The bank deeply regrets the conduct and has cooperated fully with the investigation," Mark Hulkower, an attorney representing the bank, told the judge.

If Urbina rejects the fine, Riggs and the prosecutors may have to renegotiate it or take the case to trial. The judge set a March 29 sentencing hearing.

Urbina said he wondered whether \$16 million represented "just a business expense" for Riggs.

Hulkower responded that the profit the bank realized from the questionable accounts was "significantly less" than that amount, but did not quantify it.

The civil fine imposed in May by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency was for alleged violations of laws to prevent money laundering in Riggs's handling of millions of dollars in the accounts controlled by Saudi diplomats and Equatorial Guinea officials. The bank, which has since sold its diplomatic and international businesses, did not admit to or deny wrongdoing in the civil case.

The plea agreement does not cover the Saudi-held accounts.

IN BRIEF

Ford recalls trucks and SUVs

DEARBORN, Mich. — Ford Motor Co. is recalling nearly 800,000 pickups and sport utility vehicles because the cruise control switch could short circuit and cause a fire under the hood, the nation's second biggest automaker said Thursday.

The recall covers approximately 792,000 Ford F-150 pickups, Ford Expeditions and Lincoln Navigators from the 2000 model year. Also included are 2001 F-Series Supercrew trucks made at the same time.

Ford will notify owners of the recall in February, and dealers will deactivate the cruise control switch for free. Once the company has enough replacement switches, it will send another letter notifying owners that they can get their switches replaced.

"We recognize this may be an inconvenience, but we believe this preventive action is in the best interest of our customers' safety," the company said.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration opened an investigation into the defect in November after receiving 36 reports of fires. All of the incidents occurred when the vehicle was parked and the ignition was turned off. No injuries were reported.

British journal retracts report

INDIANAPOLIS — The British Medical Journal has retracted a report that said Eli Lilly and Co. documents suggesting a link between Prozac and a heightened risk of suicide attempts and violence had gone missing for years.

The journal issued an apology and correction that appeared Thursday on the journal's Web site.

"The BMJ accepts that Eli Lilly acted properly in relation to the disclosure of these documents in these claims," the journal said. "The BMJ is happy to set the record straight and to apologize to Eli Lilly for this statement, which we now retract, but which we published in good faith."

The BMJ last month said it had given U.S. regulators internal company documents it had received from an anonymous source indicating that the drug maker was aware in the 1980s that the anti-depressant could have potentially troubling side-effects.

Midway to become ATA's focus

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — ATA Airlines Inc. said fierce competition from rival carriers forced it to abandon plans to rebuild its struggling business at its hometown hub and instead slash more than 90 percent of its daily flights out of Indianapolis.

Chicago's Midway International Airport will become the airline's focus, an abrupt reversal from ATA's earlier plans to sell off most of its Midway operations as part of its Chapter 11 bankruptcy reorganization.

The leader of ATA's flight attendants union said Thursday the news

that the airline would end 44 of its daily flights out of Indianapolis by April 10 left her more concerned about the company's future now than when it filed for bankruptcy last fall.

"Let's face it, this is just a killer industry right now, and everybody's trying to keep above water," said Jacki Pritchett, an ATA employee who is president of the Association of Flight Attendants' ATA branch.

High fuel costs and fierce fare competition have hurt the airline industry, which already had been battered by a post-Sept. 11, 2001, reduction in business.

Officials with the Air Line Pilots Association local representing more

than 900 ATA flight crew members met with company executives Thursday. Both unions have accepted millions of dollars in pay cuts over the past several months to help keep ATA flying.

ATA spokeswoman Roxanne Butler said the airline does not have projections of how many of its 6,900 workers would lose their jobs under the cutback of flights.

ATA officials also said the airline would discontinue in-state routes that started only this month. That service to Fort Wayne, Evansville and South Bend will end March 28. Flights between Gary and Indianapolis slated to start next Tuesday were canceled.

THE OBSERVER

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Charity is not a competition

In the tragic and confusing aftermath of the Dec. 26 tsunami, some of the world's leaders lost sight of that fact. Donating to the South Asian and African victims, which started as a noble and empathetic act, took on the ugly impression of a bidding war.

But Notre Dame's leaders knew better. Their efforts were communal from the beginning.

First, Campus Ministry announced that all money from collections taken at the two Basilica Masses and all residence hall Masses the week students returned from winter break — bringing the campus community to full size and strength — would go towards relief efforts. Then other student and administrative leaders joined in, as representatives from Student Government, International Student Services and Activities, the Athletic Department and the Office of Student Affairs chose to work together to organize various collections and fundraisers, from basketball games to benefit dinners. In recognizing that they could do more together than apart, the Tsunami Relief Drive's planners acted with savvy, generosity and perspective.

Notre Dame's response to the tragedy was not only

remarkably collaborative, but also unmistakably Catholic. University President Father Edward Malloy immediately offered his prayers, and urged others at "Our Lady's University" to "be worthy vessels of [God's] grace, helping to disperse darkness for the victims of this tragedy and for our whole world." The first Basilica Mass was specifically

offered up for the dead and suffering, and for those aiding them. Furthermore, it was decided that all donations collected through Notre Dame would flow to Catholic Relief Services, reflecting the University's commitment to the Church's charitable mission.

In all, an impressive \$173,000 was collected from the Notre Dame community during the past two weeks — enough to make a difference in rebuilding hundreds of livelihoods.

A similar amount of money could very well have come from individual donations. Any money is all the same to the victims. But the fact that Notre Dame's relief efforts were staked on strong undercurrents of cooperation and Catholicism — not competition — makes the University an admirable public example.

And the best part is that it wasn't trying to be.

The Observer Editorial

Combating 'senioritis'

For the soon-to-be graduating class of 2005, January brings the beginning of the end of what is commonly referred to as "the Notre Dame experience." Most seniors, this writer included, morph into an unusual mode of existence during their final semesters on campus. It is a condition uniformly described as "senioritis," but one with many symptoms, some unique only to certain individuals.

Gary Caruso

Capitol
Comments

The Board of Trustees eventually cures senioritis each spring by conferring degrees, although peculiar symptoms may linger long after some matriculated students physically depart campus. To adequately understand the atmosphere that has just presently begun but climaxes in May, begin with the choice of commencement speaker and work backwards through time.

Graduating classes take on the character of their commencement speakers and honorary degree recipients. Each class strives for the most globally prestigious marquee of speakers, often-times hoping for a president on the dais, and certainly seeking anyone affiliated with Notre Dame. This year, as the turmoil of death headlines the Iraqi war and a tsunami in the Far East, the atmosphere begs for a speaker who epitomizes the qualities of humility and sacrifice. The logical choice is Notre Dame Professor Emeritus Gil Loescher, the world's foremost authority on refugees, displaced persons and forced migration due to famine and war. In 2003, Loescher was the sole survivor of the Baghdad blast that leveled the United Nations headquarters.

As a result of his ordeal, Professor Loescher is a double amputee. His is a remarkable story of survival that was featured in last spring's Notre Dame Alumni Magazine. The University also responded quite generously to assist

with the professor's staggering medical bills. The commencement selection committee would do well to summon Loescher to convey his personal struggles, revelations, faith and revised view of life now that he has felt the breath of God while trapped in a building's rubble. Notre Dame's Loescher is the living embodiment of the character of every fallen veteran and civilian in the bloody Iraqi conflict. His insight would leave no eye dry in the Convocation Center.

Wet eyes and aching hearts are obvious symptoms of senioritis. Sometimes eyes water on our day of departure, but many times hearts swell when each of us, regardless of whether or not we asked, gain a further sense of community for having attended Notre Dame. Ultimately, time catches up with every senior who is thrust into the final semester. They are forced to think of losing their friends, moving their surroundings and changing their lifestyles. Ready or not, senioritis sets into their consciousness.

The best way to combat early January senioritis is to slow time by savoring each moment of the final semester at Notre Dame. I can still vividly remember my birthday party in February, interhall sports, broadcasting at the campus radio station, attending a spring dance, Bookstore Basketball, playing pranks on my fellow Domers and several other warm memories of my second semester of senior year. I forced time to crawl for nearly four months.

By semester's end, I moved closer toward my faith and came to better know some of my closest classmates whom I thought I knew for three and a half years prior. Appreciating my surroundings helped cleanse me of many prejudices and allowed me to absorb many of the diverse perspectives espoused by others. Ironically, my slowed sense of time had excelled my learning curve.

By opening ourselves to our sur-

roundings when we savor each moment, we also gain many subtle insights into life. My last semester bestowed upon me more of a sense of belonging to Notre Dame. I can say with all honesty that I moved closer to better understanding how Notre Dame graduates are attracted to a higher call of community, public and family service. Upon my graduation, I could feel the ghosts of those who had gone before me struggling with similar losses and feelings.

Those of us who are currently mere ghosts of another time on campus continue to live in the blood of the bricks. Once we pass through Notre Dame, our heartaches and triumphs can soon be forgotten. I, however, can reflect on what once was mine but remains so vividly portrayed in a scene similar to Dickens' "A Christmas Carol."

On a long-ago May 20 when I watched the golden dome disappear in my rearview mirror, I conquered senioritis despite my lingering feelings of heartache and loss. What could have been a fiasco of my final semester actually was the most memorable of my tenure at Notre Dame.

Although my boring and unimpressive commencement speaker has since faded from my memory, my final semester remains a colorful part of me. Countering senioritis is more of a process than a remedy, a process that can begin well before January of senior year rather than after our exodus from campus. The trick is diagnosing your personal symptoms and starting your savoring process.

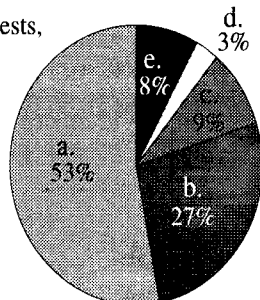
Gary Caruso, Notre Dame '73, served as a legislative and public affairs director in President Clinton's administration. His column appears every other Friday. He can be contacted at hotline@aol.com.

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

OBSERVER POLL

How many of your professors are priests, brothers or sisters?

a. 0	53%
b. 1	27%
c. 2	9%
d. 3	3%
e. 4 or more	8%



*Poll appears courtesy of www.ndsmcobserver.com and is based on 104 responses.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"To confine our attention to terrestrial matters would be to limit the human spirit."

Stephen Hawking
mathematician, cosmologist, physicist

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Harvard president's comments inappropriate

When I returned to my room after class Wednesday I had a voicemail from my mom. She wanted me to read the society portion of the latest Newsweek — something about the president of Harvard, science and the inadequateness of women. What I read in that article blew my mind. Had the president of Harvard University really stated that women are not succeeding in the highest levels of math and science because they lack "innate ability?"

The article went on to point out that throughout the country, women account for nearly half the bachelor's degrees earned in chemistry and math but only about 10 percent of the faculty. Or how about the fact that only four of 32 female faculty members were offered tenure last year?

I have seen similar studies in the Chicago Tribune conducted by Notre Dame faculty members indicating that Notre Dame also needed to strive for more women in tenure and administrative positions. This is nothing new, nothing I hadn't heard before, but what really caught me off guard was that there are still highly educated people in positions of authority who might think there are innate differences in the ability of men and women to achieve academically.

Even scarier is that this man, Larry Summers, is supposed to represent the face of premier higher education in America. His statement made a clear mockery of every woman who has devoted her life to science and every woman and girl who aspires to do so. He used an excuse, a bad excuse, to explain why there are not more top-level female researchers and he dismissed the struggles that tenure-track female faculty inevitably face.

Every career-minded woman, in science and beyond, must deal with the issue of a demanding work schedule and the prospects of an adequate family life. However, I would like to suggest to Summers, and anyone who might secretly agree with him, that it is attitudes and society that are inadequate, not the scientific aptitude of women.

Even more disheartening is that women who are entering the doctorate programs are eventually finding themselves disillusioned with the environment, tired of searching for understanding mentors and are ultimately pursuing career options with the government or industry in order to avoid the struggle of climbing the faculty ladder.

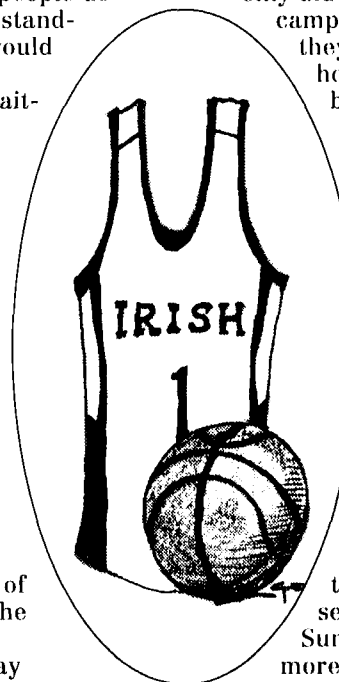
The bottom line is that as a female college student navigating through the rigors of a science-based curriculum at a top university, I do not appreciate a former economist telling me what I am innately capable of doing in comparison to my male classmates. I think it is a hard curriculum and I think we're all in the same boat.

His suggested theory of innate differences appears as a direct parallel to racism (might I add he earlier had a controversy with African-American Studies Harvard faculty), and worse still, his high rank almost lends itself to substantiating that myth as some kind of fact for anyone who wants to believe that women may be just a little bit dumber by nature.

Natalie Bennett
junior
Howard Hall
Jan. 27

Call to all 'real' basketball fans

The thing real Irish basketball fans love most is getting called crazy when we tell our friends we will be getting frostbite outside Gate 11. Most people do not have any understanding why a person would want to sit over 12 hours in the cold waiting for front-row seats to a Notre Dame game, when it is perfectly easy to walk in five minutes before game time and grab a seat in the bleachers. These are the same sort of "fans" that walk out of a game to beat traffic when there are over eight minutes left, and cannot even stand up and cheer the last 30 seconds of a game. Watching the upsetting loss to Villanova Wednesday night, it was not hard to imagine what the attendance to the UConn game would look like Sunday. While two hard road losses won't deter real Irish fans from camping out Saturday night, I am sure there will be many a season-ticket holder who will not feel like coming out to



support their team against a rabid UConn squad. This letter is a petition to all Irish fans to pack the JACC early on Sunday. Not only did UConn students camp out for Gameday, but they also waited over 10 hours in their stadium before game time to show their support. Can we not fill our seats even an hour early on Sunday? By showing up early we will be able to show the Huskies why the Princeton Review would rank Notre Dame number one in their "Students pack the Stadiums" survey. Oh, and Lee Regner, even though your band seat is guaranteed, we all hope to see you out there early Sunday morning for more of your fantastic advice on how "ideal" Irish fans need to act.

Thomas Hogan
off-campus
Michael Hatke
Dillon Hall
juniors
Jan. 27

Vagina Monologues deserve students' attention

I was sorry to read that Peter Wicks has such a low opinion of the annual production of the Vagina Monologues. If he doesn't like the show, that's his prerogative. He's obviously read it, which is more than a lot of the people who complain about it can say.

However, while his ridicule of the February furor that descends on campus every year is relatively accurate, it is limited in that it fails to address the reasons behind our production of the show and all the activities surrounding it.

V-Day campaigns around the world generate broader attention for the fight to stop violence against women and girls, including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation and sexual slavery. Along with three benefit performances of the Vagina Monologues, we will be holding a week-long campaign to address the issue of campus rape. Proceeds from ticket sales and other donations will be going to the YWCA of St. Joseph County and Sex Offense Services in South Bend.

