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SMC announces new vice president

By KATIE KOHLER
Assistant News Editor

The nearly yearlong administrative search at Saint Mary's came to an end Tuesday as the College named Patricia Fleming to the position of vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty. She begins her duties on July 1.

Prior to her appointment at Saint Mary's, Fleming taught philosophy at Creighton University in Omaha, Neb. since 1977. There, she focused on environmental and medical ethics and the philosophies of science and

social science. In 2001, Creighton appointed Fleming to senior associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Fleming also recently served on a National Academy of Science committee and currently maintains a White House approved appointment on the Veterans Board on Dose Reconstruction.

"In addition to being a gifted administrator, Dr. Fleming

is nationally and internationally known for her research on the ethical implications of nuclear waste disposal," College President Carol Ann Mooney said in a statement Tuesday.

"Her extensive involvement in Catholic higher education, her scholarly standing, and her administrative skills make her a perfect fit for leading the faculty at Saint Mary's, and I am excited about working with her."

Fleming said she looks forward to working at a women's college and hopes her previous experiences have prepared her for this task.



Fleming

"There is an abundance of research that proves the value of a single-gender education for women, especially in the greater access it gives women to develop their talents," she said in a statement. "I have met many impressive students and alumnae who demonstrate Saint Mary's extraordinary success in that arena."

While the opportunity is new for Fleming, she said she is ready to take on the challenge.

"It is clear to me, when standing outside Saint Mary's, that it is the number

see FLEMING/page 6

ND to change degree tradition

By KAITLYNN RIELY
Assistant News Editor

The University will hold a separate commencement ceremony for Master's and Ph.D. graduates from the Graduate School in May, breaking from its tradition of one ceremony for undergraduates and graduates.

University Registrar Harold Pace said Thursday the creation of a separate ceremony for graduate students — a decision made last semester — should shorten the undergraduate commencement on Sunday by approximately 30 minutes.

In past years, Pace said, the ceremony has run about two hours and 15 or 20 minutes. The ceremony this year should last under two hours, he said.

The change, while not widely publicized outside the Graduate School community, took place last fall. In a letter to the Graduate School community in November, University President Father John Jenkins said he made the decision to hold a separate ceremony along with Provost Tom Burish and Dean of the Graduate School Donald Pope-Davis.

Since this is the first time graduate students will receive

see GRADS/page 8

Class elections vary from close to unopposed

Notre Dame senior, junior officers win without race

By EVA BINDA
News Writer

With tickets for Junior and Senior Class Council each running unopposed, the Student Senate voted unanimously Wednesday to suspend the elections and declared the candidates the winners of their respective classes. However, four tickets will run for Sophomore Class Council Monday.

Bridget Keating, Chris Doughty, Megan O'Hara and Kathleen Coverick were declared Senior Class president, vice president, secretary and treasurer, respectively.

The Junior Class Council ticket was composed of Bob Reish, Joey Brown,

see COUNCILS/page 6



CHRISTIAN SAGARDIA/The Observer

Notre Dame freshman Tiffany Moy studies a Class of 2010 election poster in Howard Hall Thursday.

Sophomores square off for Saint Mary's board

By LIZ HARTER and MANDI STIRONE
News Writers

Saint Mary's students are preparing for another round of elections — this time not for who will lead the student body, but for who will represent the individual classes.

Students gathered in the West Wing of the Noble Family Dining Hall Thursday night for a question and answer session and a chance to meet the candidates for Sophomore, Junior and Senior Class Board.

Elections commissioner Christin Molnar introduced and questioned the candidates, then

see ELECTIONS/page 3

GLBTQ retreat builds on community, faith

By AARON STEINER
News Writer

While public debate often places the views of Catholicism and those of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning (GLBTQ) community in opposition, organizers of the 10th annual GLBTQ Retreat say that is not an issue in this weekend's event, which begins tonight.

Notre Dame's Core Council and Campus Ministry hope their joint effort will provide community and an opportunity for spiritual development — in a Catholic faith context — for members of the GLBTQ community and their friends.

The theme, "Never Alone," was chosen by student leaders and addresses several different

issues, said Campus Ministry intern Madeleine Heck, who helped organize the retreat. "Never Alone" stems from the idea of the Christian "footprints" prayer, which describes Christ's presence in difficult times. The prayer has special meaning for those who struggle often, Heck said.

"We hope it speaks to the feeling of loneliness sometimes felt [within the GLBTQ community]," she said. "This year the retreat is geared for the GLBTQ community and their friends."

Both students who are members of the GLBTQ community and their friends are welcome, Heck said. Having friends present will help to show that there are people "to walk with these students on their journey at

see RETREAT/page 6

College Trustees return to campus

By KATIE KOHLER
News Writer

Saint Mary's welcomed 30 Trustees to campus Thursday for the Board's quarterly two-day meeting.

Committee meetings took place Thursday, and the full Board meets today. All of the meetings are closed and all official announcements from the Board will come from College President Carol Ann Mooney.

"The agendas of the Board meetings are not released prior to the meeting," Executive Assistant to the President Susan Dampier said. "But the Chair of the Board sends a letter detailing what happened at the meeting immediately after, typically within a week."

The Board meets four times a year in October, February, April and June. Trustees use one of those meetings as a retreat, Dampier said.

The entire Board of Trustees includes 33 members and 3 emeritae members, only 30 of which are attending meetings this week.

The College's Board of Trustees is unique in that it contains a student who has full voting rights as a committee member. This year's trustee is senior Julia Malone.

"Being on the Board of Trustees has been one of

the most valuable experiences during my time at Saint Mary's," Malone said. "Having the opportunity to represent the students has

been a humbling and gratifying experience that has only strengthened my appreciation for the College."

The position of student trustee is open to rising seniors, and Vice President for Student Affairs Karen Johnson is now accepting applications for next year.



Mooney



Malone

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INSIDE COLUMN

Food for thought

My junior year of high school was my most difficult year. What got to me wasn't the homework, or the hormones, or havoc from extracurricular activities. Rather it was another H-phrase: hunger pangs.

At my beloved alma mater, an all-male Jesuit high school in Dallas hosting 250 members per class, our lunch rotations were divided into three separate blocks to fill the bellies of ravenous young men as quickly as possible. Freshman would eat last, around noon, preceded by sophomores, who ate around 11:15.

For the juniors, however, we were the first diners at 10:30 a.m. Seniors could select any of the three lunch periods, as part of their "privileges." We, however, were shunned by eating in a lunch window during which we could have sneaked across the street and still caught the Chick-fil-a breakfast service.

At first, the juniors were delighted to be the first to dine in our cafeteria. We could use the microwaves before they were marred by the obtuse freshmen who still hadn't understood why foil doesn't belong in that particular appliance. We could hoard the best Gatorade flavors from the vending machines or stock up on unlimited breadsticks first. We had a leg up on those silly underclassmen.

But we were clearly misled. By the third day of school, we noticed that our growling stomachs seemed to form a chorus during our last classes, since it had been at least five hours since our previous meal. For those last few minutes of the day, we spent more time focused on the clocks than the blackboards because of our starvation.

It was particularly bad for me as a participant in athletics. As a former rower, I couldn't possibly grab some munchies during those 30 minutes in between the last bell and arriving at practice. Not only did I lack the time, but also I feared that my snack could potentially reappear on the rowing machines, in the weight room, or out on the water in a mid-workout.

So, I had to come up with a counter-attack, and then the idea hit me: in-class meals. Of course, the Jesuits were by no means lenient if students were caught red handed with a PB&J. It was distracting — and tempting — the teachers and students. So I had to be as surreptitious as possible, but as long as I pulled it off, I maintained sanity.

Is the story any different in college? Well, if you're booked for class from 11-2 and find yourself in a similar dilemma, try some of these tricks I've acquired if you're constantly feeling famished and hopeless: ♦The Camouflage: The healthiest and sneakiest hunger buster. Blend fruit smoothies at home and put them in an opaque container. People, including the teacher, will mistake your "berry madness" for H2O.

♦The Hide-behind-the-Binder: The trump card in large-lecture classrooms. Sit in the last row, prop up a textbook to hide your snack and chow down.

♦The Stall: Bathroom stalls are always safe havens for a quick snack between classes.

♦Share: Get caught? Okay, just play it cool. Offer your prof a nibble of carrot cake as an olive branch. Maybe you'll get permission to bring some in every day.

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

CORRECTIONS

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY: HOW MANY HOURS OF SLEEP DO YOU GET EVERY NIGHT?



Levi Checketts
freshman
Stanford

"Six at most."



Michelle Rosenbaum
freshman
Lyons

"On average, I would say about four and a half."



Marisa Villano
freshman
Lyons

"Either five or nine hours."



Jung Hwan Shin
sophomore
off campus

"16 hours at most."



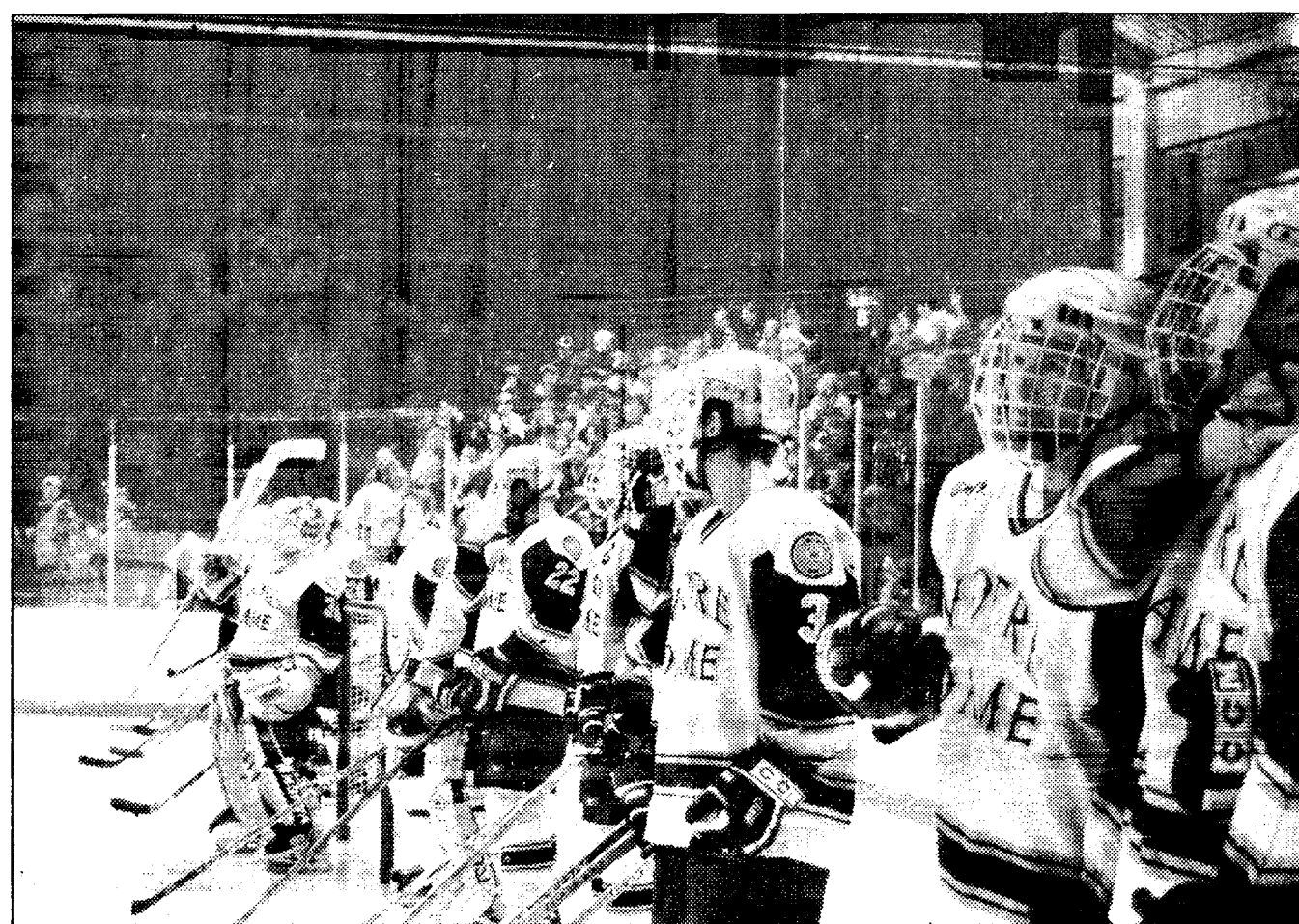
Jason Carley
sophomore
Knott

"Sleep is for the weak."



Billy Salvaggio
sophomore
Knott

"I don't sleep ... I wait."



LAURIE HUNT/The Observer

Irish hockey players line up against Alaska-Fairbanks Dec. 3 in the Joyce Center. Notre Dame will play its last home game Saturday against Ferris State.

IN BRIEF

Stations of the Cross will be held in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at 7:15 tonight. Stations will be held at the Basilica each Friday during Lent.

The Fenians, an Irish band, will perform at Legends tonight at 10 to celebrate an early St. Patrick's Day.

Notre Dame ice hockey will play Ferris State at 7:35 tonight and at 7:05 p.m. tomorrow at the Joyce Center.

Notre Dame Women's Lacrosse will play Stanford Saturday at noon in Moose Krause Stadium. Admission is free.

Notre Dame Women's Basketball will play Rutgers Saturday at noon at the Joyce Center Arena. Ticket information can be obtained by calling 631-7356.

The 49th Annual Collegiate Jazz Festival will be held Saturday from 6 p.m. to 11 at Washington Hall. Eleven college jazz bands will perform. This event is open to the public. Tickets are free for students. For the general public, tickets are \$5 for one night and \$7 for Saturday and Sunday.

Legends will host the Carbon Leaf concert Saturday night at 10 p.m. Open to all Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and Holy Cross students. IDs are required. Admission is free.

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

OFFBEAT

Man does 40 squat thrusts on elephant

CHIANG MAI, Thailand — New Yorker Ashrita Furman looked around for a record he could break, and settled on doing the most squat thrusts in one minute. Then he decided on a place — the back of an elephant in northern Thailand.

He achieved both goals Thursday as he climbed onto a platform on the back of an obliging pachyderm in blazing heat and powered through 40 of the vigorous kicks in a minute. The previous squat thrust record — achieved on level ground in Britain without an elephant in sight — was 30.

Furman, 52, is accustomed to setting bizarre records. He holds 54, and these include the record for the fastest 11 yards on a space hopper — a heavy rubber balloon on which children bounce — and the fastest mile balancing a cue pool on his finger.

"To me the real beauty of this record is that I did it on the back of a live elephant," he said. "I've had this dream of doing a record on the back of an elephant for many, many years but I've had no way of really accomplishing it until I came to Thailand."

Police warn men about 'Hugging Bandit'

BUFFALO, N.Y. — She's a

200-pound-plus hugging machine, but her affection comes with a price. Police are warning men about the "Hugging Bandit," who heartily embraces men coming out of downtown bars and leaves them wallet-less. Dozens of men say they have been victims. Police say others are too embarrassed to admit it.

"She doesn't just go up to you and hug you," said Detective Sgt. Tom Donovan. "She actually grabs (them), tries to talk them into something more, and there goes their wallet."

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

	TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 32 LOW 20	HIGH 22 LOW 10	HIGH 33 LOW 29	HIGH 36 LOW 28	HIGH 30 LOW 26	HIGH 31 LOW 19

Atlanta 63 / 36 Boston 30 / 16 Chicago 33 / 22 Denver 21 / -7 Houston 75 / 63 Los Angeles 60 / 46 Minneapolis 46 / 23 New York 36 / 21 Philadelphia 38 / 18 Phoenix 62 / 44 Seattle 44 / 38 St. Louis 48 / 26 Tampa 75 / 57 Washington 42 / 22

Edith Stein Project to address ways to heal

By LAURA WILCZEK
News Writer

Its goal last year was to "redefine feminism," but when the Edith Stein Project begins today, organizers hope to help women dealing with violence or societal oppression heal both body and soul.

Today and Saturday Notre Dame will host a two-day conference entitled "The Edith Stein Project: Toward Integral Healing for Women and Culture."

The conference started last year when a group of undergraduate women planned "The Edith Stein Project: Redefining Feminism." This year, both male and female students organized the event with help from Notre Dame faculty and members of the South Bend community.

The focus on healing as an underlying and unifying theme in the conference is a shift from last year's focus, which tried to address the vocation of women in the modern world.

The goal of this year's conference, according to the Center for Continuing Education Web site, is to "encourage and empower both men and women to understand the types of healing that need to occur, and to be healers in their families, communities and throughout society."

The conference plans to uti-

lize Notre Dame's strong sense of Catholic tradition and will focus on a holistic approach to healing as guided by the Catholic faith. The attention to healing on a physical and spiritual level corresponds to its namesake, Edith Stein, a woman who valued her faith.

This year's topics — which include sexual assault, pornography, women's sexual health and eating disorders — will be discussed in conjunction with how women can cope with and heal from such plights in contemporary culture.

The conference will feature multiple speakers, including Brandi Lee, editor-and-chief and co-founder of True Girl magazine; Dr. Jennifer Roebuck Morse, author of "Smart Sex"; Paolo Carozza, associate professor of law at Notre Dame Law School; and Dr. Pia de Solenni, awarded the Pontifical Prize of the Academies by Pope John Paul II.

The conference will close Saturday with a 5 p.m. Mass in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart and a banquet. While there is a registration fee for visiting guests, the conference is free for Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and Holy Cross students and faculty members.

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Elections

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opened questioning to the student body.

The rising sophomore and senior classes each have tickets running unopposed.

Camille Gebert, the current freshman class president, is running for sophomore class president along with Emily Young, Jennie Hiatt and Caitlin O'Brien as vice president, secretary and treasurer, respectively.

Gebert's top goal for next year will be to get more members of the Class of 2010 involved in campus activities.

"A big thing is people don't really know what's going on around campus," she said. "We need to try to get the word out. I want to try to get fliers and maybe go door to door."

Colleen Kielty, Erin Hogan, Elizabeth Bush and Shawn Redington are running for Senior Class Board.

Hogan is currently upset with the lack of involvement on campus from all classes and wants to work on improving it. Kielty also emphasized a higher degree of participation.

"It's so easy for everyone to get involved," Kielty said. "It's actually my favorite thing about Saint Mary's."

Something new that the senior ticket wants to implement for

next year is sending out surveys to the class seeking new ideas for senior week, such as a banana split night.

The only class that has competition is the rising junior class. Jenny Antonelli, Taryn Pabst, Katie Putz and Jessica Kusack are running against Sarah Voss, Sarah Dalton, Clare Heintz and Allison Cooney.

All of the members on both tickets currently hold positions on the Sophomore Class Board with the exception of Antonelli, who is the public relations commissioner on the Board of Governance.

One of Molnar's many questions for the Junior Class Board candidates was how they would continue their campus involvement if they lost — a different scenario from the other class tickets, since they are running unopposed.

The candidates on the Antonelli/Pabst ticket said they wanted to continue to be involved on the Junior Class Board if at all possible.

"I would want to remain involved with board," Pabst said. "I have also been thinking about joining BOG, so I have a few options if we don't win."

The other ticket also expressed an interest to stay involved.

"I want to stay involved. I can't imagine a Saint Mary's without me on board," Voss said.

Both tickets expressed an interest in allowing those who have been abroad for a semester or the entire year to feel that they will still be an important part of the junior class.

The Voss/Dalton ticket wants to implement "town meeting" type sessions to field questions from the student body.

The Antonelli/Pabst ticket brought up the idea of implementing abroad dinners for students to talk about experiences overseas.

"I want to relate [the experiences] back to Saint Mary's, and as a class we can make abroad programs more visible at school."

Katie Putz
sophomore
secretary candidate

"I want to relate [the experiences] back to Saint Mary's, and as a class we can make abroad programs more visible at school," Putz said.

The question and answer session taking place in the West Wing differed from last year, when the answers were broadcast over the PA system for the entire dining hall to hear. The session normally takes place in the West Wing, but due to the annual Board of Trustees meeting, last year's session was held in the main dining room, Assistant Director of Student Activities Abby Van Vlerah said.

Voting will take place on Monday from 12 a.m. to 12 a.m.

Contact Liz Harter at
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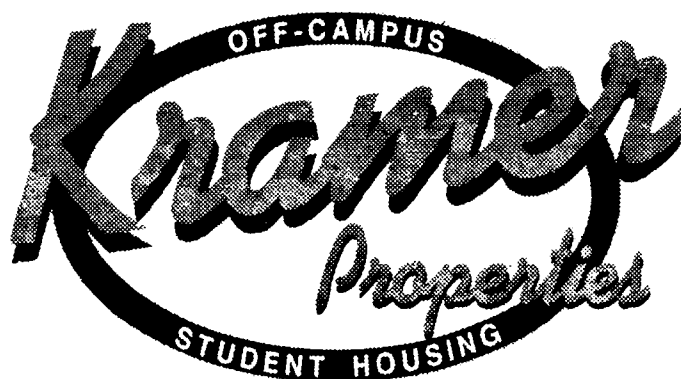


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WORLD & NATION

Friday, February 23, 2007

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Iran to expand uranium program

VIENNA — Iran has expanded its uranium enrichment program instead of complying with a U.N. Security Council ultimatum to freeze it, the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency said Thursday in a finding that clears the way for harsher sanctions against Tehran.

"Iran has not suspended its enrichment-related activities," the International Atomic Energy Agency said in a report.

Although its information was based on material available to it as of Feb. 17, a senior U.N. official familiar with Iran's nuclear file, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak on the issue, suggested the IAEA's conclusion remained valid as of Thursday.

New Italian government discussed

ROME — The Italian president began talks with political leaders Thursday to discuss forming a new government after the resignation of Premier Romano Prodi's nine-month-old administration.

Prodi stepped down Wednesday evening after an embarrassing parliamentary defeat of his government's proposed foreign policy program, including its plan to keep Italian troops in Afghanistan. He is staying on in a caretaker role.

The consultations at the presidential palace are aimed at determining which political leaders, if any, might be able to muster enough support for a parliamentary majority and thus avoid a new election.

President Giorgio Napolitano might ask Prodi or another leader from his coalition to form a new center-left government. He also could ask an institutional figure above the political fray to form a government, possibly with broad support from both coalitions, or he could call elections.

NATIONAL NEWS

New passport rules not for children

WASHINGTON — Children will be exempt from new rules that will require travelers to show passports when entering the U.S. at land or sea borders, the Bush administration announced on Thursday.

The new passport requirements will take effect as soon as January 2008. In a change from earlier plans, children aged 15 or younger with parental consent will be allowed to cross the borders at land and sea entry points with certified copies of their birth certificates rather than passports.

Children aged 16 through 18 traveling with school, religious, cultural or athletic groups and under adult supervision will also be allowed to travel with only their birth certificates.

Smith to be buried alongside son

FORT LAUDERDALE — Anna Nicole Smith will be buried in the Bahamas, alongside her dead son, it was announced Thursday after a tearful judge left the decision up to the guardian for the model's baby daughter.

Richard Milstein, the court-appointed guardian of 5-month-old Dannielynn, announced the plans not long after a judge gave him control of Smith's final resting place. He gave no timeframe.

Circuit Judge Larry Seidlin steered a surprise middle course in a dispute that became more urgent by the day when the medical examine warned that Smith's body was rapidly decomposing.

LOCAL NEWS

Two police shot, suspect found dead

GREENWOOD, Ind. — Two police officers were shot and a suspect was killed during a traffic stop in a suburb south of Indianapolis, police said Thursday.

Officer Eric McElheney was in stable condition at Wishard Memorial Hospital following surgery for multiple gunshot wounds, said Greenwood Police Chief Joe Pitcher. The other officer, Jay Arnold, was treated for a gunshot to the leg and released.

The unidentified suspect was pronounced dead at the scene.