The student body of Notre Dame is notoriously apathetic about anything that does not involve sports, alcohol or abortion. Without the controversy surrounding the Vagina Monologues, very few people would buy tickets to see the show, and not many more than that would take a moment to think about any of the predicaments that women face today.

If you're uncomfortable with the word "vagina," do not watch this show. Go on your merry way. Hopefully, you and yours will never have to deal with the pain of sexual assault.

Still, while the ongoing debate has brought this issue to your attention, at least do a little bit of independent research for yourself on violence against women or donate to one of the many organizations working to combat it.

Try to remember that there are thousands of women worldwide who can't joke about all the controversy and walk away as easily as you do.

Monica Nanda
sophomore
Pangborn Hall
Jan. 27

U-WIRE

United States the victim of political correctness

Poor SpongeBob. It's hard enough going through life in a pair of SquarePants. Now he stands accused of participating in a video that some conservatives call "pro-gay propaganda."

Makers of the video deny the claim, instead pointing out the video promotes unity and cooperation. But a spokesman for the conservative group Focus on the Family insists it is "manipulating and potentially brainwashing kids."

People, when a cartoon sponge is no longer politically correct, it's time for some cultural soul-searching.

Not long ago, political correctness was a relatively harmless (if highly irritating) practice reserved largely for liberals. A "chairman" became a "chairperson," a female poet, a "poetess." Although often annoying, these changes in how we talk were intended to make the American English language as diverse and inclusive as America.

But liberals no longer hold the monopoly on political correctness — and PC no longer means diversity and inclusiveness. Since the days immediately after Sept. 11, 2001, when then-White House Press Secretary Ari Fleischer warned Americans they "need to watch what they say [and] watch what they do," it seems it is conservative groups that have more and more frequently sought to control how we talk, how we act and what we see.

This past Veteran's Day, for example, ABC wanted to show the Oscar-winning "Saving Private Ryan" unedited, but several affiliates refused to air it despite having done so in past years. The conservative group American Family Association applauded the move. Why? The movie has bad language.

Adam
Kotlarczyk

Northern
Illinois
University
Northern Star

And that brings us back to the unfortunate Mr. SquarePants. It's bad enough that elements of our society hypocritically deny rights like marriage to homosexuals while simultaneously using them for entertainment, enjoying shows like "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" and "Will and Grace." But in criticizing SpongeBob for even suggesting homosexuality (because he often holds hands with another male character), we're now offended not just by gay rights, but by the slightest hint of potentially gay mannerisms.

Which brings us to the all-important question: Where does that leave the Smurfs? I mean, you can't tell me that in a whole village with only one female, there wasn't at least a little locker-room experimentation going on.

A joke, of course, but if this craze of conservative-style political correctness doesn't subside, what else is at risk? Will we apply it to literature, as well? In Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings," for example, Frodo and Sam frequently hold hands (never mind that Sam goes on to marry and have a passel of hobbit-kids). Should we keep that work away from children, too?

Naturally, not all people who are conservative or religious support this new political correctness. But when their views are misrepresented by their leaders or organizations (as, I would guess, many have been by SpongeBob-gate) and they remain largely silent, it becomes incumbent on them to unite (they don't need to hold hands) and speak out against anyone — liberal or fellow conservative — who seeks to manipulate their views.

This column originally appeared on Jan. 27 in the Northern Star, the daily publication at the Northern Illinois University.

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

Slam poets examine issues of race and religion

STORY BY CHRISTIE BOLSEN

The vast majority of Notre Dame students don't know what it's like to be wrongfully arrested, or how it feels to face the world as a Jew or skinhead.

It's not that easy to get an inside look into a world with so many differences from what's familiar. But at the Race and Religion Symposium, students may get a chance to see a world very different from the one they know uncovered. Three spoken word artists will bring their experiences and backgrounds to a politi-

cally charged night of poetry and engaging dialogue.

The event appropriately falls between the last week's focus groups that opened discussion on issues like homosexuality and the upcoming diversity awareness week. Several events are scheduled around the symposium, including Thursday night's Acousticafé, which featured performances by Notre Dame's own student slam poets Jelani McEwen-Torrence, Dennis Latimore and Grant Osborn.

Bryonn Bain, a Harvard law student, became a national focus of racial discussion when he was handcuffed and thrown in jail for a night by the NYPD when he and his friends were leaving a nightclub in New York. Bain wrote an essay called "The Bill of Rights for Black Men" after the incident that became a cover story for Harvard Law's Village Voice.

Ted Koppel, Chris Matthews, Johnnie Cochran and Oprah Winfrey all discussed the racially charged incident and Mike Wallace also interviewed Bain on CBS' 60 Minutes.

Bain, who placed second in the International Poetry Slam, will speak about keeping your goals in sight despite barriers and a future of equality.

Jason Carney, the second performer, is a former skinhead who was sent to a juvenile detention center as a young man because of his violence stemming from gay and racial intolerance. After rooming at the center with a gay male who was HIV positive, his views changed.

When Carney discovered after his release from the center that his friend had died from AIDS, he made it his mission to eliminate the intolerance he once harbored. He now uses his art to reform and heal, and has performed on Russell Simmons' Def Poetry Jam on HBO.

Kevin Coval, the third performer, is a poet, emcee, essayist, activist and educator who has performed around the world in countries including South Africa and India. His range of experience includes opening for Ani DiFranco and also appearing on Def Poetry Jam. Coval also works toward contributing to the youth writing community in Chicago, where he teaches workshops for Young Chicago Authors, the Guild Complex and the University of Hip-Hop.

His art takes a critical look at the current cultural and political environment, and also explores his Jewish identity. His hip-hop lyrics deal with the impact of whiteness on people of color as well.

Tatiana Nealon, Student Union Board cultural arts programmer, attended a conference in Kentucky in October where she saw Jason Carney perform to a standing ovation, and was struck by his powerful effect on the audience. She hopes the conference will build up interfaith awareness on campus, as well as spark discussion on the important issue of race.

"By bringing in a Jewish person to talk about his experiences, it can help people realize what it's like for someone of a different religion to grow up in a predominantly Christian

nation," Nealon said.

Workshops run by the visiting poets, such as the one on Social Entrepreneurship from 5 to 6 p.m. in the McNeil Room today, will give students a chance to further explore issues.

The Race and Religion Symposium will take place Saturday from 7 to 9 p.m. in the LaFortune Ballroom. The symposium will be followed by a question-and-answer session.

Contact Christie Bolsen at cbolsen@nd.edu



Photo courtesy of www.globalltalentassoc.com
Bryonn Bain will speak regarding his experiences with police and racial discrimination.



Photo courtesy of www.globalltalentassoc.com
Poet Kevin Coval has performed worldwide in countries including South Africa and India.

Banda Rika and Matt Wertz hit Legends

STORIES BY BECCA SAUNDERS



Photo courtesy of www.bandarika.com

Looking for a hint of warmth during these cold South Bend days? Legends is providing entertainment with a Latin flare tonight with Banda Rika. Named Chicago's best Salsa/Meringue band in 2002, the first band from the suburbs to gain that distinction, Banda Rika comes to Legends with a great reputation. With a show featuring salsa, meringue, cumbia and bachata, Banda Rika promises entertainment and excitement.

The 12 members of Banda Rika are split into a 10-piece "Orquesta" and a two-person front line. Brass, bongos, bass, piano and other instruments back up vocalists Ramon Riviera and Luis Berrios. Formed in 1999, Banda Rika began by opening for a show called "Grupo Kaos."

As anyone who has listened to good Latin music can guess, the musicians leave no room for boredom anywhere they perform. The music and dancing are sure to provide enough energy and warmth for the entire room. There isn't much in the world of music that can equal a great Latin band — show up tonight to hear one of the best for miles around.

The show starts at 10 p.m. on the club side of Legends.



Photo courtesy of www.mattwertz.com

Matt Wertz did not begin his life with aspirations of becoming a songwriter and performer. In fact, earlier in his life his aspiration was actually to become a shoe designer. Fortunately for Matt and the crowd that will be at Legends Saturday, Matt left those dreams behind after he began writing songs during his freshman year of college.

The acoustic guitar player claims on his Web site that originally, "When I began writing songs, I never intended for anyone to hear them . . . It was simply the natural outpouring of my heart." Fans of Wertz across the country are grateful his songs, comparable to the likes of John Mayer and Jack Johnson, have come out and met the receptive fan base Wertz has started to create for himself through national touring in the last year and a half.

Wertz's show is sure to be light and entertaining.

Matt Wertz will be preceded by Notre Dame senior Kevin Leicht who is also a solo artist. Leicht will begin playing at 10 p.m. at the club side of Legends. If an enjoyable and laid back show is what your Saturday night needs, then Legends will most probably be the place for you.

Contact Becca Saunders at rsaunder@nd.edu

Irish Ambassadors

*The world-famous Chieftains
bring their premier Irish
music to Notre Dame*



Photo courtesy of Patrick Ryan

STORY BY BRANDON HOLLIHAN

A sold-out Leighton Concert Hall at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center awaits another world-class performance from the Chieftains, some of the best-known ambassadors of Irish music.

The Chieftains have been successful partly through bridging a gap between modern and traditional Celtic music and reaching out to both fan bases. The group plays traditional Celtic reels and ballads with the best, but branches out in performing with premier artists from many genres. Some artists have lost credibility through similar endeavors, but the Chieftains have succeeded in making many styles their own.

The Chieftains were formed in Dublin in 1962 with the intent of performing traditional Celtic music. The group's legacy bears a semblance to the English

group the King's Singers who performed at the Leighton Concert Hall in November. Paddy Moloney founded the original group and still performs today as its front man. Moloney performs on the Uilleann (pronounced "illian") Pipes and tin whistle. Other musicians include Kevin Connell on the Bodhran (an Irish drum pronounced "bough-rawn") and vocals, Seán Keane on the fiddle and Matt Molloy on flute.

The Chieftains have crossed over to rock music by performing with guest artists including Pete Townshend, Bob Dylan, Elvis Costello and fellow Irishman Van Morrison. On "Long Black Veil" the group performs with the Rolling Stones, Sting, and even Tom Jones. On "Down the Old Plank Road: The Nashville Sessions" the Chieftains also performed with bluegrass greats like Bela Fleck, Tim O'Brien and Allison Kraus.

Since its creation, the group has enjoyed the luxury of an appreciative audience. The band first garnered acclaim in Ireland and England, when it maintained a semi-professional, part-time aspect to its work. The band broke out internationally with its scoring of the 1975 film "Barry Lyndon." After a four-decade long career, the Chieftains have released 44 albums, with their next album, a tribute to departed member Derek Lowe, due in stores Feb. 22.

The Chieftains also set several performance milestones for Western music, becoming the first Western music group to tour China in 1983 (a tour that included a performance on the Great Wall of China), and breaking worldwide concert records with a 1979 concert in Dublin before 1.35 million people including Pope John Paul II. The band's current tour takes it throughout the United States up until late March, and

includes performances at Orchestra Hall in Chicago and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

So great is the Chieftains' reputation for traditional Irish music that in 1989 the Republic of Ireland appointed them the official music ambassadors for Ireland. Even so, the band has proved to not only be a driving force through Irish music, but through the popular music culture as a whole. Its work has received 10 Grammy nominations, and it won the award multiple times throughout the 1990s. Its "Barry Lyndon" scoring was awarded with an Oscar, and it has provided music for numerous film, television and stage productions.

The Chieftains take the stage at the Leighton Concert Hall Sunday at 8 p.m.

Contact Brandon Hollihan at
bhollih@nd.edu

NFL

Brady trying to downplay Montana comparisons

Associated Press

FOXBORO, Mass. — Tom Brady played in his driveway 20 miles south of San Francisco and pretended to be Joe Montana. He even tried to spot the 49ers' quarterback at Super Bowl victory parades.

Today, Brady is often compared to the Hall of Famer and children look up to the New England star the way he did to Montana.

"It's really neat on Halloween when you see those jerseys," Brady said Thursday. "I had a little kid come up to my door with a No. 12 jersey on. It's like, 'Oh, man.' It's just come such a long way."

From part-time starter at Michigan to sixth-round draft choice to two-time Super Bowl MVP, Brady has made huge strides in a hurry. He's just 27, but is in position to help the Patriots become only the second team to win three Super Bowls in four years.

But he's still behind Montana's four Super Bowl wins and eight Pro Bowl selections. Brady, headed to his second Pro Bowl, admits he's uncomfortable with the comparisons.

"I'm very flattered," Brady said. "I don't think I'm on that level (and) I'm still trying to get better."

But he's not easily distracted

once he sets his goals.

He had a fever last weekend but still played brilliantly in the Patriots' 41-27 over Pittsburgh in the AFC championship game. But he said he never came close to missing the game and downplayed the illness.

"There's a lot of guys who were sick and a lot of guys aren't feeling good and a lot of guys are probably playing with tougher ailments than I was," Brady said. "Guys have been doing that all year."

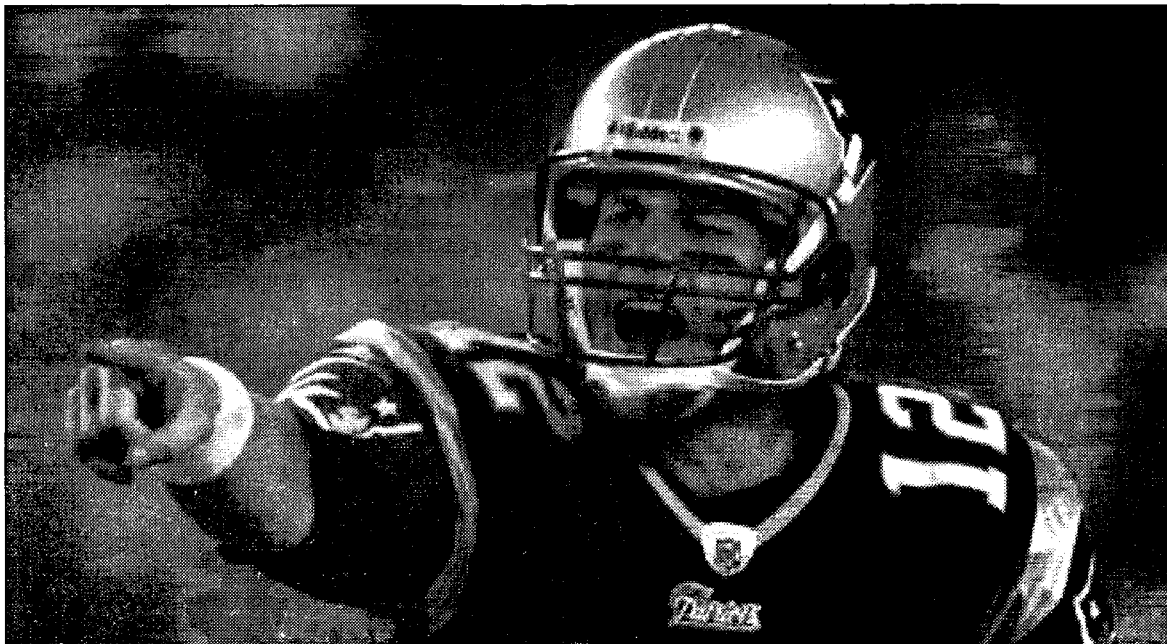
"Everyone plays with great toughness and never complains. A little flu bug. Like that's a big deal. You know (the attention it got) takes away from what those guys do."