ENGLAND

'Party prince' will be sent to Iraq

Royal officials announce Prince Harry will set out with regiment in May or June

Associated Press

LONDON — He's the red-headed son of the late Princess Diana, the rowdy royal known more for dancing until dawn than waking for battle. But Britain's party prince, Harry, is getting his wish and is being deployed to Iraq this spring with his Blues and Royals regiment.

Royal officials announced Thursday that the 22-year-old prince would fight for his country, confirming feverish tabloid speculation about the future of the best-recognized tank commander in Britain. His regiment is expected to set out in May or June for a six-month tour.

Harry, a second lieutenant, has been trained to lead a team of 12 men in four armored reconnaissance vehicles and could become the first British royal to see combat since his uncle, Prince Andrew, flew as a Royal Navy pilot in the Falklands War against Argentina in 1982.

Word of the deployment comes one day after Prime Minister Tony Blair said British troop numbers in Iraq will be cut by 1,600 in coming months. The tabloid newspaper, the Sun, opined — "1,600 out ... One in."

Britain will hand over much of its security responsibilities to Iraqi forces, concentrating its troops at Basra Palace and Basra Air Base in southern Iraq.

Iraqi insurgents might seek to target Cornet Wales — as Harry is known in the Blues and Royals. That has led to some concern that his presence could bring an extra risk to fellow soldiers.

"In a sense, his celebrity might be a factor in making the security situation for his troop more dangerous," said Michael Clarke, a professor of war studies at London's King's College.

Britain's Ministry of Defense has previously said Harry could be kept out of situations where his presence could jeopardize his comrades.

There has been speculation



Britain's Prince Harry salutes at the Royal Military Academy after receiving his first commission in 2006. The Ministry of Defense said Thursday that he will be sent to Iraq.

that he will be shadowed by bodyguards. But a source close to the prince, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media, told The Associated Press that Harry would not be given any special protection.

Col. Bob Stewart, a former British commander, said he was certain Harry would be safe.

"The Blues and Royals will take great pride in making sure no one gets near him," he said. "I can't think of better security than having a regiment of British soldiers around you."

In Britain, Harry's upcoming deployment was taken in stride. Blair described Harry's decision as in keeping with his

character.

"He's a very brave young man and he's a very determined young man who wants to be part of his regiment and part of the army," Blair told the British Broadcasting Corp. "And I think that shows a very special character on his part."

Others thought fighting in Iraq was an appropriate task for the man who is third in line to the throne.

"It's a bit dangerous for him ... but it's good," said Lee Wills, 20, of London. "The royal family's got to do its bit for their country."

But in Baghdad, Iraqis, who have endured much pain since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion, described the deployment as a public relations stunt.

"These things (are) just to beautify the picture ... The British government wants also to boost the (morale) of their troops," said Sabah Ali, a 35-year-old worker at the Iraqi Oil Ministry.

In joining the military, Harry followed royal tradition. In addition to Prince Andrew's Falklands War service, Harry's father, Prince Charles, was a pilot with the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy, and a ship commander. His grandfather, Prince Philip, had a distinguished career in the Royal Navy during World War II. Even Queen Elizabeth II served before becoming monarch — she was trained as a driver in the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service during World War II.

Perry defends cancer vaccine order

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Gov. Rick Perry on Thursday angrily defended his relationship with Merck & Co. and his executive order requiring that 11- and 12-year-old girls receive the drugmaker's vaccine against the sexually transmitted cervical-cancer virus.

The Associated Press reported on Wednesday that Perry's chief of staff had met with key aides about the vaccine on Oct. 16, the same day Merck's political action committee donated \$5,000 to the governor's campaign.

Perry, touring cancer centers

around the state, said the contributions were just a small share of the \$24 million he raised and had no effect on his decision.

"When a company comes to me and says we have a cure for cancer, for me not to say, 'Please come into my office and let's hear your story for the people of the state of Texas, for young ladies who are dying of cancer,' would be the height of irresponsibility," the Republican governor said. "Whether or not they contributed to my campaign, I would suggest to you, are some of those weeds that we are trying to cut our way through."

Pressed on when he decided to

issue the Feb. 2 executive order requiring the vaccination for sixth-grade girls, Perry snapped: "I wish you all would quit splitting hairs, frankly, and get focused on are we going to be working together to find the cure for cancers. No, I can't tell you when."

In issuing the order, the governor made Texas the first state to require the vaccine Gardasil for all school-girls. But many lawmakers have complained about his bypassing the Legislature altogether. And the disclosure regarding the campaign contributions could add momentum to an attempt by legislators to repeal Perry's executive order.

Fleming

continued from page 1

one Catholic residential college for women in the nation today," she said. "I am humbled by Saint Mary's choice in my candidacy and am proud, at the same time, to help the College continue to do its important work." Fleming attended Holy Names University in Oakland, Calif., and earned her bachelor's degree in philosophy and sociology from Marygrove College in Detroit, Mich. She earned her master's and doctorate in philosophy from Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. Fleming will replace interim Vice President and Dean of Faculty Jill Vihtelic, who Mooney and the recruitment

search committee selected last spring to serve in the position for one year. The position originally opened because previous dean, Patrick White, accepted the head role at Wabash College last year.

Last spring, the College also named professors Joseph Incandela and Deborah McCarthy as associate deans of faculty and academic strategies, respectively. Incandela and McCarthy will each serve for three years.

The final appointee last spring was Karen Johnson, who now holds the position of vice president of student affairs. Johnson replaced Linda Timm, who accepted a head role at Mount Mary College in Milwaukee.

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Retreat

continued from page 1

Notre Dame — both in regard to their sexuality and their faith," she said.

In addition, Heck said, the retreat will attempt to show students that not only do they have friends on their journey, but they are also "always joined by Christ."

For Father Joe Carey, assistant director of Campus Ministry, the theme of this year's retreat is about providing support.

"The theme is based on the need for community, and support within the community through faith," he said. "Having friends attend makes a connection to the whole community, and makes people realize that there's acceptance where ever they are on their life journey."

That's a kind of acceptance that isn't always felt within the Catholic community, due to a lack of awareness and understanding, Carey said. However, he emphasized that the Catholic Church "does not reject anyone based on orientation."

More important than orientation is personal worth as a human, Carey said.

"One of the things ... is realizing the dignity that everyone is created with, within God's image," Carey said. "That dignity is to be lived out within the Notre Dame community."

Both Carey and Heck said the retreat's emphasis would not be specifically on Catholicism, but rather on considering faith in a personal journey. Organizers also hope to help students "explore the inclusive spirit and each student's identity," Heck said.

Carey said retreat participants

will look at "the image they have of themselves, the community's image of them, and how their faith helps them."

Aiding students' faith development, "wherever they are on their spiritual journey," is always a goal of Campus Ministry retreats, Carey said.

"In many ways, it's quite similar to all the other retreats," he said.

The retreat will feature three different presentations, including talks by a student member of the GLBTQ community and a friend, Carey said. Students will also be encouraged to use time for discussion, reflection and Mass.

As of Thursday, 16 students had signed up for the event, Heck said. Any interested students should call Campus Ministry for more information.

Contact Aaron Steiner at asteiner@nd.edu

Councils

continued from page 1

Callie Pogge and Alvin Adjei.

Last year's Class Council races all featured at least two tickets, and Judicial Council president Liz Kozlow said it was "not expected" to see a ticket run unopposed.

"It is surprising especially because it happened for two classes this year," she said.

And while four tickets may seem like a lot in comparison, Kozlow said it's "common" to see more tickets running for sophomore class positions. Five ran last year.

"Students are excited to get involved and feel ready to lead their class," she said.

The four tickets competing for Sophomore Class Council are David Landry, Nick Abercrombie, Laura Bodien and Dan Dixon; Adam Mathews, Jenna Adsit, Kathleen McDonald and Mike Rose; Grant Schmidt, Jeff Lakusta,

Joy Hwang and Kim Kyrouac; and Frank Vento, Cristina Romano, Sean Callinan and Gavin Green.

A fifth ticket was also running, but dropped out of the race on Wednesday after two members decided they no longer wanted to run.

The four tickets include members with a variety of different backgrounds and activities — athletics like men's varsity lacrosse and women's water polo to academic clubs like Anthropology Club to religious organizations like Freshman Peer Leaders and Gospel Choir.

All of the tickets hope they will be able to get input from their class as to what events should be planned and what the council should accomplish next year.

"We'd like to bring things to the class and allow them to have input," presidential candidate Mathews said.

Fellow presidential hopeful Schmidt said it was "so beneficial" to interact with his classmates and

find out what they want from student government.

"Even though there are so many people, you'd be surprised by how many people are in agreement," he said.

While all of the platforms differ in certain plans, one theme is shared: improving class unity through a class formal, class trips and more apparel.

Despite the long list of ideas on his ticket's Web site, Schmidt admitted it wasn't unique. "Our platform is extremely generic and we did it for a reason. There's so many ways you can go with things," he said. "We're not looking to change the world, but there's lots of fun things you can do and a lot of impact you can make."

Although some of the tickets are already involved in student government, others see problems with the current Freshman Class Council and want to rectify things.

"The major problem this year was communication between the

Freshman Class Council and the actual freshman class," presidential candidate Vento said.

Vento also said this year's Freshman Class Council "wasn't a good representation of the class" since freshmen voted so early in the first semester.

Mathews criticized the lack of transparency this year.

"This year's Freshman Class Council did a lot of good things, but [the freshmen] didn't really know what was going on or what was happening during proceedings," Mathews said.

This dissatisfaction with current conditions motivated some of the tickets.

"We wanted to offer a different choice than is usually available. We wanted to present a ticket of students who were responsible in doing their job, but would also have fun with it and really relate to students," presidential candidate Landry said.

Kozlow is hoping for at least 50 percent turnout by freshmen to vote for their class council.

"Since it's their first time to really vote [for their class council leaders], they're hopefully going to take it seriously," she said.

Freshmen will be able to vote Monday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on the Judicial Council web site.

As for the unanimously chosen Junior and Senior Class Council tickets, the election process was much smoother. But new class presidents Keating — who also writes news for The Observer —

and Reish said they were not as surprised as Kozlow about running unopposed.

"We feel we've proved ourselves. We didn't need to beat another ticket this year to prove that," said Keating, who served as junior class president this year.

"I think it just attests to how we did this year," said Reish, the class vice president during both his freshman and sophomore years. "Our ticket definitely deserved it since we're very experienced."

Reish said his ticket was composed of individuals from "a wide variety of groups on campus." He plans to "hit the ground running" and not only plan events for the rising junior class but also "focus on co-sponsoring events with other classes."

Keating praised the Judicial Council and Kozlow for how they handled the elections.

"I've always known the Judicial Council and Liz Kozlow to act professionally and in accordance with the [Senate] Constitution," she said.

Keating said she looks forward to focusing on "both those time-honored Notre traditions and ones that the Class of 2008 has already made their own."

"We're class council veterans and dedicated to serving the class with diverse talents and perspectives," she said.

Contact Eva Binda at jbinda@nd.edu

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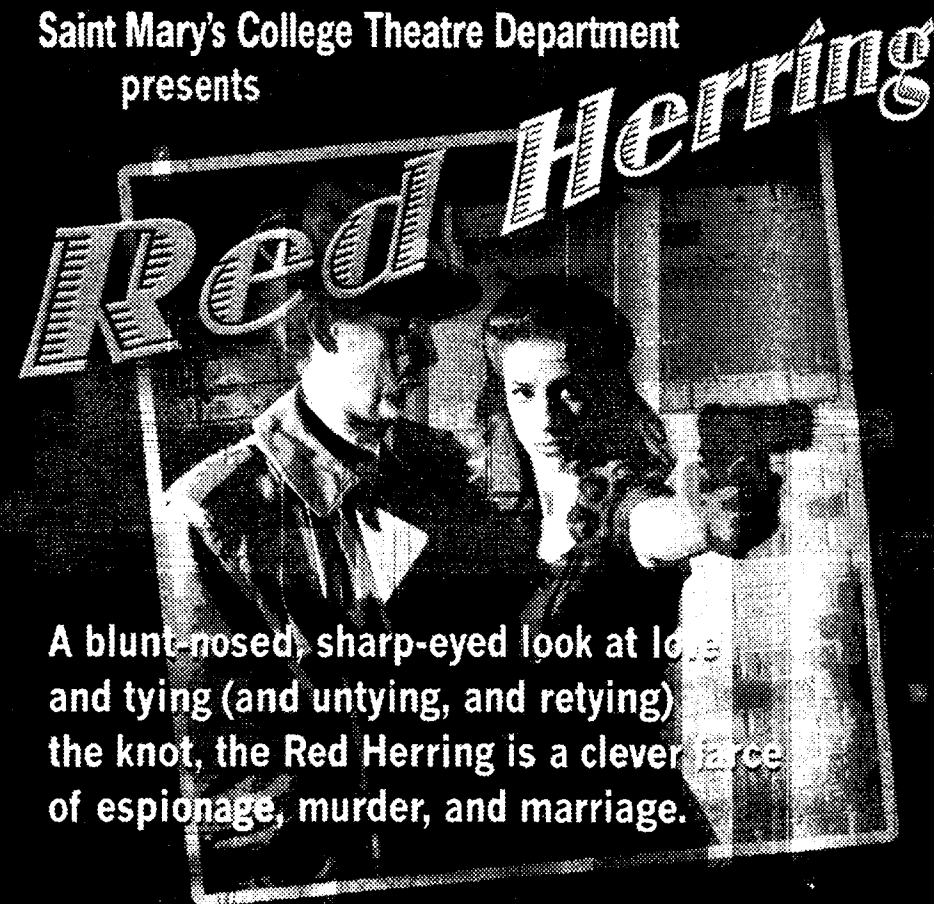
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MARKET RECAP

Stocks
Dow Jones 12,686.02 -52.39

Up: 1,481 Same: 185 Down: 1,702 Composite Volume: 2,634,753,250

AMEX	2,162.70	+8.27
NASDAQ	2,524.94	+6.52
NYSE	9,433.06	-0.47
S&P 500	1,456.38	-1.25
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	18,119.01	+10.22
FTSE 100(London)	6,380.90	+23.80

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
NASDAQ 100 TR (QQQQ)	+0.51	+0.23	45.4
S&P DEP RECEIPTS (SPY)	-0.08	-0.11	145.8
SUN MICRO INC (SUNW)	-0.16	-0.01	6.2
MICROSOFT CP (MSFT)	+0.14	+0.04	29.3

Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	+0.81	+0.038	4.73
13-WEEK BILL	+0.20	+0.01	5.045
30-YEAR BOND	+0.86	+0.041	4.83
5-YEAR NOTE	+0.96	+0.045	4.726

Commodities		
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+0.88	60.91
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-1.00	683.01
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+0.50	105.01

Exchange Rates	
YEN	121.535
EURO	0.762
POUND	0.511
CANADIAN \$	1.162

Analysts: Apple unlikely to share

Cisco Systems primarily sought collaboration in trademark-infringement dispute

Associated Press

SAN JOSE — The short-lived legal battle between Cisco Systems Inc. and Apple Inc. over the "iPhone" name was only on the surface a trademark-infringement dispute involving identically named multimedia telephones.

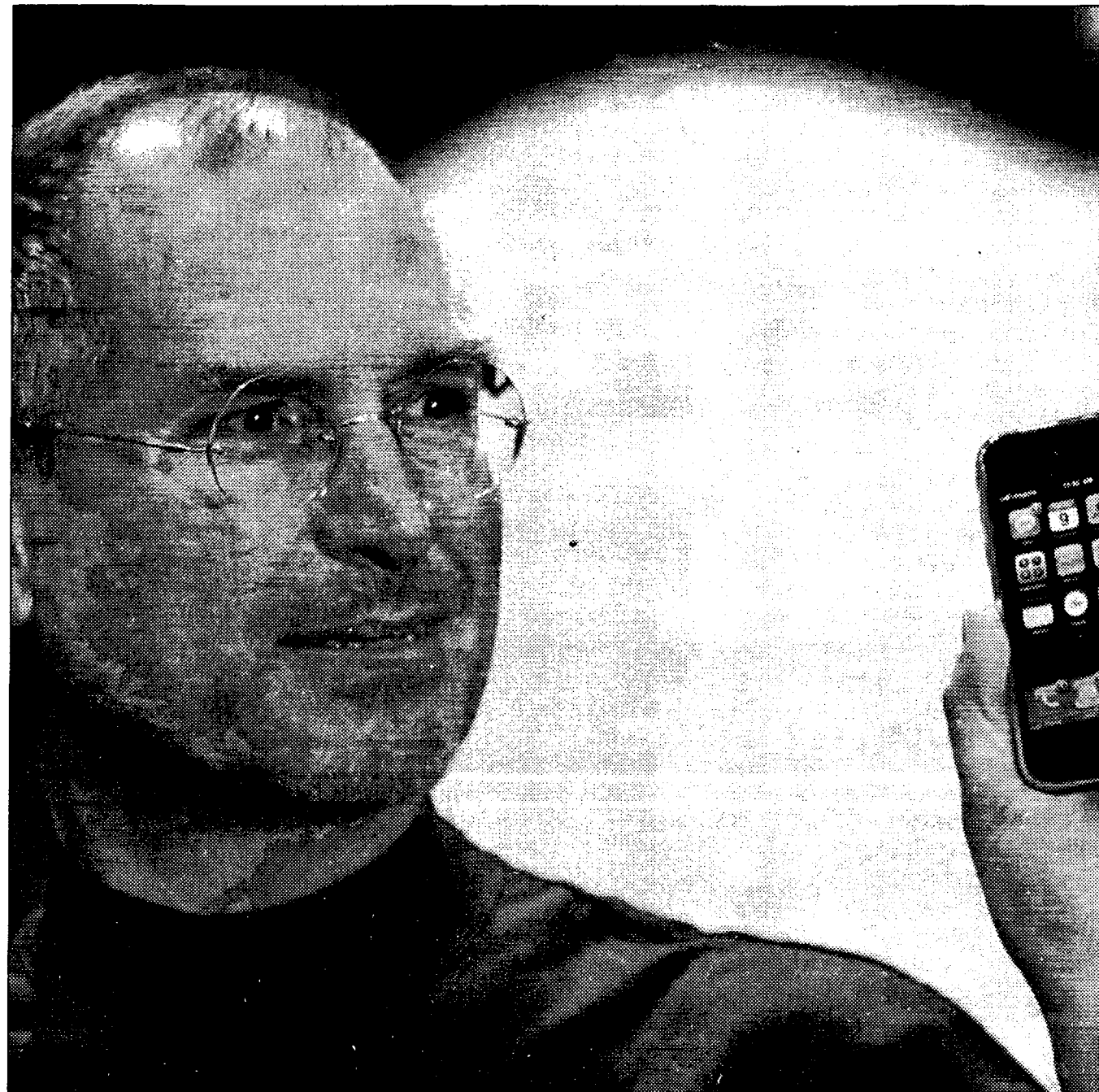
Cisco has maintained since the start of the squabble six weeks ago that the dispute was not about money, even though it stood to profit handsomely from any settlement.

Instead, the networking gear maker said it was trying to pressure Apple to break its attachment to closed, proprietary systems and begin collaborating with Cisco on imaginative future products that can communicate with each other.

But industry analysts said Thursday the settlement between the Silicon Valley tech giants does not mean that Apple will suddenly open up its most lucrative technologies, particularly the iTunes library that has helped catapult Apple into the top ranks of music retailers worldwide.

The more likely scenario, they said, is that Cisco and Apple could partner in the near-term on lower-profile projects that leverage the respective strengths of the world's largest networking equipment company and the new darling of digital entertainment.

Some of those efforts, they said, could include integrating Cisco's Voice over Internet Protocol, or VoIP, technology into Apple's iPhones, which are currently designed to operate only over the cellular network; improving the ability of Apple computers to work securely with wireless home routers from Cisco's Linksys division; or generally developing ways for both companies' products to work seamlessly with each other.



Apple CEO Steve Jobs holds an iPhone during his keynote speech at the MacWorld Conference and Expo Jan. 9. The phone keeps its name after a settlement Wednesday.

Analysts cautioned against expecting any type of major concessions from Apple concerning its proprietary technology, citing the vague joint settlement statement from the companies that raised more questions than it answered.

"As far as concessions go, from Apple's point of view, is there a downside to making their products work better with Cisco's networking gear? I don't see a downside for them," said Charles Golvin, principal analyst with Forrester Research Inc. "If anything it makes their products that much more attractive."

Gene Munster, senior

research analyst with investment bank Piper Jaffray & Co., said talk of collaboration is "noble language" but he is not expecting any blockbuster joint products to emerge from the partnership.

"Apple wanted that to be the impression because they get a lot of pressure for being closed," he said, adding that he suspects money played a more crucial role in the negotiations than either company let on. He estimated that Apple paid Cisco between \$25 million and \$50 million for rights to the name.

Both companies have refused to comment on terms of the deal and are staying tightlipped about what future

products might come from the settlement, which allows Cisco and Apple to both use the iPhone name worldwide to sell their phones.

They would only say they are going to explore opportunities for "interoperability" in the areas of security, consumer and business communications.

Cisco sued Apple last month in San Francisco federal court claiming that Apple's use of the iPhone name violated a trademark Cisco has held since 2000 and is using on a line of Linksys phones that make free long-distance calls over the Internet using VoIP technology.

Iran's uranium affects Wall Street

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Wall Street turned in a mixed performance Thursday as Iran's refusal to suspend uranium enrichment rattled investors and tempered a tech rally spurred by a strong outlook from chip maker Analog Devices Inc.

Investors were uneasy after a U.N. official said Iran did not agree to Security Council demands to suspend its nuclear ambitions. Also hurting stocks was a U.S. government report that showed a larger-than-expected drop in gasoline and heating oil inventories, causing crude prices to bound above \$60 a barrel.

This chilled the mood among investors who at first were encouraged by upbeat corporate announcements and a rally in foreign stock markets. Strength among semiconductor stocks drove the Nasdaq composite index to

six-year highs.

Analog Devices Inc., which gave an optimistic outlook about improving business conditions, drove chip stocks. Investors were also encouraged about takeover activity this year as Whole Foods Market Inc. said it will buy rival Wild Oats Markets Inc. in a \$565 million deal.

"With the lack of real market-moving news traders are taking a look at the Iran thing and the technical breakdowns and we're seeing a little bit of a pause on that," said Jody Giraldo, vice president of equities at vFinance.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 52.39, or 0.41 percent, to 12,686.02.

Broader stock indicators were mixed. The Standard & Poor's 500 index was down 1.25, or 0.09 percent, at 1,456.38. The Nasdaq rose 6.52, or 0.26 percent, to 2,524.94; the tech-dominated index is at a six-year high

and finished past the 2,524.31 half-way mark of its all-time high of 5,048.62 set on March 10, 2000.

Overseas, Japan's Nikkei stock average closed up 1.09 percent, making its first foray above 18,000 in nearly seven years; investors were cheered by the Bank of Japan's decision to raise interest rates, indicating its confidence in the long-flagging Japanese economy. At the close, Britain's FTSE 100 was up 0.37 percent, Germany's DAX index was up 0.46 percent, and France's CAC-40 was up 0.23 percent.

The aftermath of Wednesday's stronger-than-expected consumer inflation figures from the government sent bond yields higher for the second day. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note rose to 4.73 percent from 4.70 percent late Wednesday. The dollar was mixed against other major currencies, while gold prices fell.

IN BRIEF

Fewer seek unemployment benefits

WASHINGTON — The number of laid-off workers filing for unemployment benefits dropped sharply last week after having been driven higher the previous week by storm-related layoffs.

The Labor Department reported that applications for jobless benefits totaled 332,000 last week, down by 27,000 from the previous week.

The prior week jobless claims had jumped by 46,000, the biggest one-week increase since September 2005 in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Part of that big increase occurred because of winter storms that boosted layoffs in such industries as construction.

The four-week moving average for claims edged up from 326,700 to 328,000, the highest level for this average since early December.

But economists cautioned that the current jobless claims figures may just reflect the difficulty the government has in seasonally adjusting the numbers at this time of year when major winter snowstorms can alter the number of people showing up at claims offices in any one week.

Ignored finances worsen tax process

NEW YORK — Compiling a small business income tax return is rarely a pleasant experience, but for those company owners who have neglected their finances for the past year, it can be torture.

Typically, the owners who struggle the most have poor records or discover during the course of filling out the return they don't have the cash to pay their tax bills. Chances are, an owner in either scenario doesn't have a good handle on the overall business, let alone the company's taxes.

"It's very hard to run a business without reliable financial information," said Gregg Wind, a certified public accountant with Wind Bremer Hockenberg LLP in Los Angeles. "You could be spending too much in a certain area, or set goals in a certain area, but you'll never know how you are doing."

Grads

continued from page 1

degrees separate from the undergraduate commencement ceremony, "the unknown can be a little unnerving," Jenkins said in the letter.

"I am very confident, however, that the new and separate ceremony will honor our graduate degree recipients in a more meaningful way than the Sunday main commencement," he said.

The decision stemmed from suggestions of faculty members and deans of other colleges, he said.

The reason for the change, Jenkins said in his letter, was to create an event that could focus more on the accomplishments of the graduate students.

In the new ceremony, there will be

time to recognize all doctoral and Master's degree recipients. In addition, there will be time to present the Eli J. and Helen Shaheen Graduate School awards, rather than just listing aloud the winners as has been done in the past.

Graduate Student Union vice president Amber Handy echoed that reasoning in a posting on the Graduate School Web site. She emphasized that the change was made to set aside more time to honor graduate student accomplishments.

Another reason for the separate ceremony, Jenkins said in his letter, will be to have a keynote speaker that can

speak more directly to the Master's and Ph.D. recipients.

Pope-Davis will lead the ceremony and the deans of the colleges will announce the names of the degree recipients, according to information posted on the Graduate School's Web site.

First Year of Studies Dean Hugh Page will deliver the invocation, and Jenkins will attend the ceremony.

The implications in terms of attendance changes aren't clear yet, but fewer graduate students at the ceremony could mean more tickets allotted to each undergraduate, Pace said.

"We anticipate that outcome because there will be fewer graduate students attending," Pace said. "That's a great outcome for undergraduates."

The Graduate School's cere-

mony will be held May 19 at 1 p.m. in the Leighton Hall of DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

Each graduate student will receive two guest tickets — and possibly three — depending on how many students will be attending. Leighton Hall seats approximately 900.

Graduate students can still attend the University commencement ceremony May 20 in the Joyce Center. But they will not walk across the stage or receive their degree at this ceremony.

"I am very confident, however, that the new and separate ceremony will honor our graduate degree recipients in a more meaningful way than the Sunday main commencement."

Father John Jenkins
University president

Contact Kaitlynn Riely at kriely@nd.edu

Peanut butter causes salmonella

Outbreak sickens 329 in 41 states since August; lawsuits to ensue

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Testing of opened peanut butter jars obtained from people sickened by salmonella has confirmed the presence of the dangerous germ, the Centers for Disease Control said Thursday.

ConAgra Foods Inc. last week recalled all Peter Pan and Great Value peanut butter made at its Sylvester, Ga., plant after federal health officials linked the product to a salmonella outbreak that has sickened at least 329 people from 41 states since August. No deaths have been confirmed, although a Pennsylvania family filed a lawsuit Wednesday claiming a relative died from eating tainted peanut butter.

Federal officials linked the peanut butter to the outbreak by surveying people who became ill, but until now, there had been no lab results to confirm the connection.

State health departments asked sickened people to bring in opened jars of peanut butter for testing, and jars in New York, Oklahoma and Iowa tested positive, said Dave Daigle, a spokesman for the CDC in Atlanta.

"Now the question becomes, how did the salmonella get in the jar," Daigle said.

ConAgra learned of the test results Thursday, spokesman Chris Kircher said.

Gary Rodkin, chief executive of Omaha-based ConAgra, said Thursday that the company will take "all reasonable steps to remedy the situation."

"We are truly sorry for any harm that our peanut butter products may have caused,"

Rodkin said in a news release.

Government and industry officials have said the contamination may have been caused by dirty jars or equipment. Peanuts are usually heated to high, germ-killing temperatures during the manufacturing process. The only known salmonella outbreak in peanut butter — in Australia during the mid-1990s — was blamed on unsanitary plant conditions.

ConAgra has said none of its previous routine testing of plant equipment and peanut butter has tested positive for salmonella. The Food and Drug Administration last inspected the plant in February 2005 and found no problems.

The Sylvester plant is the sole maker of the nationally distributed Peter Pan brand, and the recall covers all peanut butter produced by the plant since May 2006. Shoppers are being asked to toss out jars having a product code on the lid beginning with "2111," which denotes the plant. The jars or their lids can be returned to the store where they were purchased for a refund.

Great Value peanut butter is a Wal-Mart Stores Inc. house brand made by several manufacturers. Great Value peanut butter that does not have the "2111" code is not included in the recall.

Salmonella, which commonly originates from the feces of birds and animals, sickens about 40,000 people a year in the U.S. and kills about 600. It can cause diarrhea, fever, dehydration, abdominal pain and vomiting.

In the Pennsylvania case, the

family of Roberta Barkay alleges in a negligence and wrongful-death lawsuit against ConAgra that salmonella-tainted peanut butter killed her and sickened her husband and daughter.

Barkay, 76, had been hospitalized with gastrointestinal problems, then developed a bacterial infection before she died Jan. 30, said her lawyer, Rob Peirce.

Her husband, William, was sick with similar symptoms late last year, after the Barkays bought the peanut butter, according to the lawyer and the lawsuit. Their daughter also got sick after eating the peanut butter while at her parents' home for her mother's funeral, Peirce said.

Roberta Barkay was not tested for salmonella, but Peirce said the peanut butter the family ate was part of the batch ConAgra recalled last week. The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages.

"We're working to get in touch with that plaintiff's attorney to learn all we can," Kircher said Thursday. He said he couldn't comment on the specifics of the lawsuit.

Across the country, at least four other lawsuits claim negligence by the company led to the salmonella illnesses.

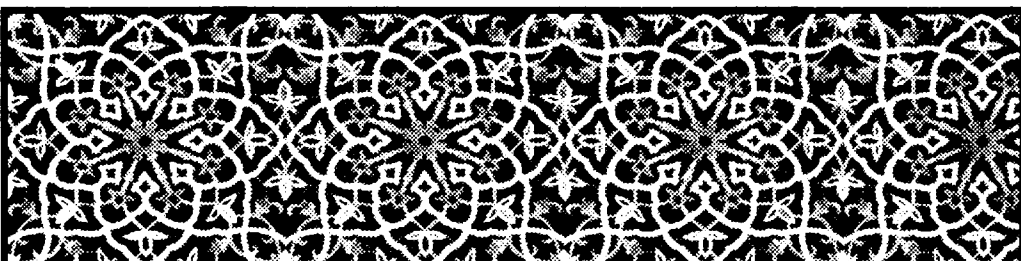
To get a refund, consumers can return the product at the place of purchase or mail in lids with their names and addresses to ConAgra Foods, P.O. Box 3768, Omaha, NE 68103. For more information, call (866) 344-6970 or visit ConAgra's Web site at <http://www.conagrafoods.com>


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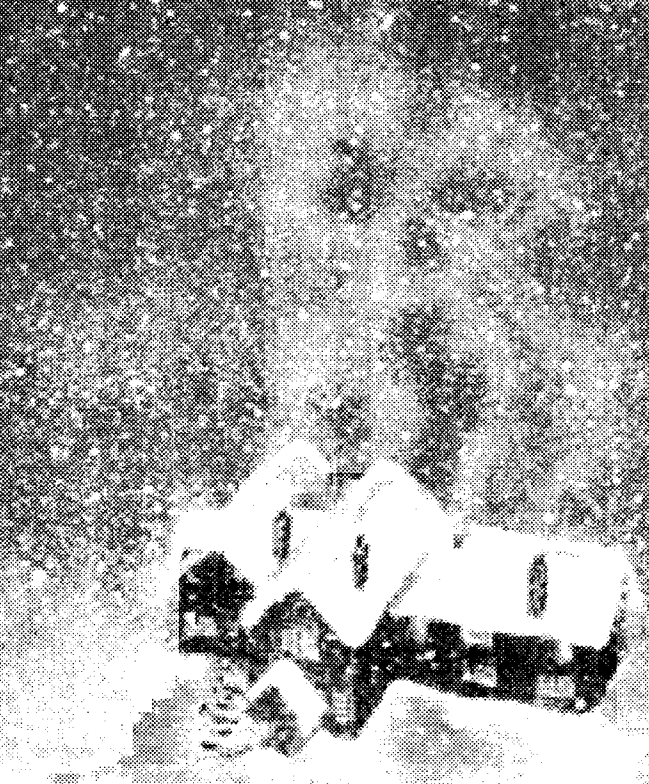
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Judge wants Smith to be buried in Bahamas

Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Anna Nicole Smith will be buried in the Bahamas, alongside her son, it was announced Thursday after a tearful judge left the decision up to the attorney for the model's baby daughter.

Richard Milstein, the court-appointed lawyer for 5-month-old Dannielynn, announced the plans not long after a judge gave him control of Smith's final resting place. He gave no time-frame for the burial.

Circuit Judge Larry Seidlin steered a surprise middle course in a dispute that became more urgent by the day when the medical examiner warned that Smith's body was rapidly decomposing.

"Who is entitled to custody of the remains of Anna Nicole Smith?" Seidlin wrote in his ruling. "There can be only one proper and equitable answer to that question: Dannielynn, Anna Nicole Smith's only child, heir and next of kin."

The ruling came a full two weeks after Smith died at a Florida hotel at age 39 of still-undetermined causes.

Smith's estranged mother wanted her buried in her native Texas, while Smith's boyfriend wanted her laid to rest in the Bahamas.

The judge, who choked up frequently and sometimes blubbered as he explained his decision, compromised and gave custody to Milstein. And the judge made it abundantly clear what he felt should be done.

"I want her buried with her son in the Bahamas," he said through tears. "I want them to be together."

Smith's boyfriend, attorney Howard K. Stern, had been hunched over a table with his hands folded as he listened to Seidlin's ruling and wiped away tears afterward. Smith's mother, Virgie Arthur, covered her eyes.

Outside court, Stern joined Arthur and Smith's ex-boyfriend photographer Larry Birkhead before dozens of reporters, and they pledged to work together on funeral arrangements.

"It's a family affair. You guys can go home," said Krista Barth, the attorney for Stern.

Smith's mother planned to appeal the judge's order, according to one of her attorneys, Tom Pirtle.

Seidlin teared up earlier Thursday when he abruptly cut short the proceedings to say he had made up his mind. In a sometimes rambling statement, he said "I've been trying to figure out, in a spiritual sense, how to bring it all together."

Milstein was appointed by Seidlin last week. He works for the Miami office of the Akerman Senterfitt law firm. He has 30 years of experience and specializes

in guardianship, probate and mediation, according to the firm's Web site.

The dispute over the burial was one of many surrounding Smith. Stern is listed as Dannielynn's father on the birth certificate, but Birkhead said the girl was his.

A California judge is handling the paternity case, but Birkhead's attorneys plan to ask a Florida family court judge on Friday to order a sample of Dannielynn's DNA to be collected in the Bahamas, or require the girl be brought here for DNA testing.

The judge began Thursday's hearing with a long diatribe, saying Smith's relationships with her mother and Birkhead soured because of overuse of prescription drugs, and referred to Stern as "maybe an enabler."

"We have Stern. Is he a bad guy or is he a fellow that has some form of a love for her? We don't know," Seidlin said. "Whatever relationship he had with her, he would be called maybe an enabler."

Birkhead testified earlier that he attempted to curb the

starlet's drug use by urging her to seek treatment. When he visited the Bahamas home Smith and Stern shared last year, he said he became increasingly concerned about her medicine use.

"They kept bringing more and more drugs in the house," Birkhead said, adding that Smith told him she needed the prescriptions to live. When he suggested Smith enter drug rehabilitation, he said she told him: "I'm not a drug addict and quit calling me one."

Testimony in the case has been peppered with details of Smith's sexual liaisons and the deals allegedly being pursued to profit from the deaths of the starlet and her son.

Also Thursday, celebrity news Web site TMZ.com posted a video of Smith hugging and being kissed by a shirtless doctor, who is under investigation by the California state medical board for unspecified possible misconduct related to Smith. In the video from a nightclub, Stern and Birkhead watch as Smith and Dr. Sandeep Kapoor cuddle on a seat.

Messages left for Kapoor's Los Angeles publicist Mark Saylor, on his cell phone and at his office, were not returned. A message was also left for Kapoor's Los Angeles attorney, Ellyn Garofalo.

Smith married Texas oil tycoon J. Howard Marshall II in 1994 when he was 89 and she was 26 and she had been fighting his family over his estimated \$500 million fortune since his death in 1995.

"I want her buried with her son in the Bahamas. I want them buried together."

Larry Seidlin
Florida circuit judge

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Transparency key in fighting apathy

If student government truly wants to fight apathy, it can take a much-needed first step in the next three weeks by addressing the embarrassing confusion and unfortunate secrecy surrounding last week's student body elections.

The trouble began when senators received inaccurate copies of the constitution at the beginning of their term. When so many students took the effort to vote "abstain" in the run-off election for student body president and vice president, the election went to the Student Senate. Senators thought they could then vote for the ticket they personally supported — a procedure listed in the faulty constitution. But student body vice president and Senate chair Bill Andrichik informed representatives of the discrepancy. In fact, senators must vote according to their dorm's results. A senator only chooses his own preference when a dorm's tally results in a tie.

After sorting out the mess, the Senate voted behind closed doors Sunday, following constitutional protocol. But that procedure is problematic.

First, if senators are obliged to follow the dorm's results, why are the votes kept secret? Some students found out whom their senator voted for; others didn't. With the current process, every student deserves the right to know which candidate his dorm picked and an open Senate hearing to ensure accountability. All that the closed door keeps out of the voting is oversight to guard against political maneuvering and votes contrary to the dorms' tallies. This

is a legitimate concern in an organization where many of the members are friends, and the ties run deeper than what's presented in debates or on campaign posters.

With that in mind, the next question is simple: Why doesn't the Judicial Council publish the results from each dorm immediately following the run-off?

Since the goal of the constitutional provision is to require senators to vote according to the constituents, the Judicial Council should eliminate the arbitrary suspense that follows sequestered results. The process should be open and organized, not closed and confused.

An amendment to the constitution that (a.) explicitly clarifies the voting provisions in the event of a non-majority, (b.) mandates that the Judicial Council publish dorm-by-dorm results in the run-off, and (c.) opens the Senate vote to the public would well serve the student body.

If student government wants to mean something at Notre Dame, it must be transparent. The current voting procedures are anything but.

The system is broken — it is inefficient, unorganized and unnecessary. It's time student leaders fix those problems and address the issues that prompt so many students to take the time to vote "abstain."

If they cannot meet the challenge, their inability to enact change will tell students that apathy is indeed the best response to student government.

The Observer Editorial

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Support earned for basketball's final home game

Going into this season, the Notre Dame men's basketball team was all about question marks. Would they finally play good defense? Would they finally rebound? Coach Mike Brey was viewed as a "dead man walking," and there wasn't much enthusiasm about the prospects for the season because the team was expected to disappoint.

The results so far this year have been anything but disappointing. They're in fourth place in the Big East, and playing a very exciting brand of basketball. Energy and enthusiasm are evident on both ends of the court.

Their game on Saturday is critical. Marquette is one of Notre Dame's biggest hardwood rivals. Saturday's game will be the 108th between the schools, which is more games than Notre Dame has played against any other program. A win against the Golden Eagles likely will sew up both a bye in the first round of the Big East Tournament and an NCAA bid, not to mention put the team within five wins of the all-time record for consecutive victories at the Joyce Center. And the game will be broadcast to more than three quarters of the nation on ABC.

The team needs an intimidating home court to help get a win, and the program needs to be shown to a national television audience as vibrant if it wants to continue to

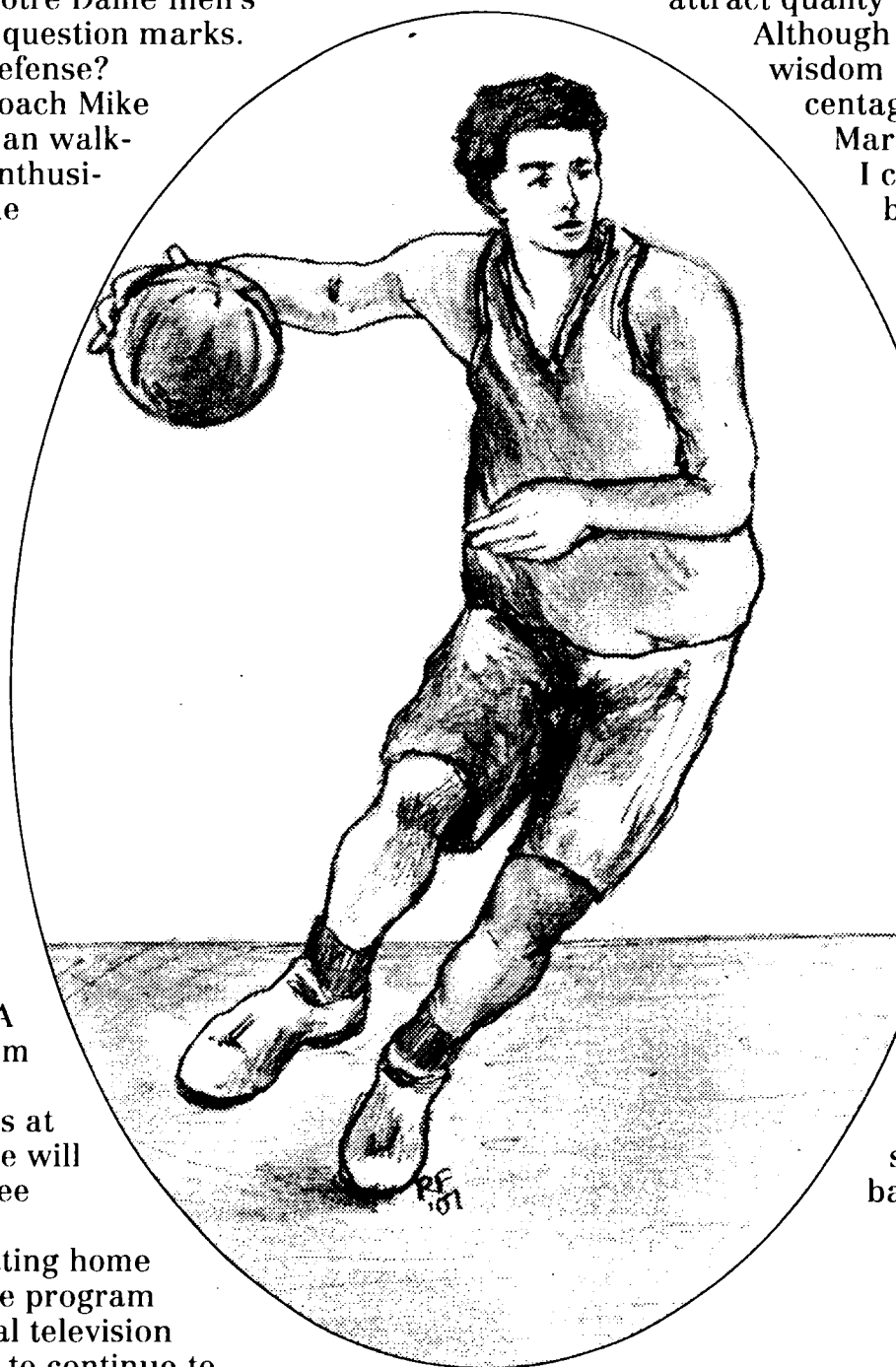
attract quality talent.

Although the game is a sellout, conventional wisdom indicates a not-insignificant percentage of those tickets were bought by Marquette fans early in the season. So I call upon the Notre Dame student body to support Colin Falls and Russell Carter in their final home game. Those young men, like all their teammates, have been busting their butts this year to put a quality product on the court. They deserve a quality send-off.

Regardless of how you feel about how previous seasons ended, this one looks like it's going to end well and they need your help to do it. Regardless of how you feel about a coach, this program is bigger than any one coach because it's owned by you, the Notre Dame family.

It's 3:30 pm on a Saturday in February. I can't think of a single viable excuse. Show the nation (and the administration, who will be making decisions on seating for the post-renovation Joyce Center) Notre Dame deserves and will support a big-time men's basketball program.

Michael Coffey
alumnus
Class of 1991
Feb. 22



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Hell is full of musical amateurs."

George Bernard Shaw
Irish dramatist

Submit a Letter
to the Editor at
www.ndsmcobserver.com

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Never exceed your rights, and they will soon become unlimited."

Jean Jacques Rousseau
French political philosopher

Neither a just war nor just the war

Sometimes even the most penetrating conversation, the most illuminating ideas, seem mere distraction from a darker truth at which one cannot bear to look. Just when we think we are addressing a grave

**James
Matthew
Wilson**

*The Treasonous
Clerk*

problem, we find our deepest sorrows hide somewhere else, a few syllables beyond what we are capable of saying. For instance, this last Tuesday, I sat in on a panel discussing "Requiem," the new exhibit of photographs from the Vietnam War being held at the Snite Museum of Art. The photos included in the exhibit were taken by journalists who died in that war. Throughout the proceedings, for all my interest, I felt something heavy in my gut.

The invited speakers probed the question of how a photograph, an image, relates to the reality of war it represents. David Griffith addressed primarily the photos at the center of the Abu Ghraib Prison scandal. In his recent book, "A Good War Is Hard to Find," Griffith argues that those now infamous pictures of Iraqi prisoners forced to pose in humiliating positions in fact betray an obsession with pornography and violence beating at the heart of American culture. The snapshots do not merely expose the imaginations of a few sick persons. They are not merely symptoms of the frustration and anxiety inevitable to soldiers during wartime. Those prisoners piled naked on top of each other, or leashed to a smirking Lynndie England, Griffith suggests, testify to a culture that feeds on spectacle, the more obscene the better.

The unlooked-for evidence of cultur-

al decay that silently frames the Abu Graib photos provides an analogy to my own discomfort with the panel at the Snite. The panelists had been invited to talk about war and war photography. In the daily news cycle, myriad journalists and politicians chatter of whether the President's strategy is failing, has already failed, or can be rehabilitated. Sometimes one hears debate over whether a war to topple a longtime dictator was just. Sometimes one hears debate over whether a preemptive war is just. And occasionally one even hears questioned whether any war could ever be just.

From our elected leaders, we hear clumsy or oddly speculative rhetoric. Sen. Kerry suggests that poor grades will get one sent to Iraq, and then he apologizes. Sen. Obama indicates that soldiers who die there have wasted their lives, and then recants. Sen. Reid speaks of this war as a foreign policy "mistake."

As the war gets worse, the press spins ever faster from its bowels new analysis and rhetoric about certain features of it. As public opinion turns ever more against it, democratic senators stick their polemical toes in the pond to test the waters of opinion, venturing bold statements about the injustice being done to our troops only to retract them in a day or two. The subject of all this talk is of course the war, but what it dances around it much more serious.

Some irrational persons would probably oppose any war any government waged. Some wise persons are particularly able at determining when a country has met the criteria for a just war. And finally, just about everyone now feels comfortable second-guessing the Bush-Rumsfeld strategy in Iraq.

These speculations, obvious in importance though they are, have the effect of keeping our minds focused "just" on the war. They keep our minds turning about the war as if it were a photograph to be studied, with one viewer complaining about the exposure and another that it isn't a painting in oils.

Behind or beyond that photograph is a vision so dim that, as a nation, we can't look at it for more than a moment. We can talk about this war as often and in as many ways as we like, but most of that talk will remain distraction from this vision: that is, from our suspicion, indeed, our probable cause to believe, that we are at war because the Bush administration deceived Congress and lied to the American people.