He wouldn't say how sick he was but said he was feeling better Thursday.

Montana completed 63.2 percent of his passes and is seventh in NFL history in touchdown passes and eighth in yards passing in 13 full seasons. Elbow problems sidelined him for the entire 1991 season and limited him to one game in 1992.

Brady has completed 61.6 percent of his passes in five seasons, including his rookie year when he played just one game, and is 8-0 in the playoffs. Montana was 7-1 in his first eight postseason games before finishing at 16-7.

"Tom is as competitive as Montana," said Patriots third-



New England quarterback Tom Brady signals from the line during the AFC divisional playoff game against Indianapolis Jan. 16. New England will face Philadelphia in Super Bowl XXXIX Feb. 6.

string quarterback Jim Miller, a 10-year veteran. "I just think Tom's got a great feel for the game. He just has a great feel when to move in the pocket, when a certain guy's going to be open."

Brady has improved his accuracy and game management since he took the starting job after Drew Bledsoe was hurt in the second game of the 2001 season.

"When he's in the zone, I don't think there's anybody better," tight end Christian Fauria said.

The charismatic star has made such an impression that his teammates hear about it at home.

"Troy Brown tells me his little kid says I'm his favorite player," Brady said. "So when you hear stuff like that from your own teammate you get the biggest kick out of it."

As his achievements pile up in a career that should last many more years, more fans will wear his No. 12 jersey and admire the kid who once tossed a football in a driveway not far from where Montana was becoming an idol.

"Hopefully," Fauria said, "people will be comparing other people to him. Hey, you got that Tom Brady quality. That would be more of a compliment than anything."

Eagles looking to prevent Super Bowl letdown

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Donovan McNabb held the NFC championship trophy above his head, closed his eyes and savored the moment. Brian Dawkins clutched it in his arms, took a lap around the field, and handed it off to teammates to pass around the same way hockey players treat the Stanley Cup.

Fans gathered on Broad Street, honked horns, stood atop snowbanks and waved their Eagles banners, hats and towels.

After three straight losses in the NFC title game, Philadelphia finally was going to the Super Bowl for the first time in 24 years. While fans in this championship-starved city celebrated like their team had already won the big game, players relished their achieve-

ment but insisted they won't be satisfied until they bring home another trophy, the one with Vince Lombardi's name on it.

The Eagles vowed not to be one of those teams — such as San Diego, Atlanta and Cincinnati — that have let down once they got to the big game.

"This thing isn't over," said McNabb, the five-time Pro Bowl quarterback. "It's a stepping stone toward our goal and our goal is to win the Super Bowl. You don't have to worry about our team being overly excited about winning the NFC championship game. For everyone in Philadelphia, they feel like the curse has been erased. As a football team, we don't think of any curse."

Tears of joy streamed down the faces of many players and

hundreds of fans after the Eagles beat the Atlanta Falcons 27-10 to win the NFC championship. Falling one victory short three years in a row, including two losses at home, made this win even sweeter.

"All I kept thinking was how they finally did it, that they finally got one," said fan Joseph Anson. "I cried out of happiness and sheer relief, because coming so close and not getting there all those times was so very disappointing."

For some fans, the Eagles already have accomplished enough by overcoming adversity — a devastating injury to All-Pro receiver Terrell Owens

— to reach the Super Bowl. Those fans won't be crushed if the Eagles lose to the defending champion New England Patriots on Feb. 6 in Jacksonville, Fla.

"This thing isn't over."

Donovan McNabb
Philadelphia
quarterback

"When T.O. went down, everybody thought they were done," said Rich Maziatti, a season ticket holder who wasn't among the lucky ones to win a lottery for a chance to buy Super Bowl tickets. "They proved those so-called experts wrong. They won without T.O. Win or lose against New England, they made us proud."

Not so fast. This may be the City of Brotherly Love, but it's been called the City of Losers in

recent years because none of the major professional sports teams has won a championship since the 76ers captured the NBA title in 1983.

The 76ers were the last team to play for a championship, losing four straight games to the Los Angeles Lakers after opening the 2001 NBA Finals with an overtime victory. The Flyers were swept by Detroit in the 1997 Stanley Cup Finals. The Phillies were two wins away from winning their second World Series in 1993, before Joe Carter's dramatic walk-off homer in Game 6 gave Toronto its second straight title.

"Until we win a championship, not just an NFC championship, we'll be known as loser city," Anthony Simonelli said while selling Eagles T-shirts and hats on a street corner in South Philly.

CLASSIFIEDS

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What was your story at fortnight?

MLB

Delgado's four-year deal with Marlins finalized

Associated Press

MIAMI — Carlos Delgado and the Florida Marlins finalized their \$52 million, four-year contract Thursday, a move that could change the balance of power in the NL East.

Delgado, who hit at least 30 home runs each of the past eight seasons with Toronto, passed his physical Wednesday and was introduced at a news conference.

"I want to put myself on a team that has a chance to win, and that's the Florida Marlins," Delgado said. "I can't wait to meet the guys."

Florida won out over the New York Mets, who also offered \$52 million, and Baltimore and Texas, which each offered \$48 million.

"I think this is the best fit for me to have a chance to win," Delgado said. "And the fact that it's nice and warm here, the fact that it's only two hours from Puerto Rico, yeah, it is very nice as well, it's

gravy."

His addition is a boost to the Marlins, who are trying to put together a financing package for a new ballpark.

"It shows my desire to win. Everybody knows how I hate to lose," Marlins owner Jeffrey Loria said. "This signing makes perfect sense for this team at this time."

Florida is trying to end Atlanta's record streak of 13 consecutive division titles.

"I still think they're the team to beat," Marlins manager Jack McKeon said. "They find a way to come up with the players. Everybody gave the Braves a goodbye last year, and look what happened."

There's no assurance the Marlins will be better than last year after losing ace Carl Pavano (18-8) and closer Armando Benitez (47 saves) to free agency.

General manager Larry Beinfest signed Al Leiter to take Pavano's spot in the rotation. Guillermo Mota is slated to become a first-time closer

as part of a revamped bullpen.

A left-handed power hitter has topped McKeon's wish list ever since he became manager in 2003. Delgado's one of the best.

"Jack, I guess now you know you've got the left-handed bat that you want," Loria told McKeon, seated near him at Thursday's hiring press conference.

"About time," McKeon quickly responded.

Delgado has already started to earn his keep. The Marlins sold \$150,000 worth of season tickets Wednesday, five times their daily norm.

"This ballclub has a very good lineup, a very good pitching staff and a very, very good chance to make it to the playoffs," Delgado said.

Delgado is the city's newest Latin celebrity but hardly the Marlins' lone star. He'll be one of seven regulars to have played in an All-Star game. And the rotation, the team's strength the past two seasons, still includes Josh Beckett, A.J.



Carlos Delgado, right, answers questions Thursday after the announcement of his \$52 million, four-year contract with Florida.

Burnett and Dontrelle Willis.

"The Marlins were good before Delgado, and now they're a better team than they were last year," said Leiter, who pitched the past seven

seasons for the Mets. "With the considerable movement of players in the NL East, it's up for grabs. No disrespect to the Braves, but there's a sense that everybody has a shot."

NBA

After slow start, Bulls begin to pick up steam

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Keep in mind that coach Scott Skiles gets paid a lot to make sure the glass always looks half-full. Anybody else who says they saw the Chicago Bulls in the playoff hunt midway through this season is

either lying or had better have a doctor's note explaining they've been in a coma.

The reason has little to do with the speed of the Bulls' turnaround or the lack of precedent. The NBA's mantra, after all, is "everybody makes a run," and just last season, the Miami

Heat stumbled 0-7 leaving the gate and still managed to close a respectable 42-40 and make the playoffs.

So why not the Bulls?

Before we tackle that question, a word from Skiles.

"That 0-9 start was probably the scariest thing we'd had to

endure this season," Skiles said after practice the other day. "But even then, we never saw ourselves being any 0-9 team. At least it didn't feel that way. So that gave us a mental head start in turning things around. We always had confidence that we are a good team."

With Thursday night's visit by the Charlotte Bobcats marking the official midpoint of the season, the Bulls suddenly look like a very good team. They came in having won four straight, 11 of 12, and 17 of the last 21. Even in a weak Eastern Conference and a league filled with surprises, that has to be the most surprising development of all.

Skiles, of course, had a perfectly reasonable explanation.

"We went from virtually last in the league to first in one major defensive statistic," he said, referring to his team's ability to hold opponents to a league-low 41 percent field-goal shooting percentage. But playing great defense is a symptom and not the cause of the Bulls' success.

Credit for that belongs mostly to Skiles and general manager John Paxson, who as recently as six weeks ago had no reason to believe that their commitment

and tough love were about to be rewarded.

Franchises reach tipping points all the time, and at that moment, this future of Chicago's looked a lot more like the Clippers than one just a half-dozen years removed from the salad days of Michael Jordan. What the Bulls had in common with the Clippers was a handful of losing seasons, a team loaded with underachieving draft picks and disgruntled veterans who viewed Chicago as a rest stop on the way to somewhere else.

Paxson turned out to be shrewder than his predecessor Jerry Krause. He found better players in the draft and patiently pruned the roster instead of cutting down the tree and starting over one more time. Then he quit meddling and let the hard-nosed Skiles do the rest.

Even so, as recently as December, the Bulls were flopping and offers were coming in for Eddy Curry and Tyson Chandler, the high school phenoms whose arrested development was the legacy of the last administration. Paxson surrounded them with a better mix of veterans and four rookies that turned out to be much better than advertised.

Global Geopolitics

A View from the Top (and the Inside)

Geo-strategic issues and events in Europe, Russia and the Middle East

John Mroz
President and Founder
EastWest Institute

Since 1980, the EastWest Institute has worked to bridge divides along the fault lines of world geopolitics. Under its auspices, world leaders come together to explore solutions to pressing security, economic and political challenges. Our speaker is a tireless promoter of world peace, and an individual with a profound inside knowledge of the thinking of major world figures.

Mr. Mroz has served as an advisor to more than twenty governments including the US, Germany, Poland and Russia, as well as the Commission of the European Union, NATO, the Council of Europe and the G-8. He writes regularly in the international press on global change and international security as well as European, Russian, Eurasian and Middle Eastern affairs.

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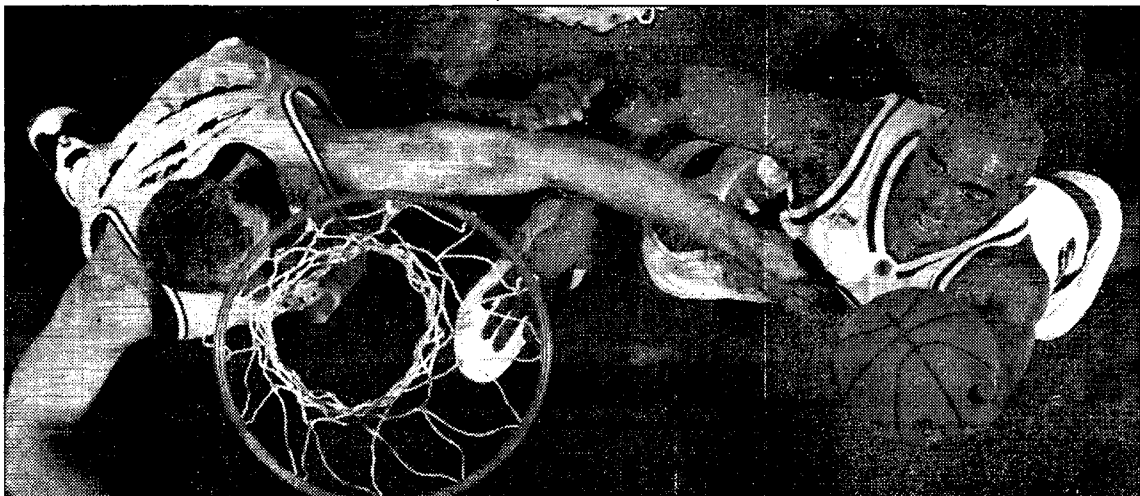
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NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL



Michigan State's Alan Anderson and Michigan's Graham Brown fight for a rebound during Thursday night's game. The Spartans forced 23 turnovers and won 64-53.

Spartans defeat Wolverines 64-53

Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — When Michigan State met at halftime, the Spartans talked about putting away Michigan in the first 5 minutes of the second half.

They did. Maurice Ager scored 18 points and No. 15 Michigan State started the second half strong before coasting to a victory over the Wolverines on Thursday night.

"That was huge," Ager said of scoring the first eight points after halftime. "We got a lot of energy out of that. Guys got

after it, and got on the floor. You can't help but go on a run."

The Spartans (13-3, 5-1 Big Ten) have won 11 of their last 12, and 11 of 12 against Michigan (12-8, 3-3).

Michigan State plays No. 1 Illinois on Tuesday at home after a nonconference tuneup against Oakland on Saturday.

The Spartans were subdued in the locker room after handling their rival easily because they knew, a similar effort against the Fighting Illini would lead to a loss, hurting their Big Ten title hopes.

"That's just kind of a sign of where we are and that we do

have a good idea of the big picture," guard Chris Hill said.

Dion Harris and Courtney Sims each had 12 points for the Wolverines, who were without standout point guard Daniel Horton. He was suspended indefinitely after being charged with domestic violence on Monday and without him, Michigan had 23 turnovers against the Spartans' pressure defense.

Harris said the Wolverines missed Horton a lot.

"I think we just broke down offensively and defensively," said Harris, who had six turnovers. "They pressured me every time I got the ball, they

SMC SWIMMING

Belles look to move up in the conference

By JUSTIN STETZ
Sports Writer

The Saint Mary's swimming team will be traveling to Albion College Saturday to face the Britons and the Knights of Calvin. The Belles currently reside in sixth place in the MIAA with a record of 1-3, but can overtake Albion for the fifth spot with a victory. Calvin College sits on top of the conference with a record of 3-0 as it has dominated most of its competition to this point.

Last year, Saint Mary's suffered losses to both teams during conference action. Albion defeated the Belles by a score of 128-106, while the Knights breezed by the Belles with a relatively easy 119-84 win. In the meet against Albion, Bridget Lebiecz finished second in the 200-yard freestyle and teammate Kelly Nelis placed second in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 26.56 seconds. Nelis also won the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 5:30.

Against conference rival Calvin, Nelis finished second in the 200-yard freestyle event, while Sarah Nowak had a strong performance in the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 2:27. The team also captured first in the 200-yard freestyle relay finishing with a time of 1:46.

Heading into this weekend's meet, Saint Mary's is coming off a devastating loss to Kalamazoo, a

team that beat the Belles 144-71 last weekend. Because of the defeat, it is crucial Saint Mary's have a strong performance to gain ground in league play. However, coach Gregg Petcoff believes the team has an excellent chance of moving up in the conference standings. Two wins this weekend could move the Belles to as high as fourth in the MIAA.

So far this season, Nelis has the top finishes in both the 50-yard and 500-yard freestyles with respective times of 26.43 and 5:30.