One cannot call the Iraq war a "mistake." To do so, one would have to be in basic agreement with the priorities and goals of the Bush Administration, and to call this or that particular course an "error" that hinders its reaching those goals. More than an error in strategy or one poor executive decision is at stake in Iraq.

We are at war not because our government believed strongly in the just preemption of a madman, or the just removal of an autocrat. We are at war because certain members of our government want to ensure that the United States remains the dominant military and economic power in the world, and to do that we need the support of the Saudi government, Saudi oil and the continuation of an otherwise incapacitated and chaotic Middle East. We are at war because (pardon the crass nomenclature) neo-conservatives believe American interests are the world's interests, and because executives in the military-industrial

complex accept that other Americans need to be sacrificed for their interests. This war is an incidental episode in the long and programmatic expansion of a teetering empire. It is not just the war that is the problem, but the program. And thus, we are at war because of greed and because of lies.

An intrinsic duty of any state is to protect the life and common good of its people. War is sometimes a just instrument for the exercise of that duty. But the Bush administration has rendered such axioms superfluous. War is not the issue. The details of this war are not the issue. What distracted me last Tuesday and sickens me as I write is the fact that no honest philosophical or political debate can matter right now.

I fear that lurking behind every photograph of every fallen American soldier is the dark print of a deceit. Just as a widespread, little discussed, obsession with the obscene lurks behind the images from Abu Ghraib, a narrow and secretive hunger for money and power haunts — and betrays — the portraits of the dead. It is a hunger so vile even Americans will not look at it straight. Some few corporations and persons, to perpetuate a political and economic system that benefits them at the expense of millions, do not care how much ink gets spilled discussing this war, or how much blood gets spilled in it, so long as they are left quietly to profit, just beyond the photo's edge.

James Matthew Wilson is a Sorin Research Fellow. He can be contacted at jwilson5@nd.edu

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Academic freedom 'alive and well'

A year ago the University community was engaged in a debate over academic freedom. The campus performance of "The Vagina Monologues" was the focal point of that debate. As an alum I welcomed the opportunity to contribute to the discussion and offered my thoughts in a letter to University President Father John Jenkins. I suggested then that Notre Dame could and should offer so much more to the discussion surrounding violence against women than an annual performance of "Monologues" could provide. I suggested a broader "conference" setting which could include a variety of opportunities for dialogue, including not only the "The Vagina Monologues" but also the Edith Stein Project and others yet to be identified.

Well, last fall an original production called "Her Loyal Daughters" was offered in an academic setting. The Edith Stein Project returns for its second year next week. And "Monologues" will be offered off campus next month. I believe that academic freedom is alive and well at Notre Dame, and the topic of violence against women is getting more and more attention that it certainly deserves. Well done, Notre Dame.

Jack Fremeau
alumnus
Class of 1971
Feb. 16

Questioning the value of meatless dining halls

Sacrifice should not affect paying non-Catholics

As a recovering Catholic, I understand the whole Lent thing. I get that, as an act of sacrifice, Catholics are encouraged to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, as well as refraining from eating meat on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays during Lent. I think that's fine, just great. My question is, why don't they serve meat in the dining halls on Fridays or on Ash Wednesday? It's true that, as a Catholic university, maintaining a Catholic identity is important, but there is a difference between maintaining a Catholic identity and needlessly limiting the options of the student body.

If there was a tradition that on Holy Thursday everything you eat had to contain meat, and the dining hall made sure every item it offered had meat in it, vegetarians would be up in arms, and rightly so. We paid for a meal plan expecting that each meal offered would have a balanced selection of foods, and this is not what we are getting.

I know some people will say that I could just go to Reckers or LaFortune, and this is true, but this is beside the point. I shouldn't have to spend Flex Points because my dining hall refuses to offer proper balanced meals. If the dining hall wants to refuse meat to the student body in order to avoid tempting those who choose not to eat it, that's fine — but they should discount those meals, because they clearly aren't as complete, and give me some of my damn money back.

Greg Howard
junior
Alumni Hall
Feb. 21

True meaning of sacrifice lost

This Lenten season, just like last Lenten season, I sure will miss meat on Fridays. Yeah, its hard giving up those delicious homestyle chicken patties, but showing repentance is a vital part of Lent. This year though, it just won't mean as much. I'm still going to deny myself on Fridays, of course, it's just that so will everybody else on campus whether they want to or not. They don't have a choice — the dining halls don't serve meat on Fridays.

I have multiple problems with this. Mainly, the sacrifice of abstaining on Fridays becomes entirely unremarkable. Not just because everyone else is doing it — my penance is entirely between God and myself — but because it just seems too easy. It's no longer proving anything. To show that you're truly sorry for your sins, you should have to make a conscious decision to abstain, and you should be strictly devoted to following through.

This year, Notre Dame is making that decision for us, and making it almost impossible to not follow through. Self-denial should be difficult to be meaningful, and this year it is neither. So please, dining halls, save Lent and serve meat on Fridays. Catholics and non-Catholics alike will be grateful.

Daniel Trumble
freshman
Siegfried Hall
Feb. 22

DVD REVIEWS

Latest release enlivens timeless 'Paradiso'

By BRIAN DOXTADER
Scene Editor

Giuseppe Tornatore's 1988 film "Cinema Paradiso" is a movie about the movies, made for movie lovers. A fondly nostalgic look at the power of the cinema in a small Italian setting, "Paradiso" originally opened to excellent commercial and critical reception, and it remains one of the cinema's most beloved treasures. The film has just been re-released in a lavish Limited Collector's Edition, which includes two different versions of the film.

Set in a sleepy village in Post-WWII Italy, "Cinema Paradiso" is the story of a boy named Salvatore (Salvatore Cascio), who finds refuge from the grim harshness of reality in the world of cinema. He befriends the town's film projectionist, the curmudgeonly Alfredo, whose job is to censor all the "kissing parts" of films. "Paradiso" then jumps to an adolescent Salvatore (Marco Leonardi), who falls in love with the beautiful Maria (Antonella Attili), only to have his heart broken. Years later, an older and wiser Salvatore (Jacques Perrin) returns to his home village to say goodbye to an old

friend.

"Cinema Paradiso" is a warm, memorable film with an excellent setting and warm performances. Coupled with a great score by the legendary Ennio Morricone (who also composed the scores for "The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly" and "The Untouchables," among other classics), the nostalgic images hearken back to a lost age. Almost 20 years later, the film continues to resonate, which is a clear testament to both its cinematic grace and its timelessness.

The Limited Collector's Edition is a well-made set that does justice to the film's classic status. The film has already been released twice on DVD — once in its original cut, and once in the "new version" (or director's cut) in 2002. This new set is comprised of two DVDs and a CD of Morricone's score, along with some one-sheet and lobby card reproductions. The set also includes a pair of new documentaries: "Exploring a Timeless Classic," which explains the impact that "Cinema Paradiso" has had on subsequent filmmaking, and "Little Italy Love Story: Cinema Paradiso Style." The extras are worthwhile additions, but the film itself is the main draw to the package.

The second disc houses the original 170-minute director's cut, which was originally released in America in 2002. Unfortunately, this is a case in which the longer cut is not an improvement, as it eschews the focus of the two-hour theatrical version, causing the film to drag at



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

"Cinema Paradiso" tells the story of one man's lifelong love affair with the movies. The film's latest DVD release includes the 170-minute director's cut.

times. In some ways, it does enrich the development and depth of the story, especially in terms of character, but the overall pacing suffers tremendously. The original is superior, especially since it is this version of "Paradiso" that has become such a highly regarded classic.

Oddly enough, the picture and audio quality differ between cuts. Both cuts are presented in anamorphic widescreen, but the director's cut looks sharper and cleaner (perhaps due to its more recent release). It also has a 5.1 Dolby Digital track, which sounds much richer and fuller, as opposed

to the theatrical cut's 2.0 Dolby Surround. Both versions are in Italian, with English subtitles.

"Cinema Paradiso" is a classic — a film that truly celebrates the movies. The Weinstein Company's new edition immediately usurps previous DVD editions and renders them obsolete. It's easily the best way to experience "Paradiso," a film that will likely enthrall viewers for generations to come.

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Cinema Paradiso

Weinstein Company



'Maltese Falcon' remains prototypical 'film noir'

By BRIAN DOXTADER
Scene Editor

"The Maltese Falcon" is the prototypical "film noir," a gritty and hard-boiled detective story with a stone-faced star and double-crossing femme fatales. The film made stars out of Humphrey Bogart and director John Huston, both of whom would go on to make a number of classic films. Warner has just released "The Maltese Falcon" in a three-disc special edition set loaded with special features, many of which help illuminate the film's context and impact.

The 1941 version of "The Maltese Falcon" is actually the second film based on the eponymous novel by Dashiell Hammett, though Huston's film is considered far superior to the previous version. The plot revolves around San Francisco private eye Sam Spade (Humphrey Bogart), who is asked for protection by the mysterious Miss Wonderly (Mary Astor). When Spade's partner turns up dead, he finds himself embroiled in an international scandal involving Joel Cairo (Peter Lorre) and Kasper Gutman (Sydney Greenstreet), all of whom are searching for a jewel-encrusted statue, the "Maltese Falcon" of the title.

It's easy to see why "The Maltese Falcon" made a star out of Bogart. He epitomizes "hard-boiled" protagonist, with a certain toughness and intelligence to go along with his razor-sharp wit. The film is deeply engaging because while everyone is trying to outsmart everyone else, Bogart always seems to be one step ahead. Spade's detached, almost aloof attitude and always-professional demeanor put even Quentin Tarantino's screen heroes to shame.

Of course, the film holds up due to Hammett's original novel being as good as it was. "The Maltese Falcon" adheres pretty faithfully to the book, and there's a shocking amount of cynicism, especially for Hollywood in 1941. It's amazing to think that "The Maltese Falcon" was released in the same year as "Citizen Kane" and only a year before "Casablanca." This trio of films illustrates just how sophisticated Hollywood was capable of being during this time, and how adult and far removed from treacly sentimentalism it had become in the post-Depression era.

The new three-disc special edition of "The Maltese Falcon" is a huge improvement over the original one-disc release. The picture, which has been digitally transferred from "restored elements,"

looks very clean, especially for a film that is over 60 years old. The audio is, appropriately enough, the original mono track, which also sounds quite good with clear, up-front dialogue.

Special features include a commentary by Bogart biographer Eric Lax, which

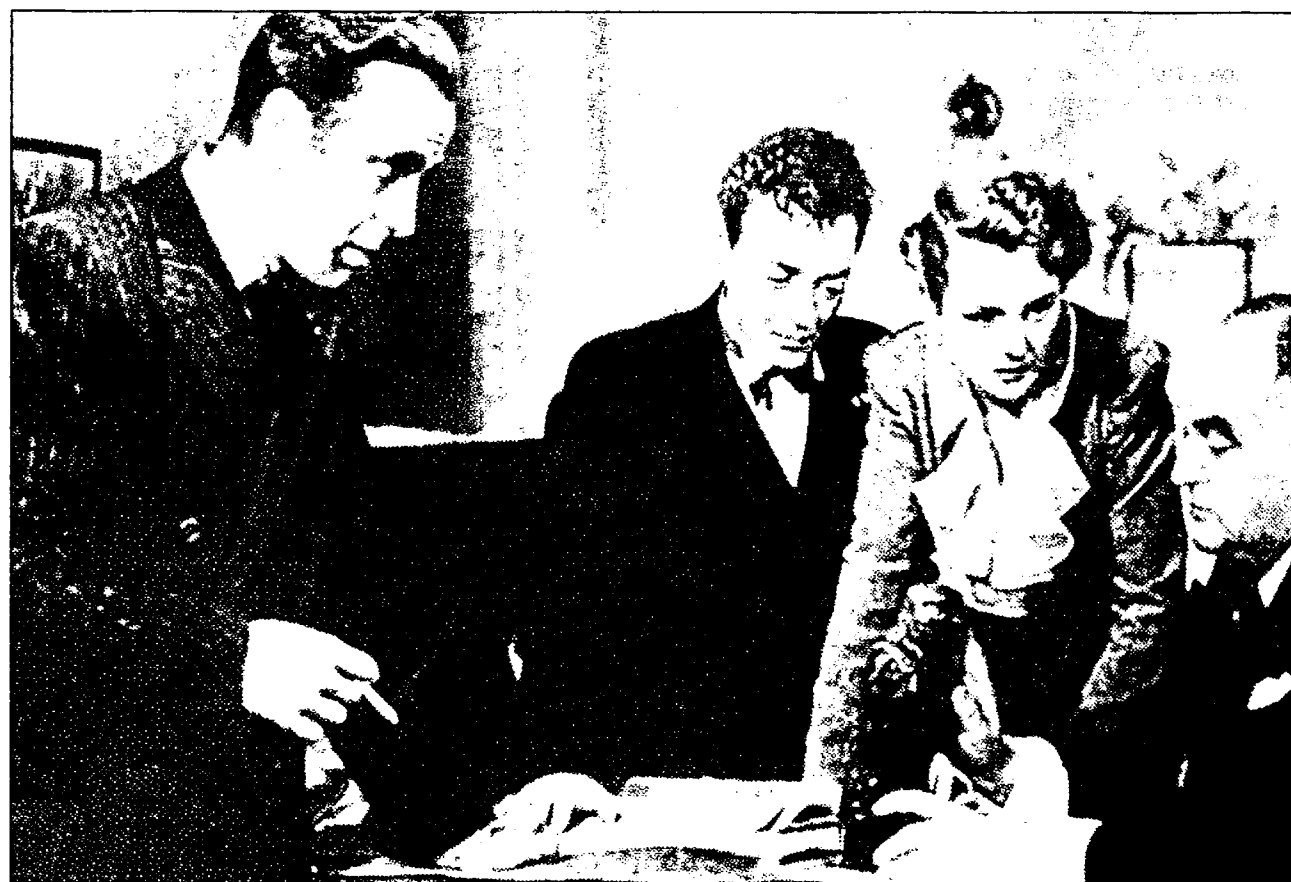


Photo courtesy of eskimo.com

The 1941 classic "The Maltese Falcon" has recently been re-released in a three disc set. The film is considered by critics to be the definitive "film noir" of its time.

is informative but heavily leans toward information about Bogart rather than the film. It's unfortunate that Warner was unable to get critic Roger Ebert to do a commentary, as his tracks for "Casablanca" and "Citizen Kane" are both phenomenal. More information about Hammett would also have been welcome, though Lax's knowledge of Bogart is impressive.

There is also a substantial amount of archival material, including several interesting shorts, trailers and information about 1941, which gives the film another layer of context. There's also a documentary, "The Maltese Falcon: One Magnificent

Bird," which forms the bulk of one of the special features discs. The only disappointing aspect of the set (and really, it's a minor nitpick) is that there is a lack of information regarding Huston.

"The Maltese Falcon" has finally gotten the treatment it deserves on DVD. As the archetypal film noir, it still holds up over half a century later, thanks to the sure-handed direction of Huston and the iconic performance of Bogart. The three-disc special edition comes highly recommended.

Contact Brian Duxtader at
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The Maltese Falcon

Warner Home Video



SCENE & HEARD

Anna Nicole, Paris Hilton redefine 'celebrity'

Marilyn Monroe is arguably America's first and most recognized celebrity icon. She dominated the 1950s with her terrific movie career, and, although she was a talented actress, she is perhaps better known for being the original "blonde bombshell." She appeared in the very first edition of "Playboy," was married to both Joe DiMaggio and Arthur Miller and was rumored to have had an affair with President Kennedy (her friendship with the president also spawned one of the greatest renditions of "Happy Birthday").



Erin McGinn

Assistant
Scene Editor

Flash forward to 1992, when small-town American girl Vickie Lynn was discovered by Hugh Hefner and decided to make a name for herself. And make a name for herself she did: Anna Nicole Smith. In the vein of Marilyn, Anna Nicole modeled for Playboy and was infamous for her marriage to an 89-year old billionaire oil tycoon. Where Marilyn legitimately made herself into a star through her popular film career, Anna Nicole was famous solely for being herself. She later went on to have her own reality television show ("The Anna Nicole Show") and became the spokesperson for Trimspa, a dubious weight loss drug. Despite these "achievements," she never had the same amount of true personal success that Marilyn enjoyed, despite being a bona fide celebrity. Essentially, she was popular for being popular.

The "Anna Nicole syndrome," where celebrities are seemingly created out of nothing, is an omnipresent phenomenon today. New stars are promoted daily out of the rising success of reality television shows. People like Trista Rehn and Ryan Sutter ("The Bachelorette"), Amber Brkich and Rob Mariano ("Survivor: All-Stars") and Omarosa Manigault-Stallworth ("The Apprentice") are famous for being famous, even though they arguably accomplished nothing.

At the pinnacle of this talent-free mix sits the reigning queen, Paris Hilton. Daughter of a hotel monarch, Paris lived the innocuous life of a decadent socialite until she decided that she wanted to be famous. In 2001, Paris came into power as the quintessential party girl. When her first sex tape ("1 Night in Paris") was "released" in 2003, she solidified her place at the center of the pop culture universe. Falling victim to the "Anna Nicole syndrome," Paris has tried to move on to some semblance of a "real" career.

She has starred in Fox's reality series "The Simple Life" with fellow celebante Nicole Ritchie, playing off of their public personas as talented, spoiled socialites. She has also acted in films ("House of Wax" and the upcoming "The Hot Chick and the Nottie"), recorded an album ("Paris"), "designed" perfumes and even partially wrote a book, the aptly titled "Confessions of an Heiress: A Tongue-in-Chic Peek Behind the Pose."

So what happens to these celebrities when they have no talent to fall back on? Networks like MTV constantly feature legions of contestants seeking their 15 minutes, then doing whatever they can to



Photo courtesy of celebslam.com

Recently deceased Anna Nicole Smith, right, is one of several pseudo-celebrities to grace American magazines and TV despite a seeming lack of talent.

retain the little fame that they have. Enter shows like the "Real World/Road Rules Challenge," where former contestants are able to perpetuate the illusion that they are still important.

To stay in the public eye, it is necessary for such faux-celebrities to act out in their personal lives. Even after her death, the controversy over the paternity of her infant daughter Dannielynn is keeping Anna Nicole a household name. Paris Hilton, having realized that she was slipping off of the public radar, found her third sex tape "leaked" to the public.

Anna Nicole Smith claimed that she planned to be "the next Marilyn Monroe," and Paris Hilton has been quoted as saying that she is "the iconic blonde of the decade," comparing herself to figures like Monroe and Princess Diana. Although both claim to be following in the footsteps of Marilyn, Ms. Monroe had one attribute that her successors seem to lack — talent.

Contact Erin McGinn at emcginn@nd.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Spears' struggles raise concern among fans

Nine years ago, no one would have thought that Britney Spears — the former Mouseketeer — would be on the brink of total breakdown.

Along with fellow Mouseketeer alums Justin Timberlake, J.C. Chasez and Christina Aguilera, Britney burst onto the late nineties pop scene with near-instant success. She was quickly dubbed a princess of pop and experienced an unprecedented level of growth in popularity with her albums "... Baby One More Time," "Oops! ... I Did It Again" and "Britney."



Erin McGinn

Assistant
Scene Editor

Starting in 1998, America swooned over the young love between Britney and Justin. Too good to be true, their four-year relationship fell apart in 2002, and Britney's slow but steady derailment began soon thereafter.

Although she continued in her music career, recording "In the Zone," she also did things that the "... Baby One More Time" Britney never would have dreamed of. In 2003, a newer, edgier Britney kissed pop icon Madonna on stage at the MTV Video Music Awards. She shocked the world in 2004 when she married her childhood sweetheart Alexander in a spontaneous ceremony at the Little White Wedding Chapel in Vegas — a union that was annulled less than 55 hours later. America started to worry about their pop princess.

She was still all right, though — fans believed that Brit could still get her life back on track. The down-home heroine of

teenage girls across the States, who prided herself on her wholesome image and fiercely maintained her alleged virginity, had once been at the height of popularity. Brit certainly wasn't the first celebrity to think that an ill-fated Vegas wedding was a smart idea, and most fans seemed willing to excuse her antics with the hope that she might return to top form.

Enter K-Fed.

Apparently seeking the polar opposite of Justin, Britney began her ill-fated relationship with her back-up dancer, Kevin Federline. She was engaged only six months after her overnight wedding mistake, and eight months later she was married ... again. Her tumble from her prominent place in the eyes of the public picked up speed.

Britney abandoned her music career in favor of starting a family. Her hubby had gotten a head start on her with one child — and another baby on the way — with actress Shar Jackson. Britney and Kevin, in light of fellow celebrity couple Nick Lachey and Jessica Simpson's success, decided to star in their own reality show on MTV in 2005, "Britney and Kevin: Chaotic," which ended after five episodes. Later that year, Britney gave birth to her first child, Sean Preston.

It didn't take long for Britney to sink into controversy over her parenting skills, with tabloid pictures of her driving with her infant son sitting in her lap beginning to surface. She used the plea that she grew up in the country to defend her actions, arguing that she was a good mother in an interview with Matt Lauer.

A year later she gave birth to her second son, Jayden James, and only a couple of months after his birth, Britney and Kevin filed for divorce in November of 2006.



Photo courtesy of estado.com.br

Former pop icon Britney Spears was recently photographed with a shaved head. Spears' seeming fall from grace has left fans questioning her curious judgment.

Three months later, the princess of pop seemingly fell off the brink of sanity. A week ago, Britney checked in and out of rehab in less than 24 hours. The next day she walked into a hair salon and asked to have her head shaved. After employees refused, she went to the back of the salon and shaved it herself (if you have a million dollars, you can buy some of her hair on buybritneyhair.com). Britney has recently been spotted in a heinous, ill-fitting blonde wig. She even tried rehab again — for 24 more hours.

The latest rumor is that she shaved her head in a panicked move to avoid drug testing threatened by K-Fed in order to

gain custody of their two sons. In response to Kevin's allegations, Britney must remain in rehab for at least 30 days to retain custody of her children. Prior to her entering rehab, there were photos taken of her beating on K-Fed's SUV with an umbrella.

To both fans and critics alike, there appears to be something justifiably wrong with poor Britney Spears. Unfortunately for her, her cries for help are becoming little more than tabloid fodder.

Contact Erin McGinn at emcginn@nd.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

BENGAL BOUTS

Creighton's speed catches Laughlin off balance

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

James "Turkey" Creighton was too quick for Paul "The General" Laughlin, taking the first win of the 163 lb. weight division.

Creighton took over the first round, twice peppering Laughlin with flurries of punches. Laughlin was unable to land many punches, becoming flustered after being hit. Laughlin's form broke down in the second round, and he was unable to protect himself.

In the third round, Laughlin again started fast, but sloppy footwork kept him from getting anything going. Creighton's combination of body and head shots kept Laughlin off balance.

Brian Marek def. Alex Moore

The match started quickly, each fighter sacrificing his body in order to throw as many punches as possible. The boxers settled down, but Marek was the more aggressive of the two, backing Moore around the ring.

In the third round, Moore found his jab, but a right hook from Marek caused him to stumble. At this point, the referee stopped the fight.

Matt Kernan def. Sean McFarlane

Form was sacrificed for enthusiasm in the first round as fighters threw any semblance of a punch they could muster. McFarlane got the early advantage, twice knocking Kernan off his balance.

Kernan had the better form in the third round and landed a few head shots, but McFarlane's rough style caused Kernan problems. Although backed up against the ropes, Kernan landed a head shot to back McFarlane up. He went on to land two more successive head shots, draining McFarlane of any energy he once had.

Matt Gimlett def. Frank DiRocco

Gimlett was quick with his punches in the first round, but failed to land any big hits. DiRocco landed a good body shot in the beginning of the second round and pressured Gimlett more, but Gimlett countered with his quick jab. Neither fighter could land much near the end of the round.

Gimlett's footwork made it difficult for DiRocco to get a bead on him, but DiRocco caught up.