Nowak leads the team in the 100-freestyle with a time of 57.34 and has recorded a time of 2:04 in the 200-yard freestyle. She has also posted finishes of 1:11 and 2:32 in the 100 and 200-yard breaststrokes.

Lisa Balog has had an impressive freshman campaign by swimming a team-best 11:43 in the 1,000-yard freestyle as well as recording a time of 20:05 in the 1,650-yard freestyle.

This weekend, the Belles will need all of their swimmers to be in top form if they wish to have a chance at beating both competitors.

The first event commences at 1 p.m. on Saturday. Following the events, Saint Mary's will prepare for the MIAA Swimming and Diving Championships on Feb. 10.

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NBA

Balanced scoring lifts Pistons over Pacers

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Chauncey Billups scored 20 points and Tayshaun Prince had 16 points and seven rebounds as the Detroit Pistons used a balanced scoring attack to defeat the Indiana Pacers 88-76 Thursday night.

It was the second meeting between the teams since Nov. 19, when Pacers players brawled with Pistons fans after Ben Wallace shoved Ron Artest. Both games have been in Indianapolis, and both times the Pistons have won.

The teams face each other for the last time in the regular season March 25 at Detroit. That will be Indiana's first trip back to the Palace of Auburn Hills since the fight.

Detroit won its second straight after losing four in a row, while Indiana has lost three straight and five of seven. The Pacers dropped under .500 for only the second time this season.

Thursday's game was full of emotion, too.

Indiana fans booed loudly as the Pistons were introduced and booed again each time Ben Wallace scored. The game also was marred by five technical fouls, and fans jawed with Pistons players, sometimes playfully, in the final minutes of the game.

Ben Wallace finished with 10 points and 11 rebounds.

The game got off to a contentious start. Two days after five Pacers players appeared in a Detroit courtroom, Reggie Miller, Rasheed Wallace and Pacers coach Rick Carlisle all

drew technical fouls in the first half, and Jermaine O'Neal picked up another technical early in the third quarter.

The Pacers' scoring burden was carried by O'Neal and Stephen Jackson, who were both involved in the November melee. O'Neal finished with 27 points and nine rebounds while Jackson scored 11 points, five rebounds and three assists in his second game back after a 30-game suspension for his role in the brawl.

Fred Jones added 14 points off the bench, and point guard Jamaal Tinsley was particularly ineffective after missing Wednesday night's game in Boston with the flu. Tinsley missed all six of his shots, finishing with two points and four assists after being in foul trouble most of the night.

The Pistons used a runs of 13-2 and 6-0 to build a 39-25 lead.

The Pacers rallied just before halftime, scoring the last five points to close to 47-40. But Detroit opened the second half by scoring five straight points and pulled away with a 7-0 spurt that made it 66-51 with 2:18 left in the third quarter.

Kings 90, Spurs 80

The Sacramento Kings played San Antonio twice this week — the first time with Peja Stojakovic, the second without him. The Kings lost both times, but on Thursday they were more competitive minus their No. 2 scorer.

Manu Ginobili scored 25 points and Tim Duncan added 20 for the Spurs, who fended off a late rally for win.

Stojakovic, averaging 20.3 points, sat out with back spasms. The Kings lost the previous meeting by 30 points.

"We are not happy just because it was closer," Sacramento's Chris Webber said. "A loss is a loss."

The Kings cut San Antonio's lead to 78-77 when Webber stole the ball and passed to Brad Miller for a layup with 5:06 left.

The Spurs then went on an 8-0 run as Robert Horry made three free throws, Bruce Bowen hit a 3-pointer and Duncan worked inside for a layup over Miller.

Sacramento missed nine of its last 10 shots after Miller's layup.

"The only way we are going to win this game is to play good (defense)," Horry said. "We were very fortunate that we contested shots and they missed those shots."

Bowen finished with 14 points, 10 of them in the second half.

Tony Parker finished with 12 points, and Duncan had 12 rebounds.

"We didn't play our best basketball," Duncan said. "We gave

them too many opportunities to get back in the game."

Miller scored 19 points, Mike Bibby 17 and Webber 16 for Sacramento, which trailed by double digits several times. Matt Barnes, starting in place of Stojakovic, had eight points on 3-for-5 shooting.

Kings coach Rick Adelman said his team held its own, but that San Antonio executed better down the stretch.

"Obviously they are the best team in the league right now," Adelman said. "They hurt us getting to the basket — Parker in the first half and then Ginobili in the second half."

Parker had a hand in 10 of the Spurs' first 12 basket., scoring four of them and recording assists on six others. San Antonio fed off Parker's ability to penetrate in building a 23-11 lead with 4:49 left in the first quarter.

Sacramento shot 5-for-8 to finish the first quarter and then made its first five of the second quarter to take its only lead of the game, 35-34.

On the go-ahead basket, Miller hit Darius Songaila with a long toss for a breakaway dunk while Malik Rose, assigned to defend Songaila, was hiding his face in his jersey after a turnover.



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AROUND THE NATION

Friday, January 28, 2005

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NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

team	record	perc.	GB	L 10
Boston	20-22	.476	-	5-5
Philadelphia	19-22	.463	.5	4-6
Toronto	18-25	.419	2.5	6-4
New York	17-24	.415	2.5	1-9
New Jersey	16-26	.381	4.0	4-6

Central Division

team	record	perc.	GB	L 10
Cleveland	25-16	.610	-	6-4
Detroit	25-18	.571	1.0	6-4
Chicago	22-19	.525	3.0	9-1
Indiana	20-21	.488	5.0	4-6
Milwaukee	15-25	.375	9.5	4-6

Southeast Division

team	record	perc.	GB	L 10
Miami	31-13	.705	-	5-5
Washington	26-15	.634	3.5	8-2
Orlando	22-19	.537	7.5	5-5
Charlotte	8-31	.211	20.5	1-9
Atlanta	8-32	.200	21	3-7

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Northwest Division

team	record	perc.	GB	L 10
Seattle	29-12	.707	-	6-4
Minnesota	23-19	.548	6.5	6-4
Denver	17-25	.405	12.5	3-7
Portland	16-25	.390	13.0	2-8
Utah	15-28	.349	15.0	4-6

Pacific Division

team	record	perc.	GB	L 10
Phoenix	34-10	.773	-	4-6
Sacramento	28-13	.683	4.5	8-3
L.A. Lakers	22-18	.550	10.0	6-4
L.A. Clippers	20-22	.476	13.0	4-6
Golden State	12-30	.286	21.0	1-9

Southwest Division

team	record	perc.	GB	L 10
San Antonio	35-10	.778	-	7-3
Dallas	28-13	.683	4.5	7-3
Houston	24-19	.558	9.5	8-2
Memphis	24-20	.545	10.0	7-3
New Orleans	7-34	.171	25.5	5-5

CCHA Hockey Standings

team	conference	overall
Michigan	16-2-0	19-6-1
Ohio State	13-4-1	16-7-3
Northern Michigan	10-5-3	12-7-5
Nebraska-Omaha	10-8-2	12-10-2
Michigan State	8-9-1	13-11-2
Bowling Green	7-7-2	10-9-3
Alaska Fairbanks	7-10-1	8-11-1
Lake Superior State	6-7-3	7-13-4
Miami (Ohio)	5-10-3	9-13-4
Ferris State	4-11-3	9-14-3
Western Michigan	5-10-1	10-11-1
NOTRE DAME	3-11-4	5-16-5

around the dial

PGA TOUR

Bob Hope Classic, 4 p.m., USA

NBA

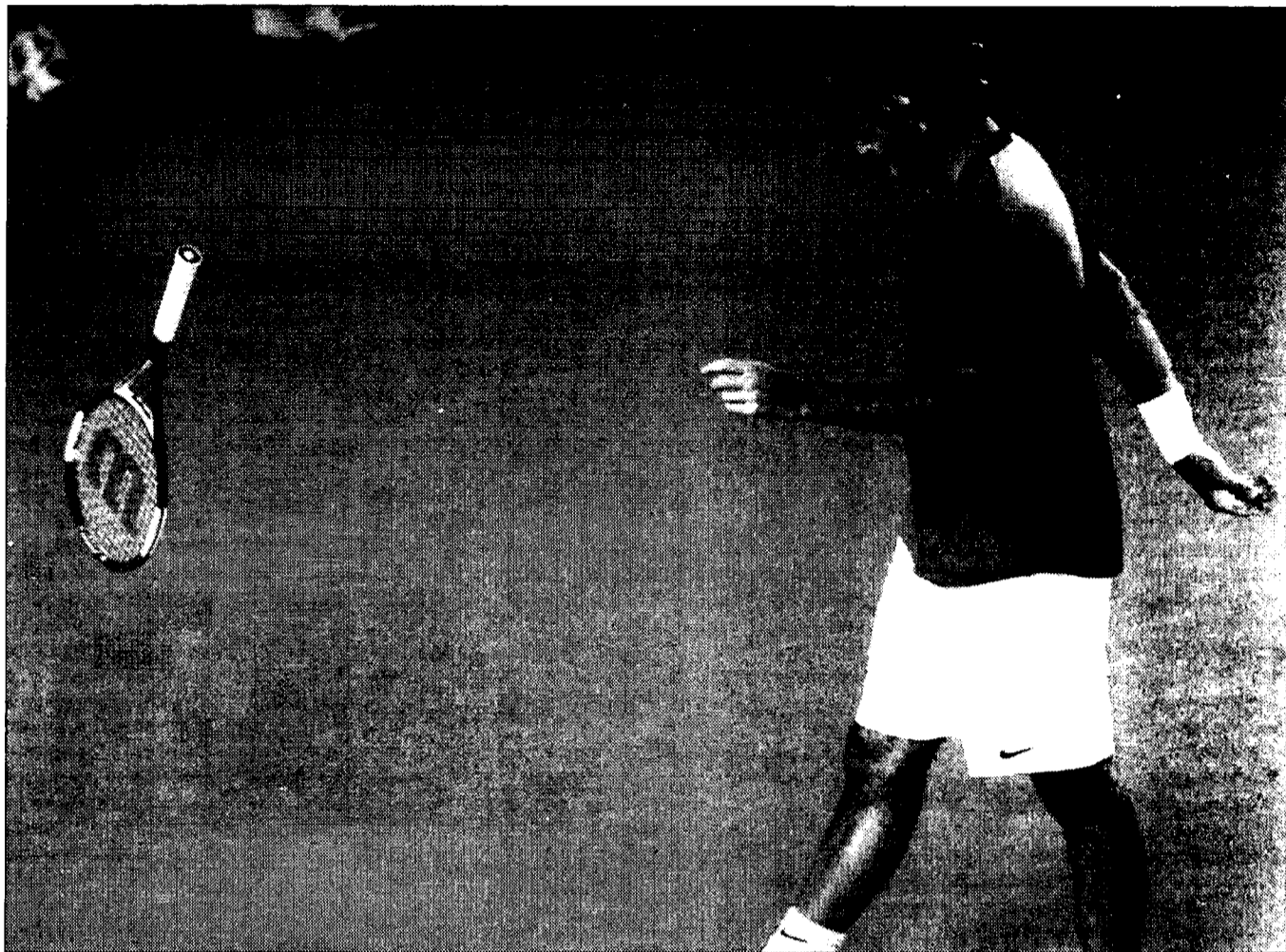
Cavs at Knicks 7 p.m., ESPN

Wizards at Magic 7 p.m., Comcast

76ers at Hornets 8 p.m., Comcast

Kings at Rockets 9:30 p.m., ESPN 2

TENNIS



Top-seeded Roger Federer tosses his racket after losing a point to fourth-seeded Marat Safin in the semifinal round of the Australian Open. Federer's 26-match winning streak ended after a five-set epic battle.

Federer, Sharapova fall in Aussie Open

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Roger Federer was on his hands and knees, his racket gone after he tumbled chasing a shot.

All he could do was watch as Marat Safin tapped a gentle forehand into an open court to cap a thrilling 4 1/2-hour Australian Open semifinal and end the top-ranked Federer's 26-match winning streak.

Safin fed off a match point in the fourth set, then needed seven match points of his own before pulling off a 5-7, 6-4, 5-7, 7-6 (6), 9-7 upset of defending

champion Federer and advancing to his third Australian Open final in four years.

"It's always going to hurt, no matter how great the match was," Federer said. "But at least you can leave the place feeling good about yourself, because I gave it all I had."

The fourth-seeded Safin next meets No. 2 Andy Roddick or No. 3 Lleyton Hewitt, whose semifinal is Friday.

The women's final is set, featuring past champions Serena Williams and Lindsay Davenport. Williams' 2-6, 7-5, 8-6 victory over Maria Sharapova

in a rematch of last year's Wimbledon final produced about as much drama as Federer-Safin.

Williams saved three match points, then leaped three times after ending it with a winner.

The top-ranked Davenport, who contemplated retiring in 2004, came back to beat No. 19 Nathalie Dechy of France 2-6, 7-6 (5), 6-4. Davenport also reached the doubles final, pairing with Corina Morariu to face Svetlana Kuznetsova and Alicia Molik for that title.

With Federer trailing 8-7 in the fifth set and serving on match point, he lunged

to retrieve a deep shot wide to his forehand side. He swatted back a desperation shot, but slipped and dropped his racket. Safin converted the putaway.

"It's like a brain fight. — It's more mental than physical against Roger," said Safin, who smashed his racket to the court two points before he lost the third set and later belted a ball into the stands.

The mercurial Russian, whose lone major title came at the 2000 U.S. Open, showed that it is possible to frustrate Federer. The Swiss star won four of the previous six Slams.

IN BRIEF

Rockies revamp roster, frustrate fans

DENVER — The Colorado Rockies have tried winning with pitching, hitting and speed. They've thrown money at free agents, rebuilt through minor league deals and gone after players with high character.

None of it has worked and the Rockies are asking fans to stay patient as they change tactics yet again.

Tearing apart the roster and starting from scratch with top prospects might be the best plan yet, but some fans are growing weary of an organization that seems to switch philosophies like a runway model goes through clothes.

"If I would have known a couple of months earlier what I know now, I would have dropped out," said Joe Grolowski, a season-ticket holder from Fort Collins. "It seems like the [owners and GM] are depleting the team. They are making it into a minor league team at major league prices."

Turin struggles to find support, funds for '06 Winter Olympics

TURIN, Italy — It seemed like a perfect match: Fiat and the Olympics.

The Turin-based carmaker and its flamboyant ski-loving chairman, Gianni Agnelli, would ensure the financial security of the 2006 Winter Games in the Piedmont capital and surrounding Alps.

It hasn't worked out that way. With just over a year to go before the opening ceremony, Turin is scrambling to line up sponsors, overcome a \$196 million budget shortfall and drum up national support.

Fiat, meanwhile, is in deep financial trouble due to dwindling car sales and has gone through five CEOs in less than two years. Agnelli died in 2003 and his brother, Umberto, died last May.

Fiat companies are contributing only \$52 million to Turin's overall \$1.5 billion Olympic budget, much of

it in payment-in-kind services such as 3,000 cars and 900 buses.

Karl debuts against former team

DENVER — George Karl had been involved with basketball since the seventh grade, so not having it in his life for nearly two years left him feeling empty.

Now that he's headed back to the NBA, Karl has a greater appreciation for what the game has meant to him.

Out of the NBA since the Bucks fired him in 2003, Karl was back in Milwaukee on Thursday to take over as coach of the underachieving Denver Nuggets. He's expected to be on the bench Friday night, making his debut with the Nuggets against his former team.

"The last 18 months was the first time I was not with a basketball team for 38 years," Karl said. "I now realize how fun and what a privilege it is to be with a basketball team."

The Nuggets hope his enthusiasm rubs off.

HOCKEY

Solid finish would move Irish up in the CCHA

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Associate Sports Editor

While they may be in last place in the CCHA at this point in the season, the Irish are certainly not out of postseason contention.

Currently, Notre Dame sits in 12th place with 10 points, with the sixth-place team, Bowling Green, only six points ahead. That's just a three-win difference, and as Irish coach Dave Poulin knows, Notre Dame still has a chance to have a hot streak heading into the last 10 games of the year.

"We can do whatever we want to do," he said. "I talked to our guys and told them that every team I've been associated with here at Notre Dame has had a roll where things happen for you, and you get that confident roll and your energy level picks up."

"That hasn't happened for us over a stretch of time, yet, and I think it's ahead of us for this final stretch."

Notre Dame will hope to start a winning streak this weekend as they take on Bowling Green in a home-and-home series, with the Irish meeting the Falcons on the road tonight and returning home to the Joyce Center to close out the

series Saturday night.

The Irish are currently mired in a six-game losing streak, dating back to a 2-1 victory against Rennselaer on Jan. 2.

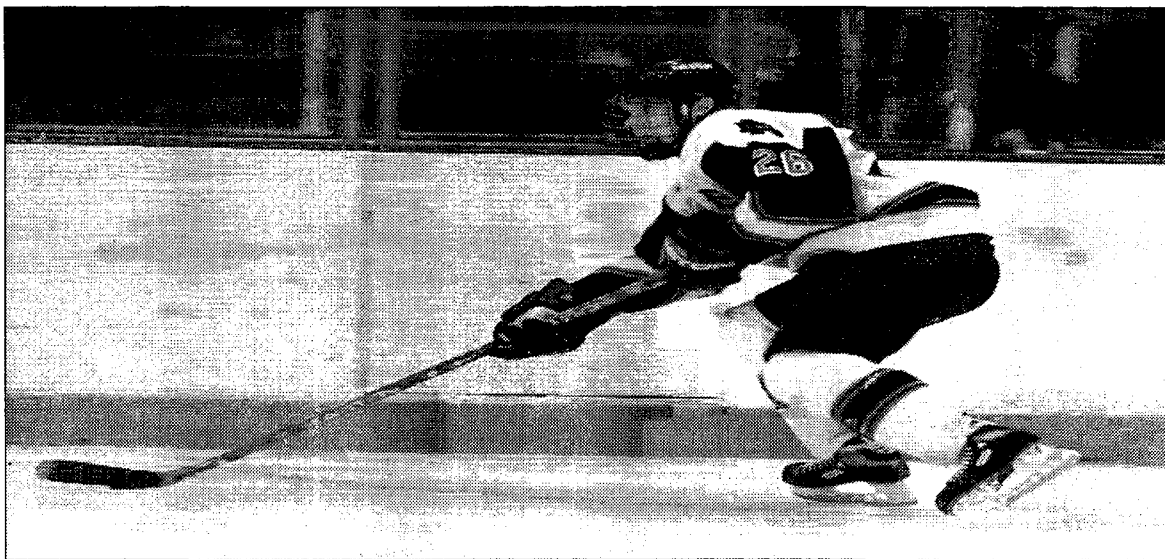
Notre Dame has also failed to score a single goal in its last 156 minutes, 50 seconds — dropping two 2-0 shutouts to No. 5 Wisconsin last weekend. On the season, the Irish are averaging just 1.50 goals per game, the second worst average in all of Division I (Army is last with a 1.39 goals-per-game average). In the 26 games Notre Dame has played to date, the Irish have scored one goal or fewer in 15 of them.

"We're trying to focus on the simplicity of not talking about goals," Poulin said. "We're trying to talk about completing a pass, completing two passes in the neutral zone, getting our feet moving, being in better position for our teammates."

"We've sort of gone back to the fundamentals of hockey and not focused so much on the topic of goal scoring."

If the Irish can manage to get a few goals per game, they should have a good chance of finishing the season on a roll. Notre Dame's goaltending has been phenomenal, even if the final records don't show it.

Irish senior goalie Morgan



CHUY BENITEZ/The Observer

Junior right wing T.J. Jindra looks for the puck during a game against Bowling Green Nov. 5. The last-place Irish could still see postseason play with a season-ending winning streak.

Cey has been strong all season, but especially in the month of January, where he has a 2.23 goals against average and a .926 save percentage. His record during that month was just 1-6-1 however.

"Our defense has been really good all season," Poulin said. "Our goaltenders played well both games [against Wisconsin] and our penalty kill was especially strong. Three of the four goals were rush goals, and Wisconsin has some guys that

can finish plays.

"We did play well defensively in that series and we have to keep that up over the last part of the season."

Notre Dame has already faced Bowling Green this season, losing to the Falcons 3-1 on Nov. 4 and tying 4-4 on Nov. 5. That tie was perhaps the best offensive output all season for the Irish, with the team putting 54 shots on net against goalie Jordan Sigalek.

The four goals are also a sea-

son high.

"This is a team that we've had 50 shots at against this year, and that's the kind of effort it's going to take against one of the top goaltenders in the country," Poulin said.

Notre Dame faces off against Bowling Green Friday at 7:05 p.m. in Bowling Green, and Saturday at 7:05 p.m. at the Joyce Center.

Contact Justin Schuver at jschuver@nd.edu

WOMEN'S TRACK

No. 11 Irish continue non-conference tune ups for Big East

By RYAN KIEFER
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame women's track team has been on a quest in its initial meets this season.

This quest has been to develop an identity as a team, an identity, which the team hopes, will carry the label "Big East Champion" by the end of the season. With the indoor conference meet still weeks away, the Irish will focus on establishing this identity this weekend at the Notre Dame Invitational.

The No. 11 Irish according to Trackwire.com, will host several schools including Butler, Loyola (Chicago), DePaul and Marquette Saturday at Loftus

Center.

Notre Dame hopes to build on the momentum from last weekend's dominating performance in which Irish athletes won 10 of 15 events at the Notre Dame Indoor Opener.

The competition this week is expected to be of a similar caliber, according to coach Tim Connelly.

"We expect good competition in some events, in particular the 800-meter, but we realize that in other events, our athletes' main competition will be their teammates," he said.

Part of developing the identity of a track team is determining early in the season in which events athletes will participate and more importantly,

in which events they will excel. Notre Dame made adjustments in its lineup entering last weekend's meet, and the team plans to do much of the same this week.

"We will be shuffling some people," Connelly said. "Some of our athletes will be running events they don't normally run. For example, Stephanie Madia will be running the 800 this week, even though we'd normally place her in the 3K or 5K. She'll be getting some speed work."

Connelly also said it was difficult to say when exactly the team would have its official lineup, as key distance runners, including All-American Molly Huddle, are still nursing

injuries from cross country. In addition to the action on the track, the field events are certain to draw attention this weekend, especially in the high jump competition. Stacey Cowan's clearing of 5 feet, 10 inches last weekend left her just an inch and a half short of

her own school record, one which she hopes to break this season. The field events will begin Saturday's meet at 10:30 a.m., with running set to begin at 2 p.m.

Contact Ryan Kiefer at rkiefer@nd.edu

MEN'S TRACK

Runners prepare for Invitational

By JOHN EVERETT
Sports Writer

The Irish will take to the track Saturday in the annual Notre Dame Invitational. The Irish men will be competing against runners from Marquette, DePaul, Loyola, Butler and Michigan State. The meet is another event designed to prepare the Irish for the Mevo Invitational on Feb. 4 and 5, which is seen as the first big meet of the season. Notre Dame has proven itself in other preparatory events, which has head coach Joe Piane excited heading into the Invitational.

"This will be a pretty good

event, the men's 800-meters and hurdle races should be good, and the 3,000-meter race should be excellent," Piane said.

The 3,000-meters is expected to be a compelling race, considering the depth the Irish possess in distance runners.

The Irish distance squad, featuring runners such as Kurt Benninger, who won the mile at last week's meet, and freshman 800-meter runners Brett Adams and Jake Watson, will be a large factor.

However, other schools will prove to be a challenge considering the squad from Butler finished fourth at the NCAA Cross Country Championships, and

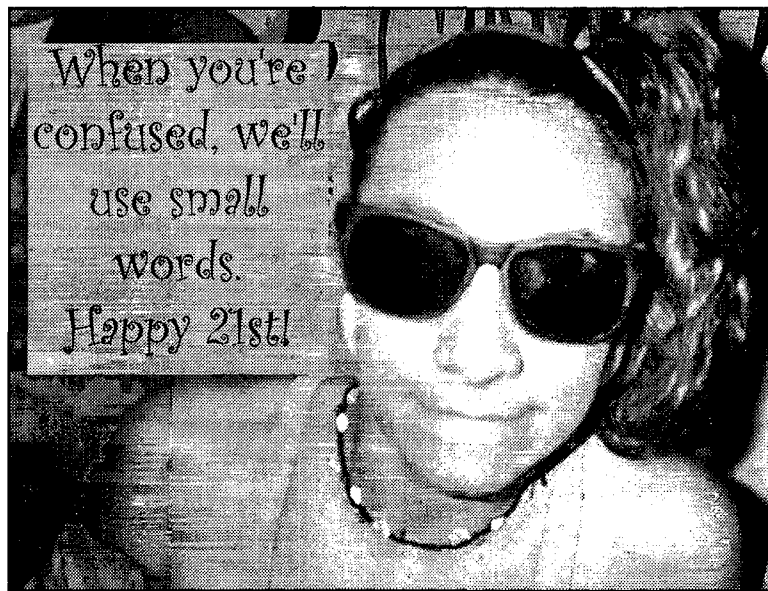
that Michigan State has Steve Sherer, an All-American, running in the race.

In the hurdle races, the Irish will look to Selim Nurudeen, who has already turned in several outstanding performances in this young indoor season.

Piane stated he was very pleased with the way the season was turning out.

"Things are coming along well, when you realize that most of our guys have only run at one meet," he said. "Right now our goal is to get guys qualified for the Big East [Indoor Championships]."

Contact John Everett at jeverett@nd.edu



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MEN'S SWIMMING

No. 21 Irish look to bounce back on road trip

By ANN LOUGHERY
Sports Writer

True, last weekend's loss to No. 14 Northwestern may have left Notre Dame a little rattled.

But more than anything, it increased their resolve to prove just how much potential they possess.

"We were a little bit out of racing practice," Irish coach Tim Welsh said. "It took us some time to get back in the competitive spirit. But now we know what we need to do to win this weekend, and we're ready to win."

Although the No. 21 Irish (6-2) enjoyed their share of success last weekend, the team also took a number of lessons away from the competition. Junior Tim Randolph emphasized what a crucial role intensity plays in winning a race.

"When you race, you just have to know that you can't give up one inch to the competition, no matter how long the race is or who you're going up against," Randolph said.

Notre Dame will take that hardnosed attitude on the road this weekend, facing Cleveland State (7-2) and Canisius (0-8)

today at 4:30 p.m. and St. Bonaventure (6-3) Saturday at 12 p.m.

Last weekend, host Notre Dame fell to Northwestern (4-4) in a 163.5-134.5 decision. Although the Wildcats broke four pool records, they were unable to secure the win until the last event.

Notre Dame defeated the Wildcats 28-8 in the two diving events. Sophomore Scott Coyle bested

Northwestern junior Mike Oxman off of both boards, giving the Irish valuable points they needed in the fiercely contested meet.

The Irish also took at least two of the three top places in 10 of the 14 individual events. Sophomore Tim Kegelman, who ranks fifth in Division I this season in the 100-yard fly, garnered the only two swimming victories for the Irish with a time of 1 minute, 52.28 seconds in the 200-yard fly and 49.28 in the 100-yard fly.

Cleveland State will also bring a talent-laden team to the pool today. The Vikings are on a six-meet winning streak and led by senior diver Thatcher Carr, senior butterflyer Thatcher Carr and junior backstroke Pieter

Pelser.

Carr, who qualified for the NCAA Championships in 2001 and 2002 while at Navy, has already gained recognition this year for breaking the 1-meter dual record in his first meet with the Vikings with a score of 349.40 points.

Ranked No. 50 in the 100-yard butterfly and No. 89 in the 200-yard butterfly, the senior looks to be one of Kegelman's greatest challenges. Teammate Pelser has broken school records in both the 100- and 200-yard backstroke this season and is tied for 38th in the nation in the 100 and 44th in the 200. Notre Dame's other competition today will come from the Golden Griffins of Canisius, who are looking for their first win in more than two seasons after nearly beating Iona in December 128-70.

St. Bonaventure will prove to be Notre Dame's biggest threat this weekend. The Bonnies are ranked first in their conference and 50th in the nation, boasting national rankings in the 400 free (44th), 800 free (45th) and 400 medley (48th).

Contact Ann Loughery at
alougher@nd.edu



RICHARD FRIEDMAN/The Observer

Patrick Davis swims in the Notre Dame Invitational in December. The Irish have two meets this weekend.

ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Swimmers excited for rematch with No. 13 Michigan

By MIKE TENNANT
Sports Writer

The No. 21 Irish find themselves in familiar waters today as they travel to Ann Arbor for a late-season showdown with No. 13 Michigan.

This weekend will be the third time the Irish will see the Wolverines in the month of January. Both teams also traveled to the Caribbean for their winter training trips.

The Wolverines beat out the Irish at the St. Lucia Invitational on Jan. 2, outscoring Notre Dame 209-170 en route to a first place finish. Two weeks ago, the Wolverines were in South Bend

as part of a triple dual involving Illinois. Notre Dame only scored against Illinois.

However, head coach Bailey Weathers does not see the two teams' familiarity making a difference this weekend.

"I don't think it's an advantage or disadvantage," Weathers said. "Our girls know we worked just as hard as they did on the training trip."

The Irish have had the last week off after an exciting final relay gave Notre Dame a 175-

172 victory over the Illini two weeks ago.

Meanwhile, Michigan is coming off a tough loss to No. 23 Northwestern, its first Big Ten dual meet loss since 2002.

"I think they're going to be ready for us," Weathers said.

Leading the Irish into Ann Arbor will be record-breaking diver Meghan

Perry-Eaton. The All-American fifth-year senior was named 2003 and 2004 Big East Championships Most Outstanding Diver. Against

Illinois, Perry-Eaton set records on back-to-back days, giving her all four records at Notre Dame's Rolfs Aquatic Center. She has won 14 of the 15 events she entered this season.

Sophomore Ellen Johnson took first place in the 100-meter backstroke at St. Lucia, beating out Michigan's NCAA qualifier Kaitlyn Brady.

The 400-meter freestyle relay team of Carroll, Grove, Ellen Johnson, and Bouvron won their event in the Caribbean over their Wolverine counterparts by more than a full second.

In South Bend, the 400-yard freestyle team of Carroll, both Johnson's, and Grove beat the

Illinois team by .06 seconds to win the dual for the Irish.

"We have got a lot of kids who are going to swim well," Weathers said. "We're all very ready to swim."

After this weekend, the Irish have one final meet against Oakland in Rochester, Mich., before the Big East Championships.