Nazur "Naz Tee Nasty" Ahmed def. Dan "Dante's Inferno" Murphy

Ahmed pushed Murphy against the ropes again and threw every punch he had at him, but Murphy came out of it and landed three successive right hooks.

The second round was more of the same. Ahmed, visibly bleeding,

would force Murphy to the ropes, but Murphy would land a head shot to free himself. Ahmed's smaller size hindered him in the third round; most of his punches were thrown at Murphy's chest level, allowing Murphy a clear path to his head.

Patrick "The Chicago Drago" Salvi def. Tristan "The Mountain Man" Hunt

The first round was a defensive struggle as neither fighter was able to land a decisive shot or form a combo. Late in the round, pressure by Salvi forced Hunt off-balance, and he fell to the canvas.

In the second round, Salvi had the advantage, forcing Hunt around the ring until finally landing a straight shot to the face sending him to the ground. Another shot to the face knocked Hunt to the canvas a final time, forcing the referee to end the fight.

Alex "Spider Monkey" Duffy def. Kevin Archer

The fight was aggressive and evenly matched in the first round, with both boxers landing big head shots. At one point, Archer had Duffy wrapped up, but Duffy landed three straight head shots to separate himself. Neither fighter could protect himself in the second round, but it was Duffy who landed the crucial head shot. The blow made Archer woozy, causing him to stumble around and forcing the referee to stop the fight.

165 lbs.

Jeff "Delaware Destroyer" Skorup def. Aidan "Boximus Maximus" McKiernan

McKiernan seemed to have the early advantage, peppering Skorup with head shots, but Skorup caught him straight in the face, causing McKiernan to fall backwards. Neither fighter was concerned with defending himself; both let their gloves fall to chest level. Skorup came out firing in the second round, forcing McKiernan against the ropes and landing four straight head shots before the referee stopped the fight.

Matt "I'm Gonna" Decker def. Andrew "Make It Rain" Whiting

Although Decker was quicker, Whiting's footwork helped him avoid Decker's attacks until midway through the third round, when Decker caught him on the side of the head.

Decker's jab gave Whiting problems in the second round, breaking Whiting's defenses and opening the door for the right cross. Whiting landed some solid jabs of his own, but was unable to control the direction of the fight.

Decker started the third round with a jab to Whiting's face, but Whiting, unfazed, continued to jab.

Joe "The Red Rocker" Langenfeld def. Andrew "OD" O'Donnell

Neither fighter had a decisive advantage in the first round. O'Donnell once put Langenfeld on the ground, but it was the result of a shove rather than a punch.

In the second round, Langenfeld took the early lead, landing many shots to the head. O'Donnell, unable to protect himself, repeatedly shoved Langenfeld.

O'Donnell continued attacking Langenfeld, but lacked good enough form to land punches.

Joe Raupp def. Daniel "El Volcan" Salas

Raupp won the contest in a unanimous decision. Raupp struck first, landing a left to the face, which set up a flurry of combinations against the ropes. After ducking a combo from Salas, another left put Salas on the mat. Salas could not stop the jab in the first round, but remained in the fight, putting together some combos of his own.

Raupp began to employ body shots in the third round, coupling those with head shots when Salas dropped his gloves.

Jon "Duck" Kelly def. David "D Gunz" Wattel

Wattel's unorthodox fighting style coupled with his shorter stature forced him to punch blindly at Kelly's midsection while driving him backwards with his legs. At one point, Kelly stepped aside to dodge a punch and Wattel tumbled across the mat of his own accord. Kelly landed many punches on Wattel's back, because that was all that was exposed to him.

Three head shots in a row took the life out of Wattel, who was unable to land many punches in the third round.

Michael Smith def. Patrick "Q Ball" Martin

Smith won the contest by unanimous decision and took control early, landing many strong head and body shots, including a head shot that forced Martin against the ropes. The quick combinations were difficult for Martin to counter.

Smith dominated the first part of the second round, his combinations striking both Martin's head and body. Martin fought back at the end of the round, however, dodging a cross and coming back with a few combinations of his own.

170 lbs.

Steve "Ogle" Hansen def. Tom "T-Time" Hoffman

Hansen's superior footwork and form gave him a slight advantage in the fairly even first round.

In the third, Hansen unleashed a barrage of punches on Hoffman, but he eventually forced Hansen

into the corner with sharp combinations. Hansen's power proved to be too much in the end, and after Hoffman weathered many hard punches Hansen finally landed a head shot to put him on the mat, causing the referee to stop the fight.

Matthew Hopke def. Philip "Red Rose" Kirchner

Hopke started the first round with wild punches, but a good deal of them hit. In the second round, Hopke again came after Kirchner, showering him with head and body shots and forcing him to wrap up. Kirchner forced Hopke against the ropes and was able to land some stomach blows, but again had trouble protecting himself.

Hopke landed a strong left hook to start the third round, but Kirchner came right back with his own combo.

Stephen Klein def. Nicholas Zehrbach

Zehrbach had a longer wingspan, which he used to his advantage to keep Klein out of range.

In the second round, Klein was able to get inside Zehrbach's reach and land some head shots, at one point knocking Zehrbach off-balance. At the end of successive punches by both fighters, Klein caught Zehrbach with a right that sent him backwards into the ropes.

Jon "Trash Can!" Parry def. Bryan "The Mongoose" Grissinger

A quick start saw Grissinger hit the mat, but bounce right back up and hit Parry with several body shots. Several seconds later, Grissinger sent Parry to the ground.

Grissinger's right hook helped him start the second round strong, but Parry battled back and landed successive head shots. Parry countered Grissinger's right hook with his own in the third round, landing body shots to keep Grissinger from getting too close.

Craig "The Fire Sermon" Woelfel def. Andres Villalba

Woelfel started quickly, chasing Villalba around the ring and overpowering him into the ropes. Just as it looked like Woelfel would put him away, Villalba landed a right to force Woelfel away.

In the second round, Villalba came out attacking Woelfel, landing quick shot after quick shot. Woelfel was taken aback, but fought back and landed a straight shot to Villalba's face.

Joe "Joe-Pacalypse" Hagmann def. Kevin "The 'Stache" Ludwig

Hagmann had the advantage early, forcing Ludwig back on his heels with numerous quick punches. Hagmann again threw Ludwig off with his flurry of punches.

Ludwig spent most of the round on the defensive, trying to find a spell between punches to put something together.

The third round was much of the same. Hagmann landed a left to the side of Ludwig's head that forced Ludwig to stumble, but Ludwig was able to keep fighting.

Ryan Simmons def. Jordan Bucci

In a fight that could have gone either way, Simmons won in a split decision. Simmons' quick jab and Bucci's sharp right cross made the first round an even match. Bucci landed a strong right cross to Simmons' face in the opening seconds of the second round, but Simmons quickly rebounded with a left of his own. Near the end, Bucci landed another right to the side of Simmons' head, giving him control.

Conor McLaughlin def. Tom Hardman

McLaughlin took advantage of Hardman's low defenses in the first round, landing strong rights to the head. Hardman fought back, forcing McLaughlin to cover as Hardman threw body shot after body shot.

After numerous body shots from both fighters, Hardman landed a left to McLaughlin's head midway through the second round. In the third round, McLaughlin threw a hard right a few seconds into the round, knocking Hardman to the mat for the win.

175 lbs.

Kevin "Aircraft" Carrier def. Charles "The Sicilian Southpaw" Cossell

Carrier quickly put Cossell against the ropes and hit him with three straight body shots, but Cossell fought back, slinging punches at Carrier from every angle. In the beginning of the second round, Cossell took advantage of his quicker style and forced Carrier up against the ropes. In the third round, both men started strong, firing punches at each other until eventually wrapping up against the ropes.

Mike Cimino def. Dan "The Danimal" Fallon

Cimino caught Fallon with a hard hook to the side of the head early in the first round. Fallon fought back, catching Cimino with a body shot, then a head shot in the corner of the ring. Both fighters relied on their big right hooks to do their work for them, giving up on the jab entirely.

The fighters started using their left jabs and hooks in the second round, the better to clear the path for their ever-present right crosses and hooks.

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CLASSIFIEDS

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 024 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.

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NBA

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

team	record	conf.	div.
Toronto	29-25	20-11	8-2
New Jersey	25-30	19-14	6-4
New York	24-31	14-19	2-6
Philadelphia	18-36	13-18	4-5
Boston	13-40	9-24	4-7

Eastern Conference, Central Division

team	record	conf.	div.
Detroit	34-19	24-10	5-4
Cleveland	32-22	19-14	4-4
Indiana	29-24	20-13	7-4
Chicago	30-25	21-10	7-2
Milwaukee	19-36	9-23	1-10

Eastern Conference, Southeast Division

team	record	conf.	div.
Washington	30-21	20-10	6-1
Orlando	27-28	15-19	6-6
Miami	26-27	13-15	3-3
Charlotte	21-33	13-20	3-7
Atlanta	21-33	12-21	4-5

Western Conference, Northwest Division

team	record	conf.	div.
Utah	35-18	20-11	6-3
Denver	26-26	11-18	5-5
Minnesota	25-29	15-19	5-5
Portland	24-32	15-17	5-4
Seattle	21-32	10-20	2-6

Western Conference, Pacific Division

team	record	conf.	div.
Phoenix	41-13	20-10	7-2
L.A. Lakers	30-25	17-11	6-0
Golden State	26-29	14-17	3-7
L.A. Clippers	25-29	14-18	3-6
Sacramento	23-29	12-21	2-6

Western Conference, Southwest Division

team	record	conf.	div.
Dallas	44-9	30-6	12-2
San Antonio	37-18	22-11	8-4
Houston	34-19	19-17	7-6
New Orleans	26-29	15-19	4-7
Memphis	14-42	8-27	1-13

NCAA Men's Basketball
Big East Rankings

	team	overall record	pct.
1	Pittsburgh	24-4	.857
2	Georgetown	21-5	.808
3	Louisville	20-8	.714
4	NOTRE DAME	21-6	.778
5	Marquette	22-7	.759
6	Syracuse	19-8	.704
7	West Virginia	20-7	.741
8	Providence	17-9	.654
9	DePaul	16-12	.571
10	Villanova	18-9	.667
11	Connecticut	17-10	.630
12	St. John's	15-13	.536
13	Seton Hall	12-14	.462
14	USF	12-15	.444
15	Rutgers	10-17	.370
16	Cincinnati	10-17	.370

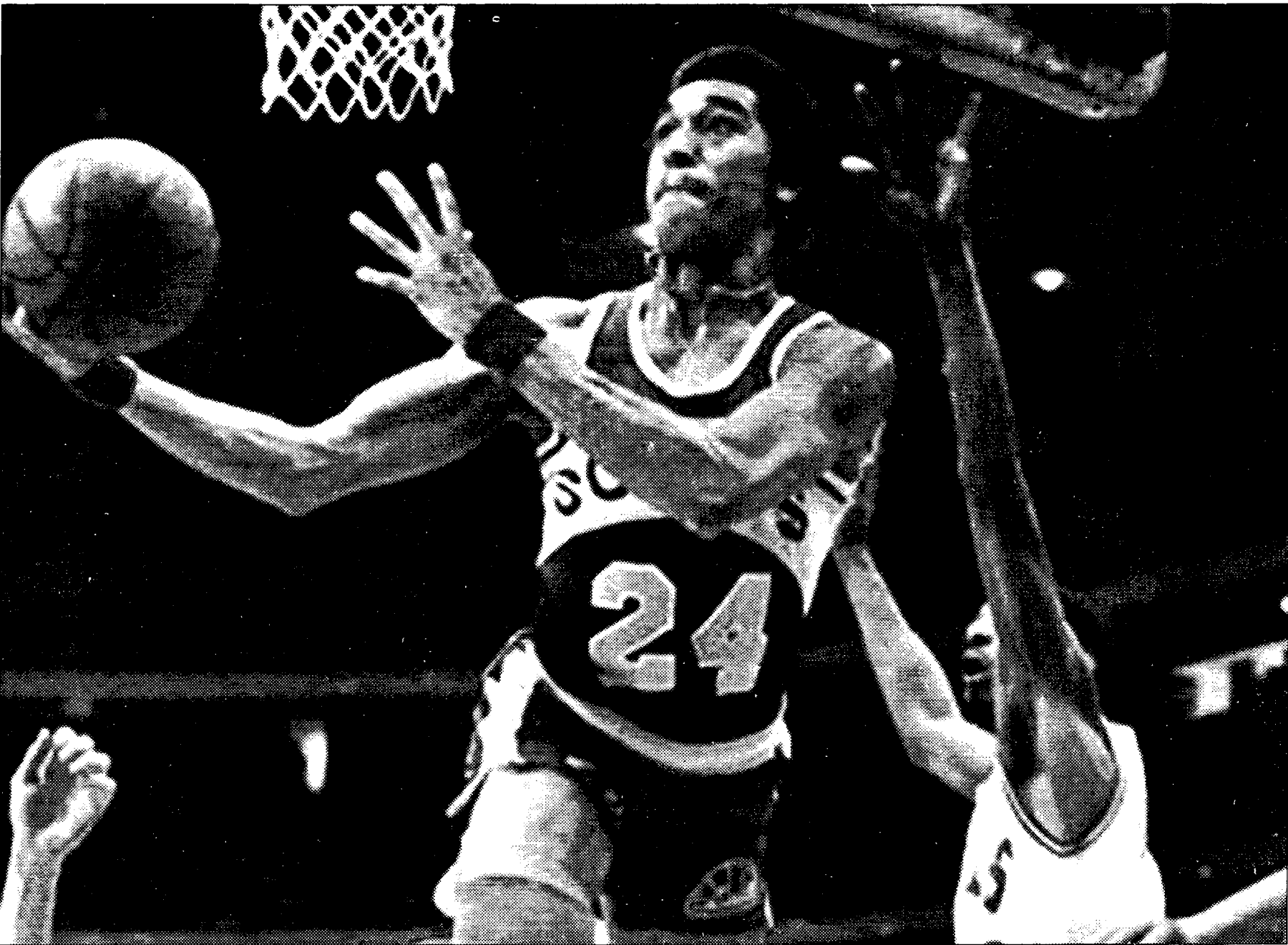
around the dial

NCAA BASKETBALL
St. Peter's at Iona
7 p.m., ESPNU

Lafayette at American
9 p.m., ESPNU

GOLF
WGC-Accenture Match Play
Championship
2 p.m., GOLF

NBA



Dennis Johnson, a five-time NBA All-Star, died of cardiac arrest after a team practice at the age of 52. Johnson, who played 14 seasons in the NBA, won titles with the Celtics and the SuperSonics.

Former NBA star Johnson dies at 52

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Dennis Johnson, the star NBA guard who was part of three championship teams and combined with Larry Bird in one of the great postseason plays, died Thursday after collapsing at the end of practice while coaching a developmental team. He was 52.

Johnson, coach of the Austin Toros, was unconscious and in cardiac arrest when paramedics arrived at Austin Convention Center, said Warren Hassinger, spokesman for Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services.

Paramedics tried to resus-

citate him for 23 minutes before he was taken to a hospital and pronounced dead, Hassinger added. Mayra Freeman, a spokeswoman for the medical examiner's office, said there will be an autopsy.

The Toros postponed home games Friday and Saturday nights, the NBA Development League said.

Johnson, a five-time All-Star and one of the top defensive guards, was part of the last Boston Celtics dynasty. He spent 14 seasons in the league and retired after the 1989-90 season. He played on title teams with the Celtics in 1984 and 1986 and with the Seattle SuperSonics in 1979,

when he was the NBA finals MVP.

"Whether he was leading his teams to NBA championships or teaching young men the meaning of professionalism, Dennis Johnson's contributions to the game went far beyond the basketball court," NBA commissioner David Stern said. "Dennis was a man of extraordinary character with a tremendous passion for the game."

Johnson was a favorite teammate of Bird's, and the two were part of one of the most memorable plays in Celtics history.

During the fifth game of the 1987 Eastern Conference finals against Detroit,

Bird stole Isiah Thomas' inbounds pass under Boston's basket and fed Johnson, who drove in for the winning layup. Boston won the series in seven games but lost to the Los Angeles Lakers in the NBA finals.

"Dennis was a great player, one of the best teammates I ever had," said Bird, now president of the Indiana Pacers. "My thoughts and condolences are with his family at this difficult time."

Bill Laimbeer, the center on that Pistons team, remembered Johnson as a "great player on a great ballclub."

IN BRIEF

Kidd stays with Nets as NBA trade deadline passes

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Jason Kidd remained with the New Jersey Nets as the NBA trade deadline passed Thursday amid concerns about his health.

The team confirmed reports on Thursday that Kidd has a cracked rib in addition to the back injury that forced him to miss two games and the NBA All-Star game.

Nets coach Lawrence Frank defended the team's decision not to publicize the rib injury, saying it didn't force Kidd to miss any games and was only discovered when Kidd's back was being examined.

"The implication was that it was being concealed, which would be a falsehood," Frank said. "We're not going to disclose every nick, bruise or bump that's not preventing a guy from playing."

Piazza starts training with the A's as full-time DH

PHOENIX, Az. — Mike Piazza appears perfectly comfortable with his new gig, even if he's really not.

He smiled Thursday as he made his way onto the field minus catching gear for the first time in his career, the last member of the Oakland Athletics to get outside for stretching as he embarked on becoming a full-time designated hitter.

At 38, Piazza is ready to begin a new baseball life. The A's don't want him to catch at all to ensure that he stays healthy — and manager Bob Geren asked him to take it easy in drills Thursday.

Piazza stood in the back of the group once he was on the field, doing some warming up on his own before the A's got going because he couldn't stay still on Day 1.

Ripken receives reception from House Speaker

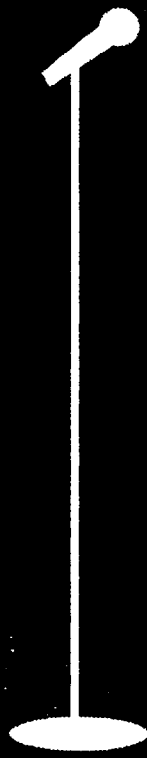
ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Cal Ripken received a big reception from Maryland lawmakers on Thursday, a month after being voted into baseball's Hall of Fame.

House Speaker Michael Busch, who said he had tried to recruit Ripken for the House of Delegate's basketball team, introduced him as "one of Maryland's great sons."

Ripken, who spent his baseball career with the Baltimore Orioles, got a big standing ovation from lawmakers. He told them the last time he received that big of an ovation, he had to run around Camden Yards, referring to when he broke Lou Gehrig's consecutive-games played record.

"You don't expect me to take a lap do you?" Ripken said. "I'll say what I said then: 'I don't think I can make it.'"

POETRY SLAM



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Bouts

continued from page 24

junior from Dillon, was unable to stop Brown's punches to the face, bloodying Gleason's nose. The referee stopped the fight after the lopsided opening round.

Scott Vitter def. John Williams

Vitter defeated Williams by unanimous decision after three intense rounds.

Vitter, a freshman from Alumni, and Williams, a junior from Fisher, fought a very even first round, both exchanging punches. In the second round the fight became a brawl, with both fighters tiring and letting down their defensive guards. Vitter opened the final round with a strong effort, landing multiple punches to the jaw of Williams. Both fighters ended a strong third round with blood dripping from their faces after a hard-fought battle.

Brian "The Candy Man" Kantor def. Andrew McConvey

McConvey defeated Kantor when the referee ended the fight after two rounds.

Both fighters came out swinging in a sloppy first round, with Kantor, a Keough sophomore, bloodying McConvey's nose early in the round. McConvey, a freshman from Zahm, closed the first round with more patience — and blood seeping from his nose. Both fighters were more patient and defensive in a much cleaner second round, but McConvey's bleeding nose caused the referee to end the fight at the round's conclusion.

Brendan Neary def. Andrews "Rage" Massari

Neary defeated Massari in a unanimous decision after three rounds.

Alumni sophomores Neary and Massari fought a very clean first round, with both fighters holding up their defenses and throwing strategic blows. Both came out more aggressively in the second round, but Massari appeared to hold the advantage throughout. The third round was a very even contest, with both fighters showing incredible fitness and landing strong punches.

180

Dan Ward def. Patrick Allare

Ward defeated Allare after the referee stopped the fight before the start of the third round.

Both Ward and Allare fought a very technical first round, each boxer probing for the other's weakness. In the second round, Ward, an off-campus senior, appeared to take control, drawing blood from Allare and temporarily stopping the fight. Allare, a Keenan sophomore, fought hard but was not allowed to continue after two hard-fought rounds.

Adam "Alpha Fox" Frisch def. Chris Schaal

Frisch, a senior from St. Edward's, appeared to win the first round, landing many well-placed punches and staying out of reach of Schaal's blows. The second round featured more of the same, with Schaal, a freshman from Dillon, unable to land a solid blow. Frisch stayed in control during the third round to ensure the victory.

Alex Lough def. Steve Gallagher

Lough appeared to be in control after a solid first round, taking advantage of Gallagher's wild punches. Gallagher, a senior from Stanford, landed a few glancing blows in the second, but still seemed behind. Lough and Gallagher exchanged blows in the third round, with Gallagher taking the worst of the beating.

Tom Digan def. Ken Shamrell

Digan defeated Shamrell, a sophomore from Siegfried, after the referee stopped the match midway through the second round.

Digan, an off-campus senior, showed his intensity in the first round and landed many strong blows to Shamrell's head. Digan began the second round with a huge right, knocking Shamrell off his feet. After Shamrell began bleeding from his nose, the referee ended the fight.

John Soltis def. Andy "Doogie" Houser

Midway through a seemingly even first round Soltis, a sophomore from Morrissey, landed a huge blow that knocked down Houser.

In the second round, Houser, a senior from Alumni, appeared to recover, trading blows in an even round. Soltis slipped near the beginning of the third, but quickly recovered to earn the

win.

Rafael "Don't Call Me Ralph" Diaz def. Moses "Chocolate Bear" Papier

In a clean first round, Morrissey sophomore Diaz seemed to be on top, evading many of Papier's punches and drawing blood from his opponent's nose. In the second round, Papier, an off-campus junior, was forced to stop temporarily as the bloody nose continued. Diaz continued to pound away at Papier's face in the third, driving the referee to stop the match.

Leo Rubinkowski def. Adam "The Prosecutor" Pabarcus

Rubinkowski used his long reach to his advantage in the first round, landing a strong left hand that caused Pabarcus to stumble backward and lose his balance. Pabarcus, a senior from Keenan, repaid the favor to open the second, causing Rubinkowski to trip backwards. Rubinkowski recovered quickly, however, and still appeared to take the round. Rubinkowski dominated the third, drawing blood before the referee ended the match.

Heavyweight

Andrew Lorenz def. Liam Moran

Lorenz defeated Moran, a senior from Alumni, after the referee called the match midway through the second round.

Lorenz, a sophomore from Fisher, appeared to win the first round, battering Moran with a flurry of punches before the bell.

Lorenz continued to dominate in the second round, landing a huge right hook that left Moran staggering against the ropes.

Spencer Feran def. Tim "Thin Lizzy" Chilcote

Feran defeated Chilcote by unanimous decision after three intense rounds.

Feran, an off-campus senior, appeared slightly ahead at the end of close first round. Chilcote, an off-campus graduate student, was unable to use his long reach in the second and spent most of his time avoiding Feran's punches. Feran took total control in the third, trapping Chilcote in the corner and landing jab after jab to Chilcote's midsection.

Karl Kadon def. Jason Miller

Kadon bullied Miller, an off-campus graduate student, around the ring in the first round, relentlessly pursuing his retreating opponent. An off-campus senior, Kadon remained on the offensive in a quieter second round. Miller began the third with an inspired effort, but could not do enough damage to Kadon to make up any ground.

Pat "Third Degree" Burns def. Raphael Flood

Burns won a very close match over Flood by split decision.