"They're looking at the Michigan meet as a stepping stone for the Big East [Championships]. They understand the dual meet is part of the process of preparing for the Big East [Championships], just like the Big East is part of the process for the NCAA [Championships]," Weathers said.

The swimming will start tonight at 6 p.m.

Contact Mike Tennant
at mtennant@nd.edu

Irish Athletics "Be There" Weekend

Saturday, January 29th
Men's Hockey

vs. Bowling Green
7:05 p.m.

Joyce Center
Fieldhouse

•First 500 fans receive
Trading Cards of the
Irish Juniors
sponsored by Chevy!

Chevrolet



•Stick around after the
game to get autographs
from the Irish Juniors!

Saturday,
January 29th

Men's Tennis

vs. North
Carolina

2 p.m.

Eck Tennis
Pavilion



Saturday,
January 29th

#2/#4 Fencing

Notre Dame

Duals

11:00 a.m.

Joyce Center
Fieldhouse



Saturday,
January 29th

#10 Track and

Field

Notre Dame

Invitational

Noon

Loftus Center

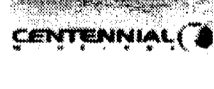


Sunday, January 30th
Men's Basketball vs.

#13 UCONN

3:45 p.m. Joyce Center

•This game sponsored by
Papa John's and one lucky fan
will win pizza for a year!



•One lucky fan will win a free
cell phone and a year of service
from Centennial Wireless!

•Project Playground
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UConn

continued from page 20

tougher than when Notre Dame faced them on Jan. 12.

Back from injury is leading scorer and second team All-Big East performer Barbara Turner, who averages 12.4 points per game. Not far behind Turner in the scoring column is fellow junior Ann Strother. The 6-foot-2 guard averages 12.1 points per game on 39.1 percent shooting from beyond the arc.

Connecticut has found another source of offense in freshman Charde Houston. In just 19 minutes per game, the freshman is averaging 11.8 points and 4.9 rebounds, and shoots 56.5 percent from the field. Houston was the Big East's Freshman of the Week the past two weeks after a 25-point performance against Texas. Houston gave Notre Dame problems during the last matchup, as she scored 19 points on 8-for-15 shooting, which complemented her five rebounds, three steals and three blocks.

The Huskies are the No. 1 team in the Big East conference, making this game especially important for the Irish, who sit in fourth place, behind Connecticut, Boston College and Rutgers, after Wednesday's win over St. John's.

"Nobody's really given them a



Irish forward Megan Duffy looks for the pass in a game against Purdue Jan. 16.

game in the Big East," McGraw said. "They've been dominant in the Big East. They're the team to beat again, the No. 1 team, and they're playing with a lot of confidence."

Notre Dame escaped Wednesday against St. John's after coming back from a 35-31 halftime deficit to win 72-65. All-American Jacqueline Batteast said Notre Dame needs to play better defense if it wants to deal the Huskies their first conference loss.

"I think it starts with defense," Batteast said. "It's been that way the whole season — the better defense we've played, the better offense we've had. So we can't go out there and try to outscore UConn, because that's not going to

happen, so we really need to work on our defense right now — the offense, it will come."

Sunday's game is at the Hartford Civic Center, which is not only Connecticut's home court, but also the site of the Big East Tournament. McGraw knows the Huskies always draw a tough crowd.

"Certainly playing in their building, they'll be playing with even more [confidence]," McGraw said. "They know that they can beat us badly at our place, and so they figure, I'm sure, that the same thing is going to happen up there."

Tipoff is set for 7 p.m. Sunday on ESPN2.

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvanhoeg@nd.edu

Bayliss

continued from page 20

ways to go in doubles, but we're better than we were a year ago, and we're making some progress."

The doubles point is of particular concern for Bayliss.

"We certainly are concerned about all our doubles," he said. "Getting to the level of teams we're going to be playing now, that's not going to be good enough."

North Carolina will provide Notre Dame with its biggest test in the season so far.

"North Carolina is a very well-balanced team with a lot of aggressive baseliners who really, really make you play," Bayliss said. "They play great doubles — I think the match Saturday is going to be very hotly contested and a great match."

The team has worked to prepare for the talent that the Tar Heels will bring to the match.

"I had a chance to watch them practice a little bit," Bayliss said. "They really do hit their ground strokes with authority."

Sunday's match will not prove any easier, as Bayliss calls the Seminoles a potential top-20 team "loaded with tal-

ent."

The team did not change their practice strategy, although Bayliss and his players are focused on the important weekend ahead.

"We tried to keep the practices a little more compact and specific knowing that we've got two very, very tough teams back to back," Bayliss said.

The team is also sponsoring a dorm challenge event, where dorms with the most students coming to matches will receive a prize. This weekend, Seigfried, Pasquerilla West, and Lewis will be the dorms competing at Saturday's match, with Knott, Pasquerilla East and Welsh Family vying for the prize on Sunday.

Regardless of the contest, however, fans this weekend can expect to see a high caliber of play at the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

"We're healthy, everyone's looked good in practice, there's no reason to think we won't play well," Bayliss said. "I'm excited because I know we've come a long way, and we either need to learn that we've really achieved a lot or find out what we need to do to get better — and we're going to find out."

Contact Kate Gales at kgales@nd.edu

Duals

continued from page 20

However, both Penn State and Ohio State come armed with two titlists each. Penn State comes with 2002 and 2003 men's foil champion Nonpatat Panchan and 2003 women's epee champ Katarzyna Trzopek competing for the Nittany Lions.

Competing for Ohio State will be foilist Boaz Ellis and sabre Adam Crompton, who also won in 2003.

In fact, the only defending NCAA champion not competing in the event is men's epeeist medalist Arpad Horvath of St. John's.

The Notre Dame Duals will also feature new equipment that has also altered the way matches are scored and approached. The International

Fencing Association (IFA) recently made changes to the way points are scored, shortening the interval of time that double points can be scored to 35 hundredths of a second. Also, the IFA lengthened the period of time that a foil must be pressed into an opponent's body to count as a point. As scoring is electronic, the new equipment, which was just installed over winter break, are calibrated to be sensitive

to these new specifications.

Because of these new rule changes, the Irish have been working extensively on techniques that will help them adjust to the new regulations.

"The kids have had problems adjusting to the new situation," Bednarski said. "But we've done lots of technical work, [and] it's a good idea because it's not easy to change machines."

Despite the changes and the

toughness of their competition, the Irish are eager to test themselves against the best teams out there, both familiar and not.

"We know the value of Ohio [State]," Bednarski said. "Now it's another rival [Penn State], who is close to national champion, and we want to see how strong they are."

Contact Eric Retter at eretter@nd.edu

Twins

continued from page 20

"Winning the doubles point makes it easier," captain Sarah Jane Connelly said. "But even though we have the talent to do it, we are still going to have to focus."

Playing No. 1 for the Irish will be sophomores Catrina and Christian Thompson. They will face the No. 33-ranked team of Karin Coetzee and Ashlee Davis.

At No. 2 for the Irish will be freshman Brook Buck and junior Lauren Connelly. Junior Kiki Stastny and Sarah Jane Connelly will be playing at No. 3 and are coming off an impressive win over Michigan's Elizabeth Exon and Nina Yaftali.

In singles, No. 69-ranked Catrina Thompson will be playing No. 1 for the Irish. She will be followed by No. 85-ranked Buck.

Playing No. 3 for the Irish will be Christian Thompson. The rest of the line-up includes Lauren Connelly, Stastny and Donohue.

Although the Irish will be heading into the match with a higher ranking over Wake Forest, Notre Dame is not taking the contest too lightly.

"They may be ranked 30th, but they are definitely a top-20 team," coach Jay Lauderback said. "They are deep and the kids

at the top of their lineup are tough. They will be in the top-20 before the end of the season."

Donohue agreed to not underestimate the talented Wake Forest.

"Ranking doesn't mean anything because anybody can upset anybody," she said.

However, after achieving wins over Ohio State and Michigan, Sarah Jane Connelly has full confidence in the team's capabilities.

This confidence stems from three players who were able to comeback from early deficits in their matches and secure the win during Wednesday night's meet against Michigan.

"Everyone is really competing. Girls have been down and have been able to comeback [in the past couple of matches]," Connelly said. "But we have to know that we

can't take anything lightly. We can't look at rankings because everyone is tough and everyone is out to get us."

But, if the match comes down to the last point, Donohue is confident in Notre Dame's ability to achieve the victory because of how encouraging the team is towards each other.

"We are so supportive of each other, especially when you're the last match out there. So it is great to know that your team is there for you," she said.

Contact Dan Tapetillo at jtapetil@nd.edu

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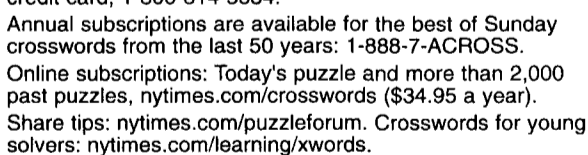
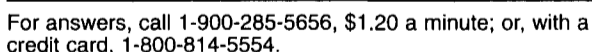


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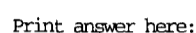
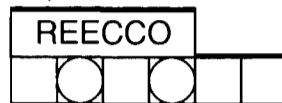
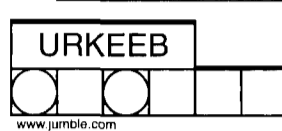
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HENRI ARNOLD
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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Yesterday's | Jumbles: LEGAL PAGAN INLAID AERATE
 Answer: The baldheaded friends had a difficult time
 doing this — "PARTING"

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mimi Rogers, 49; Alan Cumming, 40; Bridget Fonda, 41; Cris Collinsworth, 46

Happy Birthday: You can finally get down to business and leap into the future. There is no time to waste lollygagging around. You may have some wonderful inventions, but thinking about them and putting them into play are two very different scenarios. You've got the energy; now muster up the confidence and go all the way to victory this year. Your numbers are 3, 19, 21, 15, 36, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): This is not the time to make waves with people who can affect your future. Do whatever you have to do and get on with it. Being accommodating can lead to getting what you want. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You can make some very crucial moves today that will enable you to accomplish something really important to you. Forget about what has happened and focus on what you can do. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may want to take note of what others are telling you today. Not listening will result in making a mistake that you can't alter. Don't get angry; just be careful how you handle things. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Partnerships may have a different spin to them today. Observe what others do and you will be much more inclined to make the right choice. Help will be offered if you need it. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can make a change that will equate to making more money or giving you more of a positive challenge. You will be able to make personal improvements as well as nurture your love life.***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Not a good day to let your heart rule your head. You will be set off by comments or criticism. Keep in mind that sometimes an outsider can see your situation more clearly than you can. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take the route you believe is most likely to help you avoid conflict. Something may be going on behind your back. Rely on yourself and keep an eye on everyone else. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Form alliances with anyone who can contribute to your future. Consider changing your direction or trying something new. Use your creative abilities in order to not stand out. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't blow it by being too pushy or telling everyone what you think. Aggressive action will lead to trouble. Put your energy

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Go after what you want. Love and romance are in a high cycle. The more you do to please someone you care about, the more

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A little time spent sorting through your belongings, having a garage sale or putting a little effort into your home will pay off. You'll

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep a close eye on what everyone else is up to. Someone may try to set you up or bring you down. Do your best, but don't let

Birthday Baby: You have the drive, determination and dedication to get things

birthday baby: You have the drive, determination and dedication to get things done. Your incentive is to be the best that you can be. You will never settle for anything less than the best. You are a perfectionist.

Check out Eugenia's Web sites at astroadvice.com and eugenialast.com.

The Observer
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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Time for redemption

No. 9 Connecticut used a win over the Irish earlier this year to turn around its season

By HEATHER
VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Editor

No. 9 Connecticut saved its season Jan. 12, when it beat Notre Dame 67-50 at home. Senior Ashley Battle called it a "turning point" at the time, and that it has been.

Since that game, the Huskies have been red-hot, winning four straight, including a 73-57 defeat of No. 15 Texas and three straight Big East wins, leaving them undefeated in the conference.

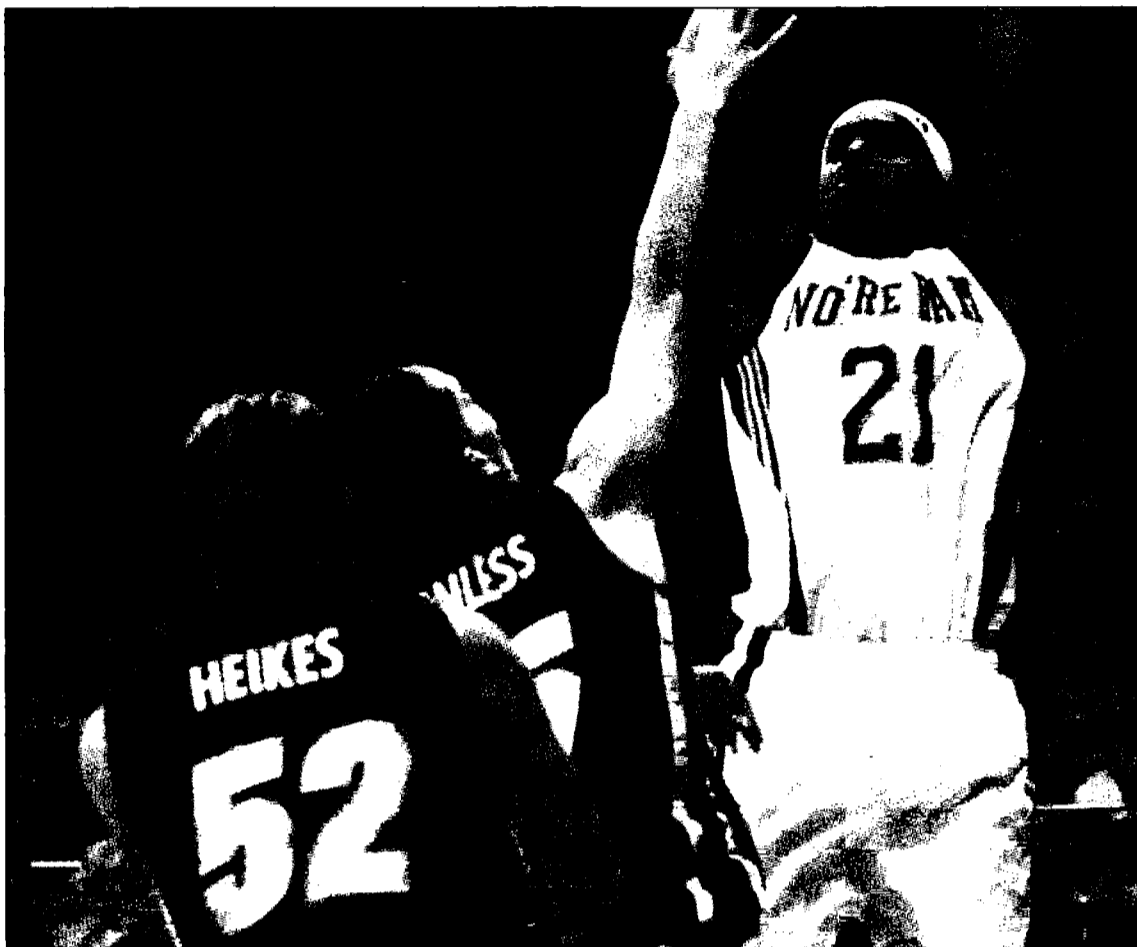
Sunday, No. 6 Notre Dame (17-3, 5-2 Big East) looks to end this winning streak as the Irish travel to Hartford to face Connecticut for the second time in less than a month.

"They're on a roll right now," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "I think we put them on a roll. The win over us really got their confidence back."

The lost confidence came after the Huskies (13-4, 6-0 Big East) dropped four of their first 12 games, losing at No. 12 North Carolina and Arizona State and losing at home to No. 11 Michigan State and No. 5 Tennessee.

And Connecticut will be even

see UCONN/page 18



Irish forward Jacqueline Batteast attempts a shot over Purdue's Erin Lawless on Jan. 16. The Irish look to avenge their loss earlier this season to Connecticut on Sunday.

TIM SULLIVAN/The Observer

MEN'S TENNIS

Bayliss is ready for a challenge

By KATE GALES
Sports Writer

Thrashing their way to a 4-0 start, the Irish are ready for some tougher competition — and this weekend's matches against No. 18 North Carolina and No. 41 Florida State will provide just that.

Top teams? Of course. But coach Bobby Bayliss is ready for a challenge.

"I feel pretty good about our team," he said. "I think we've grown and its time to take on a big challenge and it's here — so let's get it on."

After compiling a 4-0 record, including last weekend's wins over Indiana and Wisconsin, the team is seasoned and making the in-season adjustments necessary to success.

"We had two matches over the weekend, so the first thing we did was to make sure we had a day off and kind of regrouped," Bayliss said. "I was pretty pleased with the singles last weekend, and we've still got a

see BAYLISS/page 18

FENCING

Ohio State and Penn State come to Duals

13-team field set to face off at the JACC

By ERIC RETTER
Sports Writer

First looks, second chances and three national title contenders are descending on South Bend.

The Irish have a very busy and important weekend ahead of them, as they compete against Northwestern, Penn State and top-ranked Ohio State. The Buckeyes topped both the women's and men's teams last weekend at the NYU duals.

In addition to these teams, a host of other combatants in a 13-team field will be filling the JACC this weekend to face the Irish and each other in the Notre Dame Duals which

beings Saturday at 8 a.m.

Both Irish squads will be trying to answer for their defeats from last weekend, including a 14-13 thriller between the women's squads.

"We would like to get revenge and try to beat them on the women's side and improve our performance on the men's side," Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said.

The Duals will feature more than a season's worth of NCAA individual champions who will look to defend their claim to their 13 collective titles. Three of these champions, senior foilist Alicja Krczalo, senior epeeist Kerry Walton and sophomore sabre Valerie Providenza, will be competing for the Irish, giving the squad more individual titlists than any of their competitors.

see DUALS/page 18

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Irish set to face No. 30 Wake Forest



Sophomore twins Catrina, right, and Christian Thompson walk off the courts during a match in the fall season. The Thompsons are currently ranked No. 2 in the nation in doubles.

Photo courtesy of Notre Dame Sports Information

By DAN TAPETILLO
Sports Writer

This Sunday, the No. 21 Irish (2-1) are looking to avenge last season's 7-0 loss to currently ranked No. 30 Wake Forest (2-

0).

To achieve this feat, Notre Dame is looking to start the meet strong.

"After last season's loss, we know they are going to be tough," junior Liz Donohue said. "So we are going to have to

make the most of our home-court advantage and play like we have nothing to lose."

The Irish are hoping to set the tone early in the contest by winning the crucial doubles point.

see TWINS/page 18

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

MEN'S SWIMMING

At Cleveland State,
Today, 4:30 p.m.

The No. 21 Irish go on the road to face Cleveland State and Canisius today at 4:30 p.m.

page 17

ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING

At Michigan,
Today, 6 p.m.

Notre Dame travels to Ann Arbor for a late season showdown with No. 13 Michigan.

page 17

HOCKEY

At Bowling Green,
Tonight, 7:05 p.m.

Despite sitting in last place in the CCHA, Notre Dame still has a chance of making the postseason with 10 games remaining in the season.

page 16

ND WOMEN'S TRACK

Notre Dame Invite,
Saturday, 4:30 p.m.

The No. 11 Irish will play host to Butler, Loyola (Chicago), DePaul and Marquette this weekend at Loftus.

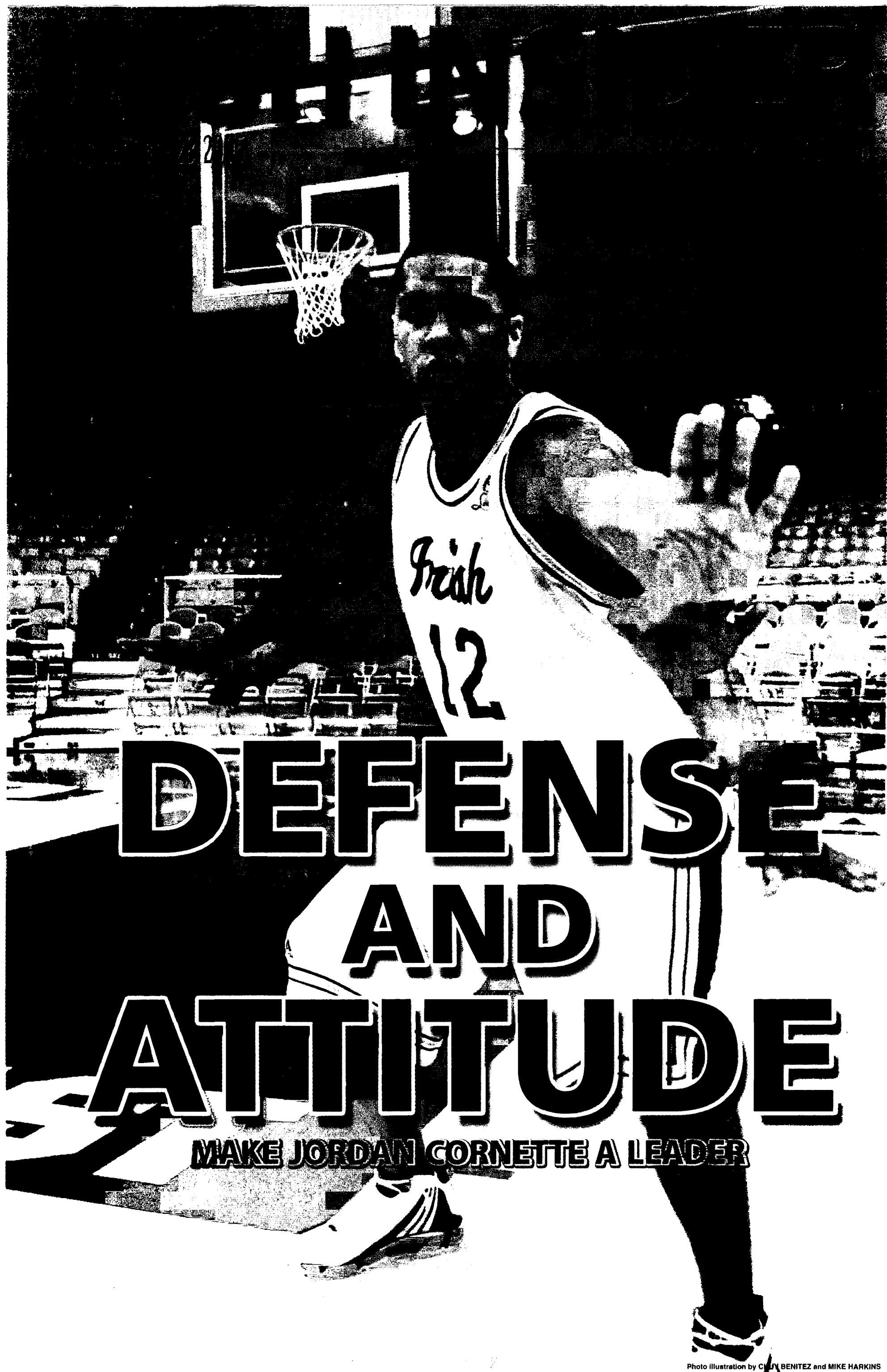
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MEN'S TRACK

Notre Dame Invite,
Saturday, 4:30 p.m.

Kurt Benninger leads the Irish into this weekend's meet.

page 16



DEFENSE AND ATTITUDE

MAKE JORDAN CORNETTE A LEADER

Survival necessary during tough 4-game stretch

Treading water. Playing the hand you're dealt. Surviving. Call it what you want, that's what the Irish have to do during the next four games. Their postseason hopes hang in the balance.

The scheduled week daunting when released in September, now it looks outright frightening: No. 19 Connecticut, No. 4 Syracuse, No. 8 Boston College and No. 20 Pittsburgh — alternating home and away — in 14 days.

The Irish have four games, against teams with a combined 62-9 record, to determine what type of team they are.

"Going up against some of the top teams in the nation, it shows you where you're at as a basketball team," Chris Quinn said. "We have to take it one game at a time, stay focused and go from there."

If the Irish can tread water — by going 2-2 — they'll be 14-7 and 6-5 in the Big East with two very, very good wins over teams that aren't only going to qualify for the NCAA tournament, but are legitimate contenders to be playing on the second weekend.

Anything better is cause for celebration.

Anything worse, we'll get to that later.

Now for the reason this murderer's row of opponents even exists.



Matt Lozar
Sports Writer

It is and it isn't Notre Dame's fault they have this upcoming stretch. Mike Brey's success in South Bend has resurrected the program from the dark days of the 1990s. Now, national television can count on seeing the Notre Dame name against anyone in the country and that obviously brings ratings.

However, no one expected Boston College to be this good. And it really isn't fair when you see the Irish playing Syracuse, Connecticut and Pittsburgh twice every season. Look at Villanova and Georgetown, two teams battling the Irish for the last spots in the NCAA tournament from the Big East. Georgetown's easy two-time opponents are Rutgers and St. John's while Villanova gets Seton Hall and Providence. Notre Dame's two easy teams are, yep, you guessed it — Villanova and Georgetown.

It's especially unfair come March, when you have to compare their conference record not only in the Big East but also across conferences for postseason berths.

Look at last season for evidence: Notre Dame was 9-7 in the Big East and received a NIT bid. UTEP was 13-5 in the Western Athletic Conference and earned a No. 13 seed in the NCAA tournament.

Fair or not, Brey has come to accept it. His team knows how to deal with it.

"When you get into this stretch, you can't get too

high after a great win, and we can't get too low after a disappointing loss," Brey said. "I think that's how this group is, they've been pretty good, and that's how we're going to have to be."

But of all the things the Irish must do during the next two weeks, the most important one might be surviving.

Not just surviving on the scoreboard, but off the court as well.

If the Irish win only one of the next four, or put up a disappointing goose egg, doubts will start to appear. Those doubts won't just stay in seats at the Joyce Center, living rooms around the country or dorm rooms on campus. It's perfectly logical to think those doubts will linger in the Irish locker room.

All the Irish have to do is think back to last season when it took them until game No. 20 to get that first big win. Three wins eight days later put the Irish squarely on top of the proverbial bubble.

Everyone knows what happened on Selection Sunday.

Four games, four top 20 opponents, 14 days.

Scary — yes.

Impossible — no.

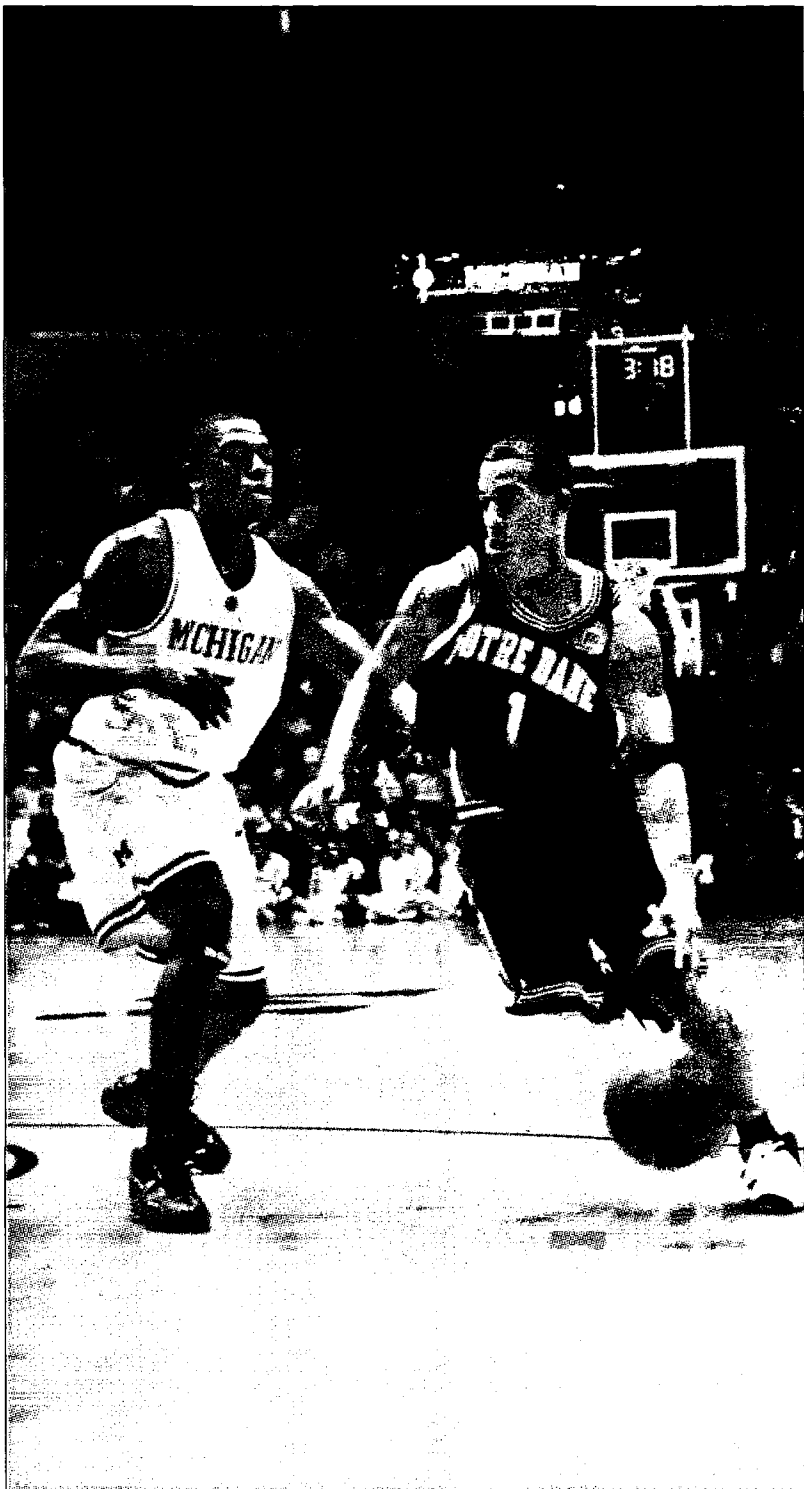
Survival — vital.

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

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu

"Going up against some of the top teams in the nation shows you where you're at as a basketball team."

Chris Quinn
Irish guard



CHUY BENITEZ/The Observer

The Irish start a stretch of four games in 14 days against top-20 opponents Sunday when they host Connecticut.