Flood, an off-campus law student, controlled the first round with a series of strong jabs. Burns, a freshman from Keenan, made up ground in the second with his agility, proceeding to knock Flood off balance near the end of the round. With Flood tiring in the third round, Burns appeared to be in control before a last-second knock-down by Flood.

Joe "The Unfriendly Possum" Siler def. Jeremy "The Mariachi" Moreno

In a very clean first round, neither fighter appeared to take the advantage. Moreno,

a senior from Fisher, continued to hold his own in the second despite giving up a large advantage in height and reach. Both fighters traded punches in the final round of a match that came down to the final bell.

Chris Nanovic def. Tim "Silky Smooth" Latham

Nanovic, a senior from Alumni, appeared to hold a slight advantage after a sloppy first round. Latham, a Knott freshman, gained momentum in the second, effectively countering Nanovic's blows. Nanovic came out very aggressively in the third, forcing Latham on the defensive and sealing the victory.

Super heavyweight

Mike Kaiser def. Ben "The Iceman" Frost

The first round was a defensive battle, with Kaiser holding Frost away with his long reach and taking a small advantage. Kaiser, a sophomore from Morrissey, continued to grind away while keeping Frost, a freshman from Dillon, at a safe distance. Frost landed several punches to the body in the third, but Kaiser was able to hold him off for the win.

Joe Vittoria def. Eamon Cantwell

Vittoria took control of the first round, landing strong blows over and over on Cantwell's stomach and head. Cantwell, a graduate student, could not avoid Vittoria's strong rights, and the second round again went to Vittoria. Cantwell continued to receive a battering early in the third until the referee stopped the fight.

Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu

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MEN'S LACROSSE

No. 11 Irish travel to Happy Valley



Freshman attack Will Yeatman, right, drives down the field against Loyola Feb. 17. The Irish defeated the Greyhounds 9-7.

By PAT O'BRIEN
Sports Writer

A week after an impressive home victory against then-No. 13 Loyola (Md.), the Notre Dame men's lacrosse team will travel to Happy Valley, Penn., to take on Penn State this Sunday at 1 p.m. The Irish will try to start strong on the road after finishing 4-5 away from home last year.

Notre Dame (1-0) used last week to prepare for the Nittany Lions. Usually, the Irish face Penn State in the season opener, but the matchup is their second game this year.

"This will be another hard fought game," Irish coach Kevin Corrigan said. "The games against them have been rarely decided by more than a few goals."

Penn State (0-1) started its season with a 10-5 loss to Denver last weekend. The Lions led 5-3 at halftime but were outscored 7-0 in the second half. Still, Penn State freshman sensation Chris Hogan made an immediate impact by netting a team-high two goals.

Along with Hogan, senior captains Pat Heim, Dan Saltsman and Matt Mulqueen will be important factors for the Nittany Lions.

Penn State received five votes in the latest Inside Men's Lacrosse Magazine Division I Poll, meaning that they have remained in the top 25 teams. Last week, they were placed at 17.

"Penn State will be hungry to win this one after losing to Denver," Irish junior goalie Joey Kemp said. "We have to travel, and this game should not be taken lightly."

For senior attacker Brian Hubschmann, the game is "a big rivalry."

Penn State senior attacker Brian Boyle transferred as a freshman from Notre Dame, but Hubschmann said he and Boyle have remained friends.

"[Our relationship] has added more to the rivalry," Hubschmann said. "It's not bad blood, but he used to go [to

Notre Dame.] That makes me want to win even more."

Notes

♦ Joey Kemp was named Great Western Lacrosse League (GWLL) Player of the Week for Feb. 12-18. He played a key part in the victory over Loyola (Md.) by making nine saves and holding the Greyhounds scoreless in the last quarter and a half of the game.

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MEN'S TENNIS

Team takes on two top-50 rivals

By DEIRDRE KRASULA
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will look to maintain its home winning streak as it takes on two nationally ranked opponents this weekend. The No. 9 Irish will face off with No. 22 Michigan today and No. 45 Northwestern Sunday.

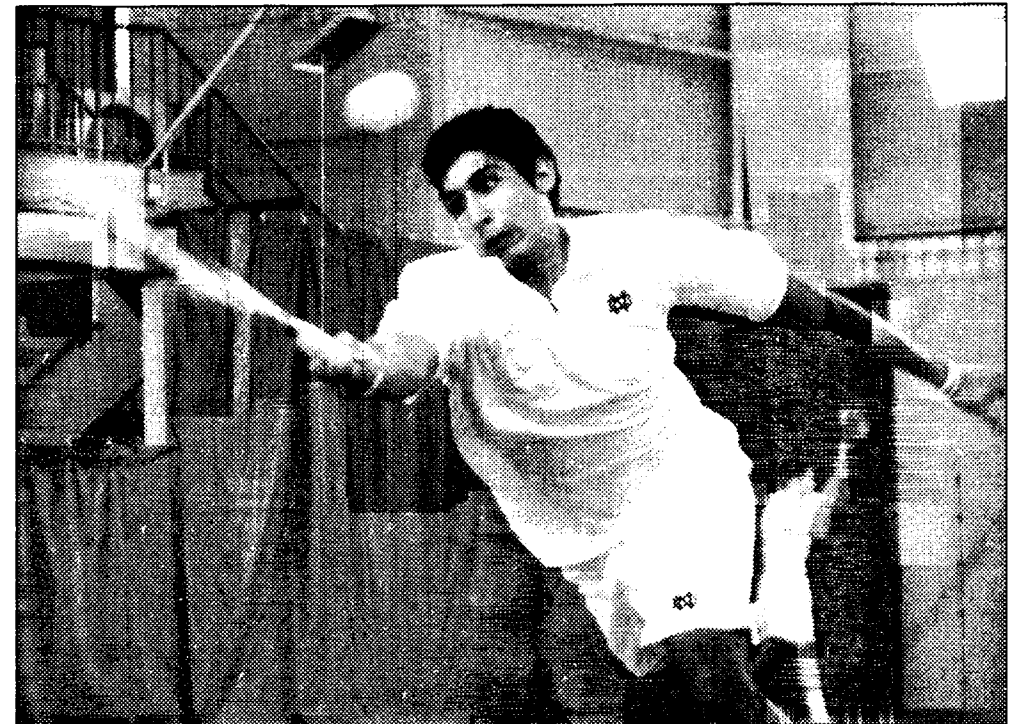
Notre Dame (8-2) returns home after a 2-1 showing at the USTATTA National Team Indoor Championships. The Irish fell early on to No. 8 Pepperdine 4-2, but rallied to post 4-0, 4-1 wins over No. 66 Pennsylvania and No. 16 Texas, respectively. The win over Texas marked the end of a 10-match losing streak against the Longhorns.

Despite losing to Pepperdine, Notre Dame remained at No. 9 in the ITA team rankings.

The Irish saw changes in the individual rankings, however. Senior Stephen Bass climbed from No. 14 to No. 11 in singles ranking, and junior Sheeva Parbhu moved from No. 30 to No. 27. Sophomore Brett Helgeson broke the top-100 for the first time this season, placing at No. 94.

Notre Dame saw improved doubles rankings as well. Senior Ryan Keckley and Parbhu broke the top 10, moving from No. 11 to No. 9.

Michigan started its season with a 6-0 run and in the process defeated No. 16 Texas 5-2. The



TIM SULLIVAN/The Observer

Junior Sheeva Parbhu returns a volley at No. 2 singles against Indiana Jan. 29. Notre Dame defeated the Hoosiers 7-0.

Wolverines only loss came when they fell 2-5 to No. 4 Virginia. Michigan comes to South Bend after defeating Northwestern — Notre Dame's opponent this Sunday — 5-2.

The Irish will face challenges from the start when Keckley and Parbhu face No. 3 Brian Hung and Matko Maravic. The duo most recently defeated No. 27 Matt Christian and Willy Lock from Northwestern, bringing its record to 7-1. No. 44 Maravic also saw victory at No. 2 singles with a 6-3, 2-6, 6-4 win over Northwestern's Willy Lock.

Northwestern will host No. 59

Oklahoma today before traveling to take on the Irish in South Bend Sunday. Northwestern's defeat to Michigan marked the third consecutive loss for the Wildcats, who fell to No. 4 Mississippi and No. 44 Penn State.

Notre Dame will look to take advantage of its home court schedule for the weekend, hoping to continue an undefeated streak at home.

The Observer was unable to reach coach Bobby Bayliss Thursday night for comment.

Contact Deirdre Krasula at
dkrasula@nd.edu

The Office of Student Affairs is now accepting nominations for the

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Write Sports.
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BASEBALL

Irish head south for tournament

By DEIRDRE KRASULA
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will look to rebound from two consecutive losses to Texas State as it travels to Myrtle Beach, S.C. for the Baseball at the Beach Tournament. The team hopes to find consistency this weekend.

"I've never had a team play better coming out from inside to outside than we did last Saturday," Notre Dame coach Dave Schrage said. "Sunday we didn't play very well, so it was kind of what team do we have here? Each weekend we will be looking for improvement."

The Irish won't find any easier challenges in Myrtle Beach this weekend. Notre Dame takes on UNC-Wilmington out of the gate and then faces formidable games against No. 12 Texas Christian as well as Coastal Carolina. The Irish, currently 1-2, will look to get up to at least .500 before conference play begins.

"If you look at the history [Notre Dame has] hovered around .500 early in the season and then by the time conference came around started to play better," Schrage said.

The Seahawks will start freshman Daniel Cropper to face the Irish in their matchup.

Notre Dame will be challenged from the mound again on Saturday when it takes on the Horned Frogs. The Irish will face either senior Chance Corgan or sophomore Chris Johnson but will evade the threat of Jake Arrieta. Arrieta — who pitched this summer for Team USA — will pitch today against Coastal Carolina to open play for the Frogs.

But Notre Dame has its own power from the mound to counter UNC-Wilmington and TCU. Junior Wade Korpi will likely open the tournament for the Irish when they take on UNC-Wilmington today. Sophomores David Phelps and Brett Graffy will start for Notre Dame on Saturday and

Sunday, respectively.

Schrage is confident in the starting rotation.

"I like our three starters in our bullpen going down there this weekend against anybody," he said. "I was really pleased with how [our starting pitching] threw [last weekend], and I think as the season evolves you will notice that we have some pitching depth and we have a lot of guys that we can use."

Notre Dame heads down to Myrtle Beach with the hopes of improving before the swiftly approaching conference season. Schrage said the team welcomes the opportunity to get as much playing time as it can.

"We are excited to get outside and play some great teams," he said.

No. 12 TCU, one of the best overall teams in the country, will certainly test the strength the Irish on all levels.

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ND SOFTBALL

California to pose challenge on road

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Writer

Notre Dame heads west this weekend to play in the Palm Springs Classic for the third time in program history. The Irish are slated to play double-headers this afternoon and Saturday before finishing their trip with an early Sunday morning matchup with Ole Miss.

The team struggled in its last two appearances at the tournament that consistently draws the top teams in the nation. In its first appearance in Palm Springs, the team went 1-3 with big losses to Pacific (12-1) and the U.S. Olympic team (10-0). The Irish did not fare much better the following year, held to three runs in their first four games

— all losses. However, they did salvage the trip by beating No. 5 Tennessee 5-2 in the final contest.

"You find out very quickly where you are at early in the year," Irish coach Deanna Gumpf said. "Some things aren't completely worked out but it helps us locate our weaknesses early."

Notre Dame, who opened up the season with a 2-5 record at the Tiger Invitational last weekend, will face tough opponents again in California.

Today will be the team's toughest day as they square off against No. 10/12 Oklahoma and No. 11/17 California. The Sooners (11-0) won their past three games by a combined score of 37-3. Junior centerfielder Jamie Fox has led the recent onslaught with eight RBI.

Sophomore pitcher Brittany Bargar will have her work cut out for her in shutting down Fox and the rest of the powerful Sooner lineup. Bargar went 2-1 last weekend, throwing complete games in both of her wins over hosts Auburn and Tennessee Tech.

"We have to slow them down with great pitches," Gumpf said. "If we put the ball in the right places we should be OK."

Senior Kenya Fuemmeler will get the start in the second game of the day against the Golden Bears. Cal enters the tournament with a 7-4 record and a three-game win streak of its own. However, run production has been streaky for the Bears so far this season — they have failed to score more than two runs in five of their games so far.

Saturday games against UNIV and Cal State Fullerton round out Notre Dame's schedule for the trips. The Irish played both team in the Las Vegas Classic at the start of the 2006 season. They handled the Runnin' Rebels with no problems in a 9-3 win. Then-freshman Linda Kohan's second-career home run gave the Irish a comfortable lead early in the game.

The following day, the offense slowed down against Fullerton, losing 3-2 in a pitcher's duel.

This year another freshman has taken over the home run crown for the Irish. Third baseman Heather Johnson started out her Notre Dame career with a walk-off home run against Tennessee Tech in only her third collegiate game.

"She is just a good ball player. She didn't get nervous, she was nice and relaxed the whole weekend," Gumpf said.

Johnson currently leads the Big East conference in batting average (.500), on base percentage (.500) and slugging percentage (.750). Her eight hits and four RBI are also both good enough for fifth on the early conference leader board.

Gumpf said she hopes the Irish can continue to hit well while working out some of last weekend's kinks by shoring up their defense.

Contact Dan Murphy at
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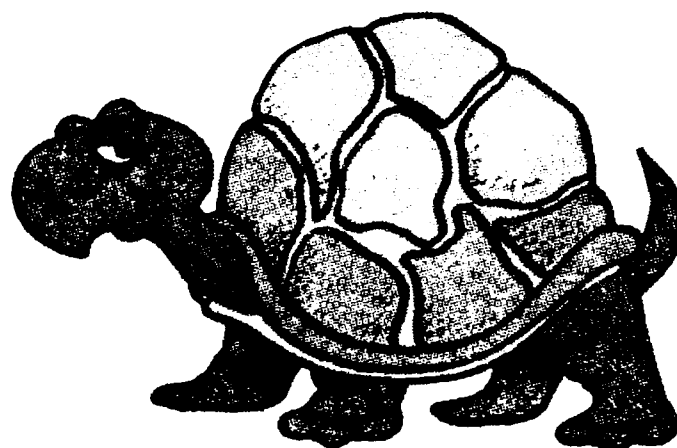
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ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Irish look to continue winning streak at home

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Writer

After taking on some of the best teams in the nation, the Irish get a break.

No. 2 Notre Dame will face No. 59 Iowa Sunday at the Eck Tennis Pavilion. The match will be the first for the Irish since defeating No. 20 Wake Forest last Sunday, the third of three wins over top-25 opponents for Notre Dame last week.

"We still have to work quite a bit on our doubles," Irish coach Jay Louderback said. "Even though we won all three against Wake, we still struggled a little bit against North Carolina."

The Irish (9-1) defeated the No. 5 Tar Heels, the Demon Deacons and No. 24 Michigan within a span of five days. Against North Carolina, Notre Dame lost the doubles point for only the second time all season.

"We had all three doubles teams working on things they struggled with," Louderback said. "We worked on different types of patterns and shots. [Seniors Christian and Catrina Thompson] were hurt a lot by lobs. We worked on things to counteract the lob."

Louderback also said he used the time off to heal some injured players, including sophomore Kelcy Tefft, who has been suffering from a pulled stomach muscle.

"Kelcy is close to full strength," Louderback said. "A couple of our players have been sick like everybody else on campus."

The Irish try to keep their win streak alive against the

Hawkeyes (3-3). Sophomore Merel Beelen leads Iowa with a 6-0 dual match record this season.

"Their top three are older and have been around, so we've seen them some. But their lineup is good," Louderback said. "I think their lower kids were freshmen a year ago and now they're a year older. I think they'll be good. They seem like they always play well against us."

In the latest version of the ITA computer rankings, Notre Dame's doubles teams of Thompson and Thompson and Tefft and junior Brook Buck are ranked No. 5 and No. 15, respectively. Catrina Thompson rose from her preseason ranking of No. 41 to No. 16 while freshman Colleen Rielley slipped from No. 31 to No. 73 in singles.

Missing from the rankings is freshman Cosmina Ciobanu. Ciobanu is a perfect 10-0 on the season and has an overall record of 20-4 since joining Notre Dame.

"We were a little bit surprised. She's beaten kids that are ranked and hasn't lost a match. That's a little surprising. You just never know," Louderback said. "The rankings are strange anyway, especially early in the year. The team rankings are a little better because there's voting, but the individual rankings are done on computer, so you just never know, especially early in the year."

The match Sunday begins at 10 a.m.

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ND WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Byers to lead team in season opener

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Sports Writer

Last year the Notre Dame women's lacrosse team went a perfect 9-0 at home — an achievement the team will try to reproduce this season, starting with Saturday's home opener against No. 18 Stanford.

Irish coach Tracy Coyne said the team doesn't plan on the home winning streak ending any time soon.

"We're taking the streak very seriously," she said. "We always have a lot of pride playing at home."

The No. 5 Irish (1-0), started the regular season last Saturday with a clutch 10-9 sudden-death overtime win over No. 12 James Madison.

The Irish trailed most of game, and were just 19 seconds away from defeat when junior Caitlin McKinney netted an unassisted goal in the final moments of regulation. The Ducks took a 9-7 lead in the opening half of the six-minute overtime period after two goals by senior Kelly Berger.

Notre Dame responded quickly in the second half of overtime, however, with an early goal by sophomore Jillian Byers. Then, with just nine seconds left in overtime, McKinney scored another

clutch goal to tie the game at 9-8 and advance to sudden-death.

Both teams played strong defense in the sudden-death overtime.

With 16 seconds remaining senior Lena Zentgraf assisted Byers for the game-winning goal, the sixth of the game for Byers.

Notre Dame was led by Byers six goals, and McKinney's two clutch goals. Senior Meghan Murphy also added two goals in the winning effort.

Coyne said the experience against James Madison will help the team going into the match with Stanford.

"That game gave us confidence, and a motivation to start out fast," Coyne said. "We always play a close game with Stanford and we expect another battle."

The Cardinal (1-2) started off the regular season with a tough 10-6 loss at Oregon. Stanford then rebounded against Saint Mary's (Calif.) with a dominant 22-6 win.

The Cardinal then dropped their home opener in a 14-8 loss to No. 2 Duke.

In last year's matchup at Stanford, the Irish rallied from a 9-4 deficit for a 12-11 double-overtime win.

Contact Michael Bryan at
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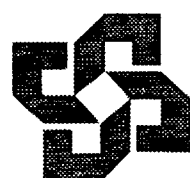


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FENCING

Notre Dame keeps up hard work for Duals

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

Two days before the team's penultimate regular season competition, Notre Dame was going after it.

The upper third of junior epeeist Greg Howard's shirt was drenched in sweat. Senior sabreist Valerie Providenza used the dry spots left on hers to wipe off her brow. From end to end in the Langford Gym, the Irish went from station to station, working on technique and anaerobic conditioning.

The focus: Work on technique when the body's tiring.

"It was very intense training," Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said.

Bednarski said the Irish would continue to train in short, intense segments as the season draws to a close.

Howard, whose back looked like an ink blot by its symmetric sweat stain, said the Irish have focused more on conditioning this season than in the past. That training could play a key role in Saturday's 15-team Northwestern Duals in Evanston, Ill.

The field includes Penn State, Ohio State, Northwestern and Temple. The Nittany Lions own the No. 1 ranking on both the men's and women's side nationally, and the Buckeyes are No. 2 and No. 5, respectively. The Wildcat women are tied for No. 6, and the Owls are No. 9 on the women's side.

"It's important that we do well

against Penn State because they're a big rival of ours," Howard said. "I think everybody knows what they have to do — everybody's pretty focused."

North Carolina, Wayne State, Johns Hopkins, Cleveland State, Detroit, Fairleigh Dickinson, Lawrence, Michigan and Michigan State also will be competing this weekend.

For the Irish, traveling to Northwestern rendezvous will be a rematch. The Notre Dame women grabbed a 14-13 victory over the Wildcats in the NYU Duals Jan. 28. On that day, the women's epeeists' 7-2 edge — including senior Amy Orlando's clinching, 4-3 overtime victory in the match's last bout — put the Irish over the top.

"We had a strong tournament against them," Bednarski said. "Now ... I am sure they are stronger."

This time, Northwestern coach Laurie Schiller said, the Wildcats hope to reverse the results. In a telephone interview with The Observer, he said his freshman fencing twins — epeeists Christa and Kayley French — have adjusted since the NYU Duals to the quick pace of five-touch college bouts.

But Irish junior foilist Rachel Cota said Notre Dame isn't going to be looking back Saturday.

"Saturday's a new day," she said. "I think everyone is really excited."

Contact Ken Fowler at
kfowler1@nd.edu

FSU

continued from page 24

"First of all, Ferris is playing really well in the last month, and secondly is that there are repercussions in the big picture."

The big picture that Jackson referred to was the NCAA Tournament field, which is determined by a NCAA Selection Committee based on a rating system known as the PairWise Rankings (PWR).

Notre Dame, despite being No. 1 in all media polls, is currently third in the PWR behind Minnesota and New Hampshire due to a weak strength of schedule that has only gotten worse as marquee teams that the Irish have beaten — like Boston College — have struggled this year.

The PWR are used to determine not only which 16 teams make the Tournament, but also where they are seeded. As long as Notre Dame sits in the top four of the PWR, it will receive a No. 1 seed in one of the four regionals when the Tournament begins.

"Our strength of schedule has killed us, and our strength of schedule is not going to go up this weekend," Jackson said. "So the only way that we can stay where we are, or move up, is to win."

In practice Thursday, Jackson bore down hard on his players when they could not break the puck out of their defensive zone — a recent problem for the Irish. Jackson said the defensemen have been tentative with the puck, and the forwards responsible for supporting the breakout down low and on the wings have not been there.

"If anything has come down in our game over the last half of the

season, it's that our puck support is not as good as it was," Jackson said. "Whether it's on the breakout, or in the neutral zone, or on the counterattack or on the cycle."

Irish captain T.J. Jindra recognized that Notre Dame has struggled on the breakout lately, but said this weekend will be a chance to fix any problems.

"Our goal is to be the best we can here at the end and sometimes some things are clicking well and sometimes other things aren't clicking that well," Jindra said. "The last couple weeks our breakout has been maybe not that great, but this is another weekend for us to work on it and get ready for the playoffs."

Jackson has not decided if he will deploy Irish goalie Dave Brown for both games or split time with sophomore backup Jordan Pearce, who earned last Saturday's 3-2 overtime win against Alaska.

"We're going to have thirteen, fourteen days off before our next game. So I want to make sure [Brown is] sharp going into the second round of the playoffs — because he's not fatigued," Jackson said. "I've had no instinct from him, or from what I see, that he's tired."

The Irish, who have only lost twice since Dec. 2, will be off next weekend while the fifth through 12th place teams in the CCHA play best-of-three first round series. The teams will all be re-seeded after the round is over, with top-seeded Notre Dame to play the lowest-remaining seed.

The puck will drop tonight at 7:35, while Saturday's regular-season finale and Senior Night will begin at 7:05 p.m.

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IRISH ATHLETICS

#1 HOCKEY

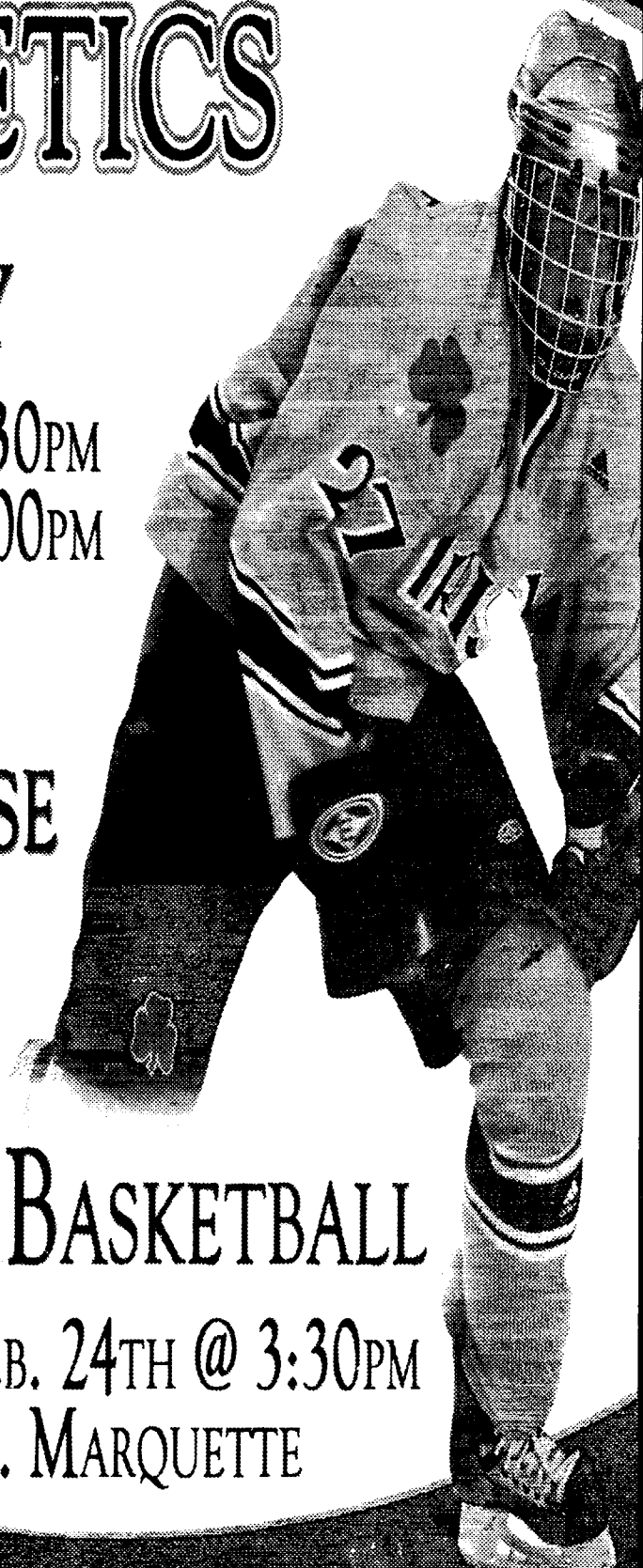
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VS. STANFORD

#23 MEN'S BASKETBALL

SAT, FEB. 24TH @ 3:30PM
VS. MARQUETTE



Please recycle The Observer.

Eagles

continued from page 24

over the Blue Demons Tuesday.

"We have a chance to do something really impressive Saturday and finish undefeated at home," senior guard Colin Falls said.

The Golden Eagles come into Saturday's matchup after losing three of their last four, but Brey said he thinks Marquette's 80-67 win over Villanova Monday gave them their confidence back.

"They're back in gear," he said. "They're really, really talented."

The Golden Eagles are led by sophomore guards Dominic James, Jarel McNeal and Wesley Matthews, who are averaging more than 40 points per game this season. Because

all three are quick, they present match-up problems for the Irish.

Freshman Tory Jackson and senior Russell Carter will probably man-up two of them, while Falls and forward Zach Hillesland will most likely rotate on the third.

Inside, Marquette is weaker, with junior Ousmane Barro leading the big men with 8.4 points per game. Irish forwards Rob Kurz and Luke Harangody will look for the ball early and often on offense and will try to clog the lane against the quick guards of the Golden Eagles on defense.

With Notre Dame's advantage in the low post, Brey said he wants to make Saturday's contest a physical struggle similar to the 66-63 Irish victory over Villanova Jan. 27.

"It'll be really physical, probably Villanova-like," he said. "The two teams are

going to go at it on Saturday."

Brey said after the DePaul game that he wanted his team to relax in the days leading up to the showdown with Marquette. He gave the team Wednesday off and scheduled light workouts Thursday and today to make sure they were fresh for Saturday.

"Our guys are pretty good now," Brey said. "We can pace them and be smart about it."

In order to keep his team loose, Brey said he downplayed the importance of Saturday's game despite the high ranking of the two teams. The Irish are still likely to make the NCAA tournament, he said, and can still get a bye at the Big East tournament even with a loss.

"It's not the end of the world," he said.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

Rutgers

continued from page 24

player, pestering opponents all season long. But unlike previous seasons, the senior guard has become increasingly more involved in the Irish's offensive scheme.

"I think she has really achieved her potential and at times over-achieved what we hoped that she would be for us," McGraw said.

Although Erwin has not received as much praise as Gray this year, McGraw said the forward has played unselfishly all season long.

"She doesn't care about individual accolades — she just wants to do whatever she can to help the team," McGraw said.

In order to prepare for Saturday's game, McGraw focused her attention on improving the team's offense. She said

the most important things to work on are the team's press offense and man-to-man offense because of Rutgers' style of play.

"It's playing against a team that will be similar to what Tennessee did against us, and we haven't played against teams like that in a while, so we really need to work on playing against a pressure defense," she said.

With two games remaining in the season, the Irish can clinch a first-round bye in the Big East tournament if they win out. Notre Dame could also clinch with a win and losses from West Virginia and Louisville.

"It's going to be really difficult to accomplish that with the two teams we have left, we might need some help from some other people," McGraw said. "But it's great to be in control of your own destiny."

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa5@nd.edu

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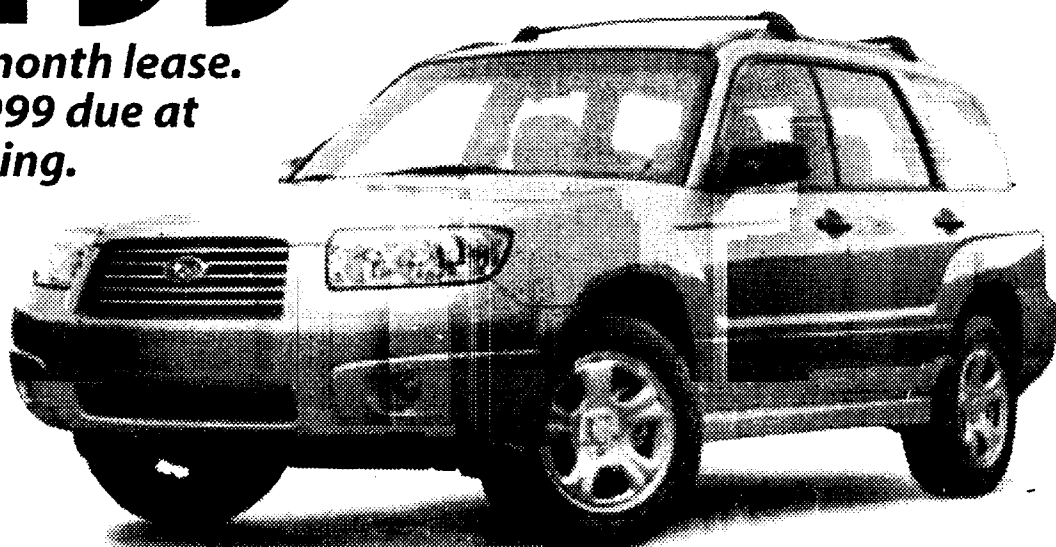
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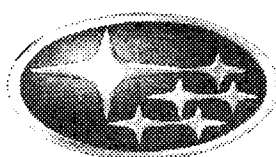
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7. _____ Dog is good.

13. Yellow cake batter and chocolate icing is a bada** flavor or _____

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10. What day is it?

11. Captain Morgan's commanding officer, Admiral _____

12. Maybe I shouldn't have gotten _____ before boxing that dude.

14. What are you eating today?

DOWN

1. Edward _____ Hands

2. Peers Inspiring Listening, Learning & Responsible Socializing accr.

3. Choosy moms choose _____

4. Mammals that can't live on land

8. It becomes difficult creating clues for this _____ word puzzle

9. "I like girls that wear Abercrombie and _____"

CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS

1 Declare one's intentions publicly

16 Job for one doing character studies?

17 Be in a very advantageous position

18 Old roadside name

19 Indication that one is being rubbed the right way

20 String along

21 Physics units

23 Deadlines on eBay are given in it: Abbr.

38 Locales of frequent injuries

39 "F Troop" role

40 Fire, to Flavius

41 Point (to)

42 Old cable inits.

45 They're not in

48 Like some mail or traffic

52 Amorous bit

53 Image: Var.

57 Longtime La Scala conductor

60 It can take a lot of heat

61 Summer resort area famous for recreational boating

DOWN

1 "Am _____ Man" (1960 Jackie Wilson hit)

2 Cramped urban accommodations, for short

3 "Do the Right Thing" pizzeria

4 Release

5 What that might be in Spain

6 Quiet

7 Where "Otello" premiered

8 Almost too late

9 Book between Ezra and Esther: Abbr.

10 Hot

11 Something that's often made up

12 Series ender

13 Some cough medicine: Var.

14 Lincoln in-laws

15 Kickoff

21 Sharp turn

22 Falling-out

24 Kind of crime

25 Ending to avoid?

26 Actor who roared to fame?

27 Brother of Nintendo's Mario

29 Rank

30 It's good to graduate with them

31 Transfuse

33 It means "red" in Mongolian

34 Kidney secretion

35 Village, in Würzburg

36 Tennis star _____ Huber

47 Joins in space

49 Cabriole performer's wear

50 Dwarf planet just beyond the Kuiper Belt

51 "Cannery Row" woman

53 On Wilshire Blvd., say

54 Furnace

55 Like a line, briefly

56 Quibbles

58 World

59 Not fare well

JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ZALEH

VEVER

RAWHOR

SHRAID

There goes my permanent

WHAT THE GIRL GOT WHEN THEY FROLICKED IN THE OCEAN.

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

A: " _____ " IN _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CUBIT POUCH BROKEN COMPEL
Answer: When the diner said, "Well done," he wasn't praising — THE COOK

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Patricia Richardson, 55; John Sandford, 62; Peter Fonda, 66; Kristin Davis, 41

Happy Birthday: You will show great potential this year in saving for your future. Set up a budget and a plan. A little will go a long way if you are organized and smart about the way you do things. An innovative approach to life and what you decide to do will pay off. Your numbers are 2, 5, 18, 26, 32, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Trying to learn something will be frustrating. Refrain from pointing the finger at someone else or complaining about something you know little about. Take a break if possible away from everyone else and rethink your strategy. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will come across an opportunity to make some extra cash. You can take a bit of a risk if you do your research properly. Be thorough but don't shy away from a good thing because of your own insecurities. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will have reason to worry about someone you are close to. Before you say something, think about the consequences. Once you've said what you think, you can't retract it. Reevaluate your motives before you take action. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Productivity should be your intent. You may not be happy with some of the things going on in your personal life but now is not the time to falter when it comes to how you earn your living. Responsible action will lead to advancement. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Make the physical and mental alterations that will raise your self-esteem, putting you back on top of things. Your vision of where you see yourself in the future should help you strategize your path to success. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take time out to help the younger and older people in your life. Neglecting your roots and personal life will not help you get ahead. An opportunity is present but the cost involved may not be worth it. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You won't be able to count on others today. Focus on what you do best and avoid taking on anything that requires asking for help. Secret affairs are prevalent and, although you may be flattered by the compliments you receive, it is best to decline. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Talk to someone in promotion and marketing. You can turn an innovative idea into a cash cow if you follow the proper procedures and get the right backing. This is an ideal time to turn your dreams into a reality. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't be suckered into doing things for people who are capable of doing for themselves. You will be blamed for anything that goes wrong today. If you have borrowed money or possessions, expect the person you owe to ask for their return. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Change is necessary if you want to brighten up your personal life. Backtracking won't be easy if you do make a mistake, so be sure before you set your plans in motion. Follow your instincts and you aren't likely to make a mistake. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You have to make opportunities for yourself. Set up a game plan for the future and stick to it. Create a position that will suit you or start your own business. Your attributes are far more serviceable than you realize. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't be too eager to give your secret plans away. Avoid being railroaded into donating or lending money. Offer support through your services, time or suggestions. Truly put your efforts into yourself and your future. ****

Birthday Baby: You are charming, bright and full of creative ideas and plans. You attract attention and lots of friends. You are giving, intense, solid and responsible.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

THE OBSERVER

Published Monday through Friday, The Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's Community.

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HOCKEY

ND looks to finish strong against Ferris State

By KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writer

It's been a long time since unranked Notre Dame plucked then-No. 1 Boston College 7-1 in the second game of the season, but not much has changed for the Irish since that statement game four months ago.

"When you're winning, [time] always seems to fly by," Irish coach Jeff Jackson said Thursday, a day before his team was set to begin its last regular-season series. "It seems like it drags a little bit more when you're not."

The No. 1 Irish (26-5-3, 20-3-3

CCHA) will play Ferris State (12-19-3, 9-15-2 CCHA) at the Joyce Center this weekend in their last two games before the CCHA tournament.

The Irish will also take time to honor their senior class at Saturday night's game. From the first-ever NCAA Tournament berth in 2004 to a miserable five-win season the year after and right back up to a No. 1 ranking, CCHA regular-season title and a guaranteed NCAA berth this year, the eight seniors — including junior-year transfer Tom Sawatske — have seen the best and worst of Notre Dame hockey.

"This class has got a lot of talent and a lot of character,"

Jackson said. "I wouldn't dare compare them to any other class — they're different in their own right."

Ferris State is in ninth place in the league standings, but the Bulldogs have a 5-1 record in February, including a 2-1 win Feb. 13 over No. 13 Michigan State. The Bulldogs are in the hunt for the last home playoff spot in the first round of the CCHA playoffs, trailing eighth-place Lake Superior State by three points.

"I don't want anyone to think that we can afford to take these games lightly," Jackson said.



Irish defenseman Noah Babin skates against Nanooks wing Kyle Greentree during Notre Dame's win Dec. 3 at the Joyce Center.

see FSU/page 21

BENGAL BOUTS

Eye of the Bengal

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Sports Writer

Nothing Corey "El Diablo Blanco" Betker did could stop Colin "The Flavor Station" Dougherty, who won in the opening fight of the 175 lbs. division Thursday.

Dougherty, a law student, started aggressively, landing punch after punch in the opening round. Betker, a senior from Morrissey, was able to counter with a few jabs but took a beating in the process.

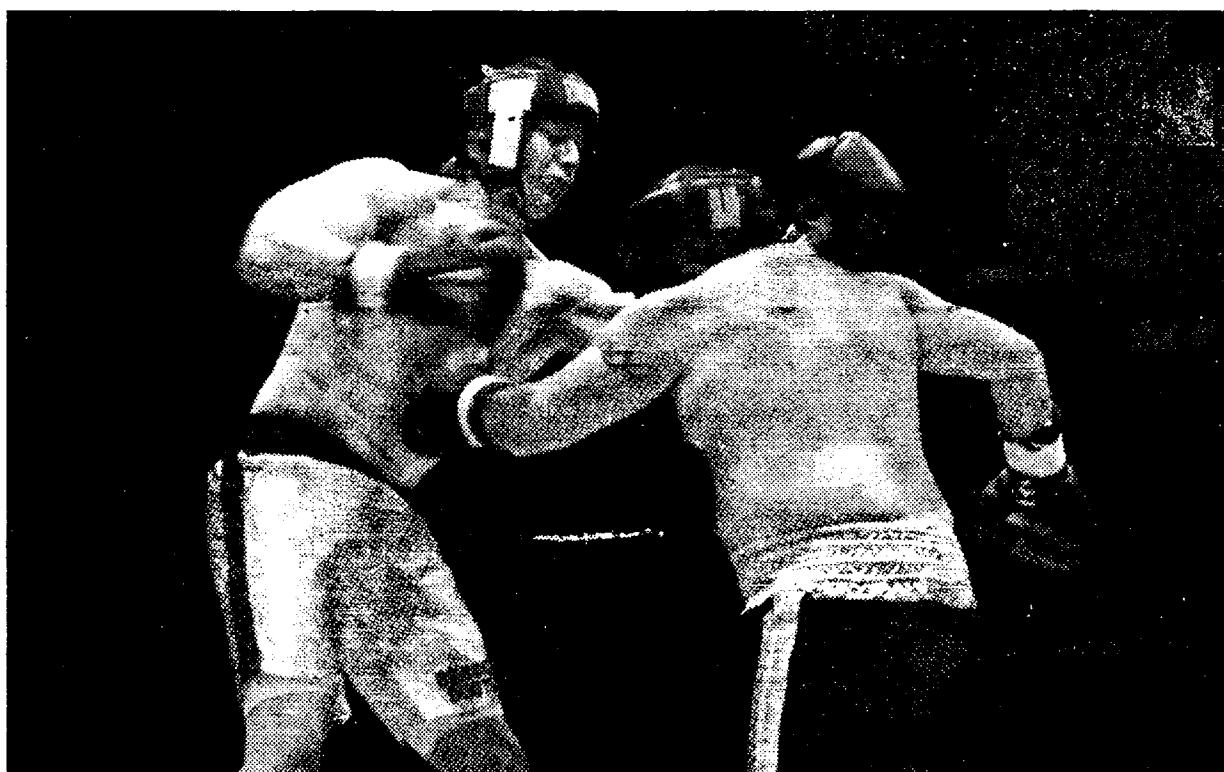
Thirty seconds into the second round, the referee stopped the fight and awarded it to Dougherty.

Greg "Busta" Brown def. John "Nieves" Gleason

Brown defeated Gleason after just one round of aggressive fighting.

Brown, an off-campus senior, dominated the first round with his aggressive style. Gleason, a

see BOUTS/page 17



Tim Latham, right, and Chris Nanovic exchange punches during Nanovic's preliminary round win in the heavyweight division Thursday at the Joyce Center.

KELLY HIGGINS/The Observer

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish, MU battle for fourth seed

By CHRIS KHOREY
Associate Sports Editor

Riding a three-game winning streak and looking to sew up a bye in the Big East tournament, No. 23 Notre Dame will take on No. 16 Marquette at the Joyce Center Saturday.

The Irish (21-6, 9-5 Big East) and Golden Eagles (22-7, 9-5) are tied for fourth place in the conference and in the race for a bye in the tournament in New York that goes with it.

Notre Dame can clinch a bye with a win and a Syracuse loss to Providence Saturday, while Marquette needs a win and two losses by the Orange to bypass the first round of the Big East tourney.

"There's a lot on the line," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "I think our guys will be ready to play. Marquette and Notre Dame brings back a lot of memories."

The Irish are also looking for their fourth straight victory after defeating Providence, Cincinnati and DePaul in a six-day stretch earlier this week.

"We're going into the big game on Saturday feeling good about ourselves," junior forward Rob Kurz said.

Notre Dame has a chance to finish 18-0 at the Joyce Center this season with a win Saturday. The Irish set the school record for home wins in a season with 17 in their win

see EAGLES/page 22

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Notre Dame, Rutgers put streaks on the line

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

Two teams riding winning streaks will collide Saturday in the Joyce Center as Notre Dame faces No. 21/22 Rutgers at noon.

The Irish (19-8, 10-4 Big East) have won their last five games, including a 73-48 drubbing of Georgetown Wednesday night. The Scarlet Knights (18-7, 11-3 Big East) have been just as impressive of late, winning four in a row and nine of their last 10, falling only to No. 4 Connecticut 60-50 Feb. 6.

The Irish have been strong at

home this season, beating three ranked teams already — No. 18 Bowling Green Nov. 13, No. 15 Purdue Dec. 6 and No. 23 Louisville Feb. 7. Despite the success Notre Dame has had in the Joyce Center, coach Muffet McGraw understands the challenge Rutgers poses.

"It's an important game for us because it's a chance for us to beat a ranked team," she said. "And the crowd's really helped us at home, but it's going to be a really challenging game for us."

The Scarlet Knights come to Notre Dame with three players scoring in double figures — guard Epiphanny Prince (13.8

points per game), center Kia Vaughn (13.3) and forward/guard Essence Carson (12.8). Vaughn has been a presence inside for Rutgers all season, adding 9.8 boards per game along with her double-digit points.

"Kia Vaughn, one of the most improved players in the league inside, is a tough matchup for our posts," McGraw said. "She's strong and can rebound and score."

Prince and Carson lead a potent three-point attack for the Scarlet Knights, averaging .410 and .324 from beyond the arc, respectively.

"Their guards are fast — they're good three-point shooters, which is probably their biggest improvement because we've always kind of packed in a zone against them," McGraw said.

The game has extra emotion for the Irish as they finish out their home schedule. This game will be the final time that seniors Breona Gray and Crystal Erwin have the opportunity to play in front of their home crowd.

Gray has once again been Notre Dame's top defensive

see RUTGERS/page 22

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

FENCING

Northwestern
Duals

Saturday

The Irish join 14 other teams to compete in Chicago this weekend.

page 21

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

No. 59 Iowa at
No. 2 Notre Dame

Sunday, 4 p.m.

The Irish look to stay perfect at home against the Hawkeyes.

page 20

ND WOMEN'S LAX

Stanford at No. 5
Notre Dame

Saturday, Noon

Notre Dame tries to extend its home winning streak to 10 games.

page 20

ND SOFTBALL

Palm Springs
Classic

Today-Sunday

Notre Dame will face No. 10 Oklahoma and No. 11 California.

page 19

BASEBALL

Baseball at the
Beach

Today-Sunday

The Irish will take on UNCW, Coastal Carolina and No. 12 TCU.

page 19

BENGAL BOUTS

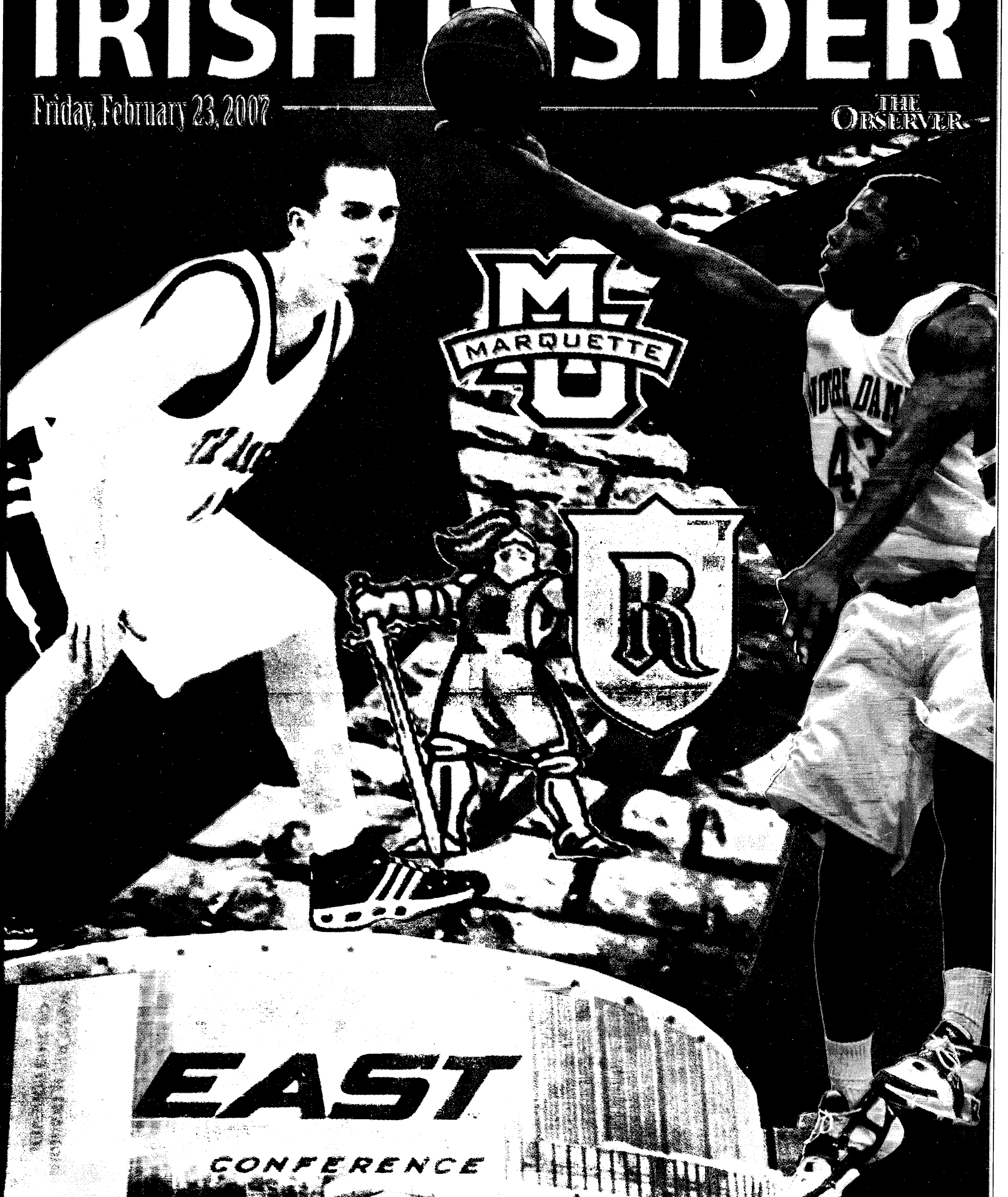
James Creighton's flurry of punches knocks out Paul Laughlin in the third round of the preliminaries.