	COACHING	STYLE OF PLAY	POST PLAYERS	PERIMETER PLAYERS	BENCH	INTANGIBLES
NOTRE DAME	Brey has been struggling to find what line-ups and rotations work for this deep Irish squad. In these types of games, Brey likes experienced players and shortening his bench to seven or eight.	A big focus in the off-season was to play better defense, and the low-scoring games are a result of that. Usually, Brey likes his team to score 80 points a game, but this team is struggling from the inside to do that consistently.	Simply put, Francis and Latimore are struggling. Neither of them can get in a rhythm for 40 minutes or carry the Irish when the 3-point shooting goes cold. Cornett shutdown the Huskies twice last year, so he could sneak into the rotation.	Thomas has learned the art of managing a game. Falls is the best in the conference from behind the arc. Quinn is struggling to play well consistently. This area is Notre Dame's depth and it must play well.	This is the mystery area for the Irish. Carter's athleticism will help with the quick UConn backcourt. Cornett has success in the past. Latimore is athletic, but has been frustratingly inconsistent.	The Irish need this game. They haven't played well in big games at the JACC, so confidence has to be an issue. A national television win to start this difficult four-game stretch would do a lot for the team's psyche.
CONNECTICUT	Calhoun had to deal with the loss of two juniors to the NBA and a highly-recruited freshman to illness. This team is young, and Calhoun is still looking for its identity.	Not surprisingly, the Huskies lead the Big East in scoring per game. They are notorious for trying to get out and run. Sunday will be no different.	The Huskies have young post players in Boone and Villaneuva, but the two of them have unlimited potential. Both are close to averaging a double-double and are major factors the Huskies lead the conference in rebounding	The one player the Irish have to contain is Anderson. He can come into the game and make two 3-pointers in 30 seconds. Kellogg has scored 12 total points in the last seven games. Williams is playing well at the point.	The Huskies have nine players averaging double-digit minutes, and all nine will get into the game on Sunday. Calhoun needs a deep bench to use his fast-paced style.	The Huskies don't want to lose their third game this early in the Big East schedule. Calhoun always has his team at the top of the Big East by the end of the year, but three losses would be crippling.
ANALYSIS	Just based on past experience, the nod has to go to Calhoun. The two national titles and success in the Big East is proof of what he can coach in the big games.	Connecticut is the best in the Big East at defending the 3-point line. Sunday is going to be a clash of styles. Whoever controls the tempo will determine who comes away with the win.	Based on play so far this year, the Huskies take the advantage. The X-factor will be Cornett. He's stuck on the bench, but Brey's recent decision to play the best matchups on a nightly basis could neutralize the Huskies' advantage.	It's a slight edge, but it goes to the Irish. Thomas controls the tempo and Falls is shooting the lights out. If these two get hot, the Irish should be able to overcome their deficit in the frontcourt.	Brey is always reluctant to go nine or 10 deep in big time games. That's why the Huskies get the edge. If the Irish aren't careful, Calhoun could run them out of the building.	Both teams need this game. If the Irish had a better track record of playing well at the JACC, they would get the edge. But no one honestly can say which Irish team will show up Sunday.

Leading by example

Jordan Cornette does the little things to keep the Irish together

By PAT LEONARD
Associate Sports Editor

Jordan Cornette walked, uniform on and right middle finger taped, down the hallway and into a dark Joyce Center arena. He had practiced that day and lifted weights. Now, he would be in front of the camera.

It was time for a photo shoot. The newspaper needed a shot of the Notre Dame senior for an upcoming issue, and the only lights in the arena glowed across the front of the scorer's table: "Big East Conference," "Notre Dame" they read. They were words that told a story in progress.

But the photographer needed the main arena lights to complete the day's work. Cornette, who had spent the past three hours in the gym and weight room, obliged to help.

"Really basketball becomes your life when you're here for these four years playing ball," he would say later.

Walking casually with a smile on his face, the senior asked a passing security guard to help with the situation.

"You've been here four years and you don't know how to turn the lights on," the security guard jeered.

"I've never had to," Cornette

said. "They're always on when we come in."

How appropriate that Cornette did not know, considering the lights are never pointed his way.

How ironic that the senior could not do the simple task himself. During the course of the past four years, his coaches have asked him to do everything else.

The little things

When the buzzer sounded on Notre Dame's 67-66 win over St. John's Jan. 15, Jordan Cornette finished with nine points, seven rebounds, four assists, three blocks and one steal.

One of the blocks — a last-second swat of Red Storm guard Daryll Hill's potential game-winner — sealed the Big East victory.

"There's a fine line between winning and losing, as you can see through our season so far," Cornette said. "There are going

to be close games, and it's going to come down to ... making the right decision at the end and grabbing that loose ball."

What makes this senior so valuable to the Irish, his coach said, is his knowledge and desire to do both.

"He really knows his role and how to fit in with our group,"

Irish coach Mike Brey said.

Cornette brings a confident presence when he is on the floor. While he has started 12 of 17 games this season, the senior receives inconsistent playing time due to depth and matchup issues with opponents.

In the St. John's win, Cornette played 34 of a total 40 minutes. One week later against Georgetown, he played just 22. But Cornette — whose left bicep tattoo proclaims the nickname "Jay-C" — insists his unselfishness and attitude are not unique.

"I think I'm no different from any of the other guys on this team in terms of whether it's playing five minutes or playing 40 minutes," Cornette said. "If the team's winning, then you're happy."

With Connecticut, Syracuse, Boston College and Pittsburgh waiting on the upcoming conference schedule, being happy demands the obvious things — few turnovers, strong defense, good shooting. But most importantly, the Irish need a leader who has been through these stretches before.

Nothing new

Since Jordan Cornette has averaged 3.9 points and 4.5 rebounds during his four-year career, his name often gets skipped over in discussions of players to watch. Mention leadership, however, and "Jay-C" seems synonymous with the term.

"I definitely feel comfortable in that [leadership] role," Cornette said. "From sophomore year through I've had that type of role. So it's nothing new."

Cornette has played on different teams with different fates, but his attitude has remained consistent.

In his freshman season, the Irish lost a near upset of No. 1 Duke when Cornette's classmate Chris Thomas was already seeing significant playing time at point guard. But a 22-11 season was something to build on, and with Cornette's minutes going up to almost 20 per game the following 2002-03 season, the Irish went 24-10.

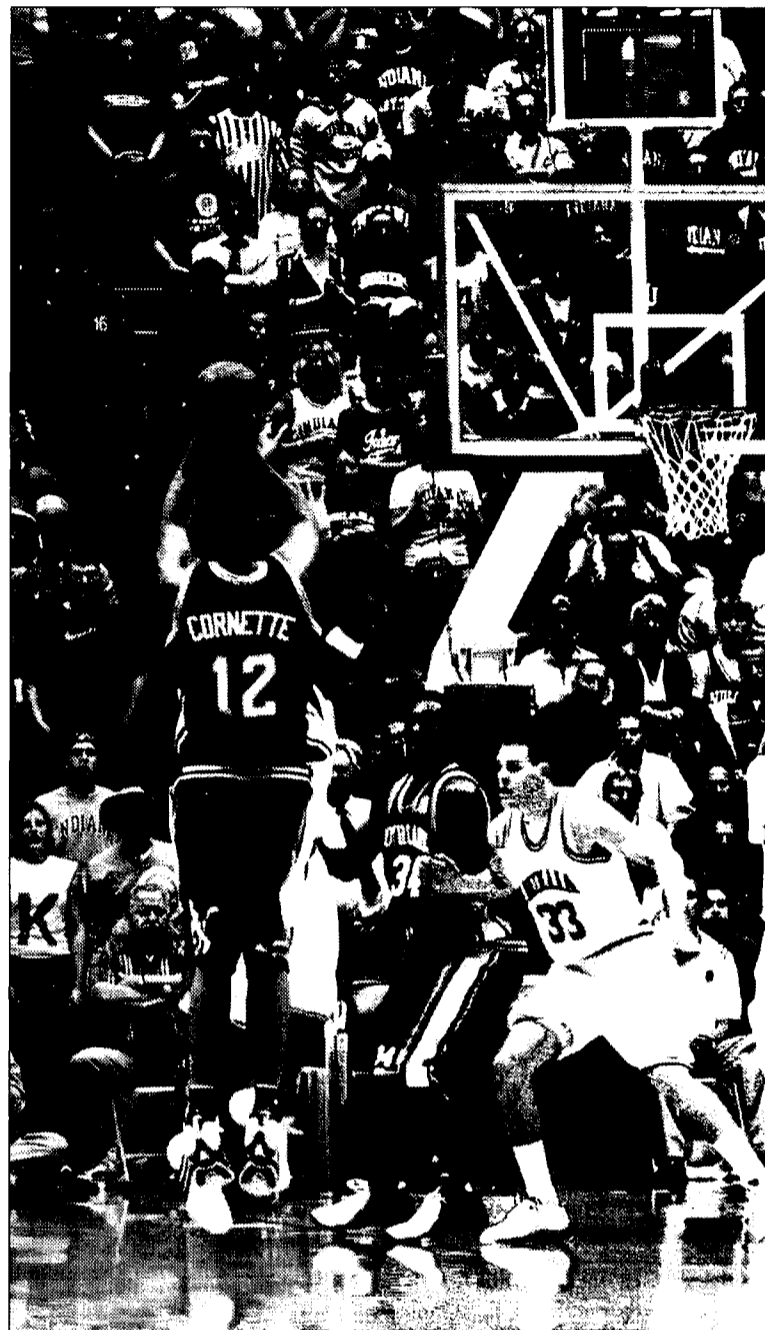
Notre Dame reached the Sweet 16 of the NCAA tournament that season, but in 2003-04 the Irish failed to make the NCAA's, earning a bid to the National Invitation Tournament and losing in the third round to Oregon.

Cornette, who has been a constant through the ups and downs of a rising Notre Dame program under Brey, appreciated the fan response to his team's showing last season.

"Last year we ended up playing in the NIT, and a lot of people looked at the season as a throwaway," Cornette said. "Just having those types of standards shows how far this program's come."

As the Irish make a run at returning to the Big Dance, Cornette and Thomas are the two seniors responsible for setting the tone and guiding their teammates through the mid-to-late season wars that are Big East games and tournament battles.

But Cornette — vocal leader, loose-ball chaser and shot-



Despite being 6-foot-9 Jordan Cornette's, coach Mike Brey encourages him to shoot from behind the arc.

blocker — is the do-it-all, selfless player that encompasses what being a senior is all about.

Identity

Heading into Wednesday's game against Villanova, Cornette's 188 career blocks were 13 away from breaking LaPhonso Ellis' (1988-92) career mark at Notre Dame.

"He's absolutely our anchor defensively," Brey said. "He does a great job defending. He not only guards his man, but a lot of times he is also guarding the other four guys, too."

Though Cornette has stepped out and knocked down the occasional 3-pointer as his role on the team has evolved from big man to swing man, he established his reputation — and maintains it — on the defensive end.

Cornette's defense is indicative of the overall intangible strength he provides for the Irish.

"We know he can block shots," Brey said. "The interesting thing about his blocked shots is they never go out of bounds. They are always in play for us to pick up and go to the other end."

Whether Cornette does this consciously or unintentionally,

he is constantly aware of being the face and the voice of Notre Dame basketball in his senior season — and he plays like it.

"Your role becomes increased in a lot of different areas," he said. "You've got to be one of the voices and a strong representation of the team."

That is why, over the course of his four years, Cornette has learned from the best to try and become the best at what he does — lead.

"[I watched] Matty Carroll, who was just the all-around guy," Cornette said. "He just bred the attitude of a winner. You look at mature guys like Ryan Humphrey, who are very business-like, who know what it takes and who will do whatever it takes."

He continued. "Then you look at [Harold] Swanagan, who just ... busts his butt everyday at practice and gives his all to the point he can't give anymore," he said. "Then you look at a guy like Torrian Jones, who is vocal and always talking the team up."

Beginning next year, players will look at Cornette — and they won't need lights to see the example he has set.

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Jordan Cornette is second on the Notre Dame all-time blocks list behind LaPhonso Ellis.

Free throw line becoming just that for the Irish

Big East leaders have seen the importance in conference play

By MATT LOZAR
Sports Writer

They're called free throws for a reason.

The Irish are taking full advantage of that generosity.

Sitting at the top of the Big East, and in the best 10 percent of the country with a 74.7 free throw percentage, the Irish have kept themselves in games with their success from the stripe.

That mark improves to 82.1 percent when only Big East games are factored into the equation.

Likewise, it's been an even bigger factor in their conference play.

Go back to the home win over Villanova. The Irish made all 19 of their free throws en route to a 78-72 victory over the Wildcats.

Then move forward to the St. John's game where in trying to pull the upset at the Joyce Center, the Red Storm only made 10-of-22 free throws. That inability to cash in from the line allowed the Irish to stay close and gave Chris Thomas the opportunity to make the game-winning 3-pointer.

Yes, the Irish have a plethora of long-range shooters, so it's natural to think they should be successful from the line.

Breaking it down, it's even simpler.

They practice it.

"We shoot free throws at the end of every practice — make 10-of-13, make 4 in a row as a team," Thomas said. "We do it as a team because you can put your best free throw shooters up there at the end of practice, and get out of practice quickly, it's not going to benefit the team if just your best free throw shooters are up there in game situations in practice."

Thomas, Chris Quinn and Colin Falls are leading the team.

Thomas shoots 90.5 percent from the line, Quinn 85 and Falls 93.2.

With those three, it's more of a shock when they miss.

Torin Francis and Dennis Latimore, the team's two big men with the most free throw

attempts, are shooting 63.6 and 62.1 percent — not impressive, but not bad for post players.

Using those numbers and taking a look at the box score in the loss to Georgetown has made Irish coach Mike Brey emphasize to his team to be aggressive. The Irish took 11 free throw attempts in the game, but only two in the second half. When the Irish drew a foul with 36 seconds remaining in the contest, they didn't get to the line since that was only Georgetown's fifth team foul.

"One of the things [against Georgetown is] we didn't get to the line enough, so we weren't in the bonus at the end of the game," Brey said. "A couple of

hand checks puts Chris, Chris or Colin on the line and that's a huge weapon for us. We've got to do a better job of driving the ball and getting out big guys touches where they get fouls.

"I know we're leading the league, it's a weapon that we have and want to continue to use it."

In this next stretch of high-profile games, later in the Big East tournament and if they qualify for the NCAA tournament, solid free-throw shooting is an overlooked aspect of college basketball, but it's a weapon the Irish have.

Thomas brought up the fact that Wake Forest hit a 3-pointer to tie its game against Florida State with 4 seconds remaining,

and had the opportunity for a rare four-point play. As a team, the Demon Deacons had made a NCAA record 50 consecutive free throws. But Taron Downey, Wake Forest's best free throw shooter, missed.

The Demon Deacons lost in overtime, their only conference loss this season.

"Free throw shooting is huge for any team," Thomas said. "It's such a crucial part of the game that you can't take it for granted and have to work on it every day."

"It's a weapon that we have and want to continue to use."

Mike Brey
Irish coach

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RICHARD FRIEDMAN/The Observer

Chris Quinn's free-throw percentage of 85 percent ranks third in the Notre Dame backcourt behind Chris Thomas (90.5) and Colin Falls (93.2).



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slam poetry on issues dealing with
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