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IRISH INSIDER

Friday, February 23, 2007

THE
OBSERVER



Marching Straight Ahead

With two regular season games remaining, Irish seniors Russell Carter and Colin Falls have put Notre Dame in a position to make a run in the Big East tournament and advance to the NCAAs.

Seniors have one final chance to leave mark

With two regular season games left in the careers of seniors Colin Falls and Russell Carter, it's an appropriate time to consider the legacy they are leaving behind.

Falls set the school record for three-pointers by a sophomore, then made more threes as a junior, then set the career record as a senior. Carter worked his way into becoming one of the Big East's top five scorers in 2006-07 (17.0 points per game) and is being mentioned as one of the favorites for league player of the year.

But despite what they've already accomplished, their most important games in Irish uniforms are still ahead of them.

After three years of frustration and NIT bids, this year's team appears to be headed for a spot in the NCAA Tournament. The Irish have nine Big East wins with two remaining — a home game against Marquette (the Irish are 17-0 in the Joyce Center this season) and a road contest against struggling Rutgers (the Scarlet Knights have three conference wins). It



Chris Khorey

Associate Sports Editor

would be the first NCAA Tournament of Falls and Carter's careers — a goal they've both talked about since October.

Play reasonably well against Marquette, Rutgers and at the Garden, and the Irish are in. Play very well and they're looking at a high seed.

Fall apart and that dream that the seniors have chased since 2004 will slip away forever, even more painfully this time because this season looked so promising.

While expectations were much higher during Falls and Carter's freshmen and sophomore seasons, 2007 has been their first year with more than 20 wins. It's been the first year they've seriously contended for a bye in the Big East tournament.

And it's the first time they've been in serious contention for the Big Dance this late in the season.

In 2003-04, their freshmen year, the Irish won their last three regular season games and one in the Big East tournament and were able to campaign for a bid, but at 18-11 and just 9-7 in conference, the committee turned them down.

The next season brought high expectations, but, even as Falls broke the sophomore three point record, Notre Dame lost five of its last six and bowed out in the first round of the NIT.

Last year, Carter became a major scoring threat and Falls broadened his game away from just jump shooting, but close losses and a 1-8 start in the conference meant the Irish barely got to New York, much less the NCAAs.

In their fourth and final season, Carter and Falls have led the Irish to a 21-6 record and fourth place in the Big East at 9-5. Things are looking up.

But now comes the tricky part.

Notre Dame faces the No. 16 Golden Eagles Saturday in a game that will its toughest home matchup since the Irish hung 99 on Alabama back in December. But Notre Dame had Kyle McAlarney then, and Marquette's quick guards will create problems on defense. Both seniors will have to shoot well in what will probably be a high-scoring, fast-paced

affair.

A loss would not be disastrous for the Irish. After all, the Golden Eagles are a top 25 team. But a win would almost assure an NCAA bid, and these are the kind of games that Falls and Carter have seen slip away in past years.

A week later comes struggling Rutgers in a game that should be an easy win, even though it's on the road. However, if Notre Dame loses to Marquette, a win against the Scarlet Knights becomes imperative. Once again, Falls and Carter will need to come through where

other senior classes have failed — they will need to lead their team to a win in a game with NCAA implications.

The next week the Irish travel to Madison Square Garden for the Big East tournament.

The conference tourney has been a house of horrors for the seniors — they haven't won there since their freshman year when Falls buried a three to beat West Virginia. Winning the Marquette and Rutgers games

would give the Irish a bye, which would help, but this will be the last chance for Carter and Falls to exorcise their Garden demons of late.

After that, if all goes well, come games the magnitude of which Carter and Falls have not experienced before — the bright lights of the NCAA tournament, national tele-

vision, an unfamiliar opponent and all the pressure of single elimination.

After 120 games at Notre Dame, for Carter and Falls, their biggest ones are still ahead of them.

The Dance is being set up and the limo is coming around the corner.

Are the Irish seniors ready to lead their team into the Tournament in their final opportunity?

Only time will tell.

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

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu.

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"After 120 games at Notre Dame, for Carter and Falls, their biggest ones are still ahead of them."

"The call woke me up, and I didn't know what was going on at first. It was Coach Ingelsby. A week later, I was sitting on the bench for the first game"

Kieran Piller
Irish guard

"They knew the following year if they needed somebody there was a good chance that I'd be the guy."

Kieran Piller
Irish guard

Walk-on Piller helps Irish improve through practice play

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Writer

When Notre Dame guard Kieran Piller graduated from Union-Endicott High School in upstate N.Y., he was prepared to leave his basketball playing days behind him.

Piller, who averaged 16.5 points and 7.0 rebounds per game during his senior year, turned down offers from local Division III colleges to attend Notre Dame.

"I wouldn't say I gave up. I knew throughout my career that I wasn't going to get any Division I scholarships. I knew that. I'm small, don't shoot the ball particularly well," Piller said. "I knew if I was going to play it was going to be at a small Division III school, but I also knew that I wanted to go to a bigger school. I just went through some workouts with schools and decided it was time to concentrate on school."

"I always wanted to go (to Notre Dame) — a bigger environment where I can be a student and a fan."

But all that changed with a Sunday afternoon phone call during the fall of his junior year, when Irish assistant

coach Martin Ingelsby called Piller to tell him he had played well enough in try-outs to earn a spot on the squad as a walk-on.

"I was doing what I normally do on Sundays — which is sleeping," Piller said. "The call woke me up, and I didn't know what was going on at first. It was Coach Ingelsby. A week later, I was sitting on the bench for the first game. It was pretty crazy."

Piller had already tried out his sophomore year and had gotten the coaches' attention, but had not earned a place on the roster.

"I tried out once before, and the coaches told me, many times, they saw me and made a note I was there, and that I could play," Piller said. "They knew the following year if they needed somebody there was a good chance that I'd be the guy."

In his junior year, Piller felt that he didn't live up to expectations at try-outs. But the coaching staff remembered him from the year

before.

"It turned out that last year they needed somebody, and I was the guy they took," Piller

said. "It was funny, because I went to one tryout the year I made it and didn't play well. I was out of shape, kind of went in thinking they weren't going to take anybody. I went in with a couple of buddies just for fun."

Immediately after the phone call from Ingelsby, Piller, a double major in economics and American studies, began to put up with the demands of being a Notre Dame student-athlete.

"Last year, it was tough," he said. "I was in the meat of the hard courses in both majors. But this year, because I got so much out of the way at the beginning of college, it hasn't been bad at all. I've just enjoyed basketball and am enjoying my senior year."

On the court, Piller takes pride in making the Irish a better team through his hard work and dedication in practice, rather than basking in the few games he gets into during the season.

"I'll talk to my friends and parents and they'll ask, 'Did you get in' and I'll be like, 'I don't really care,'" Piller said. "It's cool or whatever, but after one



TIM SULLIVAN/The Observer

Irish senior guard Kieran Piller drives to the basket in Notre Dame's 78-54 win over DePaul Tuesday.

or two times, I just care that the team wins. I'm not sitting there, 'Oh, I hope they get up so I can get in,' I'm completely content just sitting back there. Whenever I get in the game, the game's out of hand anyway."

The senior has made the most of his few opportunities, however. He made his only college field-goal attempt earlier this season against Stony Brook and sank two free throws last year against Fordham — the only two he has taken.

Piller is an integral part of an Irish team that has a chance to earn its first NCAA Tournament berth in four years.

But when asked how he feels about a possible trip to the Big Dance, the conversation quickly turns from Kieran Piller, individual, to Kieran Piller, teammate.

"[Making the tournament] would be incredible," he said. "For me, I've grown close to both Colin Falls and Russell Carter. They've both been in the battle for three and a half years now. They've both been contributors to the team and they have not yet played in the tournament and for me, I would really like them to be able to have that."

Piller does not expect to play in any of Notre Dame's upcoming Big East and NCAA Tournament games, but he certainly helped them get there.

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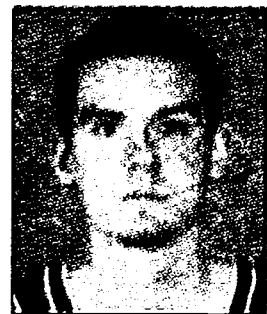
Falls develops into complete offensive threat

By CHRIS KHOREY
Associate Sports Editor

Colin Falls can shoot.

Notre Dame coach Mike Brey knows it, opposing teams know it and Irish fans know it.

But the senior guard, in his last year in South Bend and his last chance to get to the NCAA Tournament, has done much more than that this season.



Falls

Falls, who was appointed captain before the season, has been a steady leader for a young team that counts four freshmen and three sophomores among its 10 scholarship players.

"[Colin] a great basketball IQ," Irish coach Mike Brey said Tuesday. "He knows our system and knows what to do."

The senior has also branched out his game, going from a pure spot-up shooter his first three years to a more versatile form that allowed him to score 51 points in a high school game.

That sudden change in his playing style has allowed Falls to lead the Irish in points in each of the last five games and has his team — and it is "his team" — on the brink of the Big Dance for the first time since 2003.

Finding his niche

Falls was born in Chicago and grew up in the suburb of Park Ridge, northwest of the city, attending Loyola Academy.

While he displayed the jump

shot that would win him notoriety at Notre Dame, that wasn't all he could do.

Falls was easily the Rambler's best player, averaging 25 points, seven rebounds, and four assists per game.

When the time came for choosing a college, Falls knew what he was looking for.

"I wanted to go to a school that had a prestigious academic and athletic tradition," he said.

Plenty of those schools came calling, including Northwestern, Marquette, Michigan and George Washington. Princeton even offered the chance for a free Ivy League education and an offense that shot plenty of three pointers.

But after Falls visited Notre Dame, the recruiting process was over.

"Once I got on campus I fell in love with the guys and the coaching staff," Falls said.

When he showed up for practice his freshman year, Falls found that Notre Dame's guard positions were well-stocked, with junior Chris Thomas and

sophomore Chris Quinn starting, and senior Torrian Jones coming off the bench.

Falls knew he had to find something to set him apart in order to earn playing time.

"I think initially the reason my niche on the team was as a shooter was because I wanted to be on the court and I

saw shooting as the way to do that," Falls said.

And shoot he did.

Averaging 16 minutes per game and earning eight starts, Falls hit 37 threes his Freshman year, averaging 4.6 points per game. He stayed mostly behind the arc, however, attempting just 21 two-point shots all season and making 10.

In his sophomore year, Falls became a regular in the starting lineup, beginning 22 games in the backcourt alongside Thomas and Quinn. But while the two Chris' slashed to the basket, Falls came off screens and looked for jump shots. He

hit a sophomore record 93 threes that season and averaged 12.6 points per game. But he struggled on his few ventures inside the arc, making only 8-of-36 two-point attempts.

Falls said that he wasn't initially worried by the one dimensional nature of his roll.

"I got comfortable in that roll, which wasn't necessarily a good thing," he said.

In his junior year, Falls moved into the starting shooting guard roll alongside Quinn. Falls improved his scoring average to 14.8 points per game and hit a school-record 102 three pointers, but the team struggled, losing eight of its first nine conference games.

Meanwhile, Falls was having his own problems. His shot was inconsistent. Still shooting mainly from beyond the arc, he scored 25 points in a 73-57 loss to DePaul and then did not hit a field goal and only scored two points in a 72-70 loss to Villanova.

Falls then discovered that he needed to branch out in order for he and the Irish to be successful.

"I realized I needed to expand and do some other things for this team to win games," he said.

Becoming a leader

After the graduation of Quinn and forwards Torin Francis and Rick Cornett last spring, Falls became Notre Dame's unquestioned leader. He was appointed captain at the beginning of the season.

Being team captain meant that Falls suddenly had the responsibility of teaching the ropes to a young team. Brey called upon him to direct traffic on the floor and make sure young players like freshmen Luke Harangody and Tory Jackson and sophomores Zach Hillesland and Luke Zeller were always in the right spot.

But it was in the locker room where Falls made his biggest impact, with his still-fresh memories of 2005-06's roller coaster ride still in his head.

"As a basketball player, there are so many ups and downs," he said. "You have to stay consistent and confident throughout your career. You can be overconfident and underconfident."

"Keeping an even keel throughout a college career is

"I think initially the reason my niche on the team was as a shooter was because I wanted to be on the court and I saw shooting as the way to do that."

Colin Falls
Irish guard

"I realized I needed to expand and do some other things for this team to win games."

Colin Falls
Irish guard



DAN COOPER/The Observer

Irish senior guard Colin Falls drives to the basket in Notre Dame's 99-85 win over Alabama Dec. 7 at the Joyce Center.

a tough thing."

Falls has even made tactical adjustments on the fly. In Notre Dame's 78-54 win over DePaul, he noticed that Kurz was being left unguarded at the three point line. He called the junior over and told him to look for the outside shot.

It worked to the tune of three second half 3-pointers for Kurz.

"Colin was like, 'step up and hit them'," Kurz said. "He said 'you're wide open' and it worked out because I hit the shots."

Falls said that the pressure of being captain magnifies the team's successes and failures even more, making it even more important for him to maintain and even keel.

"[As captain,] you're really taking a pounding mentally and it kind of drains you. Losses hurt more," he said. "But I think wins, you appreciate them more because you feel like you're doing more for your team."

But being a leader meant more than just talking. Falls couldn't be the passive jump shooter that he had been his first three years on the squad.

So over the summer he worked on other parts of his game, returning to the driving and cutting style that he displayed in high school and improving his defense — he's averaging almost twice as many steals per game this season compared to his career.

Falls has still hit his share of threes, breaking the school career record against Cincinnati Sunday with his 305th. But he has only made 73 shots from outside the arc despite averaging nearly 15

points. He significantly improved his scoring from two point range, shooting 65 percent inside the arc.

Aside from making him a better player, Falls said being a captain has also made him a better person.

"It's been a great experience," he said. "I wouldn't trade it for anything."

Aching to dance

With Falls' leadership and his improved play, this year has been the most successful season for the Irish in his four years. At 21-6 and 9-5 in the Big East conference, Notre Dame is well on its way to its first NCAA bid since 2003.

First, the Irish have to get past No. 16 Marquette, a team Falls and his fellow seniors have never beaten, and Notre Dame also needs to win a game or two in the Big East tournament, where the Irish are just 1-3 since 2003.

Falls said he and Carter have drilled the importance of the next few weeks into their teammates.

"I think the sense of urgency is heightened because everyone knows what's on the line," Falls said. "We're going to do everything we can to put ourselves in a position to win."

Because for Falls, the next few weeks won't just determine if this season is a success.

They will determine how he will view his entire career.

"If we don't get to the NCAA tournament, I would look at my career almost as a disappointment," he said.

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FALLS THROUGH THE YEARS

2003-04 (FRESHMAN)

POINTS: 4.6
OVERALL FIELD GOALS: 47
3-POINT FIELD GOALS: 37
% OF FIELD GOALS
THAT WERE 3-POINTERS: 79%

2004-05 (SOPHOMORE)

POINTS: 12.6
OVERALL FIELD GOALS: 101
3-POINT FIELD GOALS: 93
% OF FIELD GOALS
THAT WERE 3-POINTERS: 92%

2005-06 (JUNIOR)

POINTS: 14.8
OVERALL FIELD GOALS: 129
3-POINT FIELD GOALS: 102
% OF FIELD GOALS
THAT WERE 3-POINTERS: 79%

2006-07 (SENIOR)

POINTS: 14.9
OVERALL FIELD GOALS: 111
3-POINT FIELD GOALS: 77
% OF FIELD GOALS
THAT WERE 3-POINTERS: 69%



Graphic Illustration by Jeff Albert

Carter's perseverance makes him stand apart

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Writer

Notre Dame guard Russell Carter walked out to meet the media for an interview before practice Feb. 1. He held a ball under his right arm and wiped his brow with his sweat-drenched practice jersey. Practice was still 30 minutes away, but someone forgot to tell that to Carter.



Carter

"Yeah, I was just working out a little bit," he said. "Hard work gets us these wins. I'm not the only one sweating. As you can see, everyone's out there shooting."

Sweating? Before practice? It makes sense given Carter's pedigree — his father, who had recently finished a 14-hour work day in his home state of New Jersey, was too tired to field questions about his son over the telephone Wednesday.

But Carter's sweat is not the only thing he has given to the Irish this season.

Whether the air holds three fingers in the air after draining a three or becomes angry after making a turnover, Carter is an emotional leader. His smile on the floor infects his teammates and brightens the Joyce Center. He loosens them, reminds them to have fun and elevates their play. His anger fires them up and adds a sense of urgency when things are not going so well.

These characteristics are inherent to Carter's personality. It's the way he's played since he was a child in Paulsboro, N.J. — a suburb of Philadelphia — and it's the way he will continue to play once his career moves beyond South Bend.

But the Jersey native and sociology major claimed that college has changed him as a person — even if what drives him remains intact.

"Four years at a prestigious institution does nothing but

change you," Carter said after Tuesday's 78-54 win against DePaul. "There's different types of people just interacting. There's a lot of people where I'm from you probably would never see, but to be able to interact with them, talk about anything is good."

"It's good when people can put away their differences and just have a conversation."

And most importantly, his work ethic has remained intact — and that's why he's been busy sweating, not only before practice three weeks ago, but for his entire career at Notre Dame.

It's also how he's evolved from a benchwarmer freshman year to one of the most feared and admired players in the Big East.

Before Notre Dame

In high school, Carter overcame a knee injury caused by decaying bone marrow. But despite the injury, and the subsequent surgery, his mentality toward basketball remained the same.

"It didn't affect [my attitude]. Injuries happen. You've got to play. Once you go on the court, there are no excuses," he said. "If you're going to acknowledge your weakness, you might as well not play."

The injury took a while to heal and as a result, Carter was not highly recruited his senior year — despite averaging 30 points, 11.2 rebounds and 3.4 assists and leading his team to the state finals.

"Just around the area, schools [recruited me] and that was basically it," Carter said. "During the middle and end of my senior season, Notre Dame came on board."

Once the Irish called, Carter said the decision to enroll was simple.

"The team was in the tournament the previous three years and it's Notre Dame, the academics speak for themselves,"

he said. "Good athletics, great academics, it was an easy decision."

Early years with the Irish

During his freshman year, Carter played in only 11 games, averaging just 2.1 minutes per contest. His sophomore year, however, he saw more playing time (24 games, 8.5 minutes per game) but felt he should be playing more.

"I expected to play right away, but it didn't happen that way," Carter said.

With his spirits down, Carter turned to two sources to help him through this rough patch.

"I talked to my parents," Carter said. "I've been talking to them since the day I was born and I feel comfortable

talking to them, and to [former Irish assistant] coach [Lewis] Preston, who's no longer here, but it was mainly them that helped me through it."

Still, through the tough times, Carter was determined to prove to Irish head coach Mike Brey that he could play. That same high school kid who fought through physical injury now had to overcome the mental frustration of not getting the playing time he thought he deserved.

"I just went to practice and practiced hard and figured I'd continue working until I'd be able to play," he said. "I just felt if I got a chance to play I could show what I could do. It just motivated me to keep working."

Getting his chance

Carter earned that elusive spot in the starting lineup his junior year, starting in 28 of Notre Dame's 30 games, and averaging 13.3 points per contest. But it's been his play this season — 17 points per game on 41 percent shooting from 3-point range — that has garnered the attention of the national media, NBA scouts

CARTER THROUGH THE YEARS

2003-04 (FRESHMAN)

2.1 MINUTES PER GAME
0.8 POINTS PER GAME

2004-05 (SOPHOMORE)

8.5 MINUTES PER GAME
3.5 POINTS PER GAME

2005-06 (JUNIOR)

28.7 MINUTES PER GAME
11.5 POINTS PER GAME

2006-07 (SENIOR)

29.9 MINUTES PER GAME
17.0 POINTS PER GAME

Graphic Illustration by Jeff Albert



and opposing defenses.

When asked to summarize how he thinks the year is going, he framed his answer from a team perspective, not an individual one.

"This year has gone how I predicted. No one gave us a lot of credit," he said. "At the beginning of the year we were picked eleventh. Now we have the ability to get a bye [in the first round of the Big East tournament]. I felt the Big East was a wide-open conference."

But Carter has still had his share of adversity this year despite his statistics and Notre Dame's record. For the past few weeks, a right hip flexor has hampered Carter's quickness and effectiveness on both ends of the floor.

"It's getting better," he said Tuesday. "I'm out there though, so I don't use it as an excuse."

Carter still averages 17 points per game, which ties him with Villanova forward Curtis Sumpter for second in the conference. Besides his offensive improvement throughout the past four years, Carter has worked equally as hard on his defense — something for which he feels he deserves more credit.

"I don't know if they notice my defense. When people score a lot of points, their defense is overlooked. If people pay attention they can see I'm a good defender," he said with a big grin on his face. "Not only certain plays, like a steal and dunk, there's a lot of little plays that go unnoticed."

"That's always going to happen. Offense in basketball is more notable than defense. I don't take it as offense, but if you try to score on me then I guess you'll find out."

Looking ahead

For Carter, playing in the NBA could not be farther from his mind at this point despite his noticeable athleticism and rare, given his age and experience, untapped potential. Right now, he has just one focus —

the NCAA Tournament.

"It would mean everything. I've never been there," he said. "Colin [Falls] has never been there. No one on this team has been there. To get there, just speaks volumes about our senior class. We kept it moving."

Carter's journey has been filled with his fair share of obstacles, molding his personality in the process.

But some of his traits will never change, namely, his sense of humor and straightforward attitude.

A few years ago, when his dorm mates in Fisher Hall were designing a shirt in honor of Carter, they asked him for a quote. The first attempt that did not make the cut read, "If I was three inches taller, I'd be playing for the Clippers right now."

Today, while he speaks with a polished demeanor beyond his years, the humorous kid still shines through when reflecting on that time.

"I was just being stupid because I always thought I'd grow up to be 6-foot-6 like [Michael] Jordan," he said. "I'm like 6-foot-4, 6-foot-3 and a half, so if I had a couple of more inches — I'd be amazing."

Whether Carter will one day be "amazing" in the NBA, only time will tell. If his basketball career fails to pan out, two things are for sure.

One, only circumstances beyond his control will prevent him from playing in the NBA. It will have nothing to do with hard work and dedication. And two, regardless of what happens, he won't make any excuses.

"When I'm on the court, there's really nothing to fear," he said. "I mean, you're a guy just like me, you put on your pants just the same way I do. If I knock you down hard enough you're going to bleed. Unless there are immortals out there, I have nothing to fear."

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ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Irish guard Russell Carter drives to the hoop in Notre Dame's 67-66 loss at DePaul Feb. 8. Carter is averaging 17.0 points per game, tying him for second in the Big East.