



Equality of the sexes?

Students and *The Observer* discuss the Irish Guard's break with its all-male history in light of senior Molly Kinder's induction.

Viewpoint ♦ pages 14-15

Ready for Battle

Can the new starting quarterback and the Irish bounce back from their first losing season since 1986? Check out what *The Observer* has to say.

Irish Insider

Friday

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Student forum offers few football ticket solutions

By JASON McFARLEY
News Writer

It wasn't the showing they hoped for, but Notre Dame student government representatives received an earful Thursday from students disillusioned by the current football ticket distribution system.

Eight University students joined student body president Brian O'Donoghue, vice presi-

dent Brooke Norton and their chief of staff, Jay Smith, in a Student Union-sponsored forum to discuss this year's ticket distribution program.

"We wanted to come together to show you that we want to listen," Smith said.

He said the forum was a means to garner student input and that nothing would be acted upon as of yet.

Still, throughout the hour-

"I guarantee that there'll be some tweaking, but I can't say that it'll be an entirely new system."

Brian O'Donoghue
Notre Dame student
body president

long session, Smith and fellow

student governors were treated to a barrage of negative reactions to a system implemented largely through former student body president Micah Murphy.

"What we have now doesn't work. This year there were long lines and a lot of confusion," junior Brian Clemency said of the Aug. 21 ticket distribution event.

Featuring a picnic at Stepan Center, this year's lottery-type

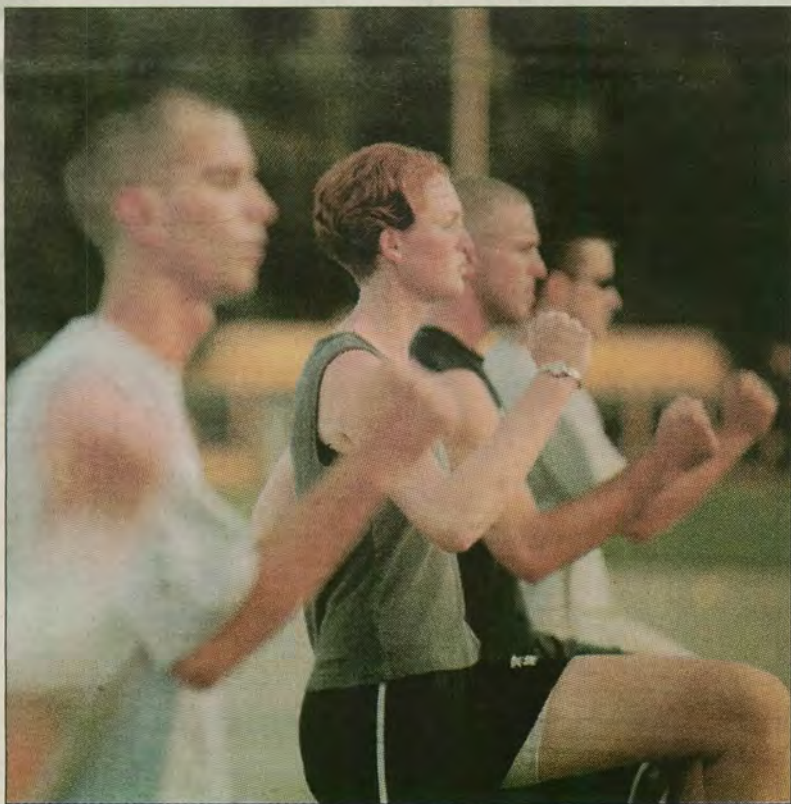
procedure — in which University ushers issued stickers for student's ticket applications — proved cumbersome and confusing for many students. At Thursday's forum, some mentioned that the system may have been a burden for first-year students in particular.

"They're just coming off Freshman Orientation week-

see TICKETS/page 6

Twenty-seven years after the University first admitted women, Notre Dame's band will officially undergo the

CHANGING OF THE GUARD



As the organization's first female, senior Molly Kinder says she intends to be 'as full of an Irish Guard member as possible'

By COLLEEN McCARTHY
Associate News Editor

From the painting of the gold helmets to the concert on the steps to the Irish Guard, football at Notre Dame is steeped in tradition. On Saturday, as the high-stepping Irish Guard leads the band onto the field, a new face among this group will signal an end to the 51-year all-male tradition within the Irish Guard.

Molly Kinder, a 6-foot-3 senior, said she decided freshman year she wanted to be a part of the Irish Guard. Until Kinder's selection, the Irish Guard had been all-male mainly because of the height requirement.

"I was at activities night the other evening and saw a friend from one of my freshman year classes," said Kinder. "He came up to congratu-

late me on making the Guard and said that he remembered that I had mentioned even freshman year that I wanted to be a part of the Irish Guard."

Kinder first auditioned for the prestigious group of 10 students during the fall semester of her junior year.

"It was the most challenging thing I had ever done," she said. "I worked out all summer but when the practices came in the fall, I found we were using totally different muscles groups and it was very physically and mentally challenging."

The fact that she was female also added to her nerves going into the practices.

"I hadn't gone to any of the meetings in the spring of 1999 about the Irish Guard so when I showed up on the first day of tryouts, the guys

see KINDER/page 4

Senior Molly Kinder practices for her Irish Guard debut Saturday. She is the only female member in the group's 52-year history.

♦
photos by
PETER
RICHARDSON



INSIDE COLUMN

Member for life

It's that time of year again. Today begins a new year of Notre Dame football, complete with traditions, expectations and high hopes for this year's team. As in years past, some believe the team is destined to greatness, others to failure. And regardless of whether our team wins or loses tomorrow, we will all have the opportunity to be reminded that we are part of something bigger and more important than ourselves.



Anne Marie Mattingly

News Editor

In many ways, each and every home football Saturday is the same. Tomorrow morning alumni and fans will descend on the quads, and students will prepare to sell food and drinks to campus visitors. Fans will line the path from the Basilica to the stadium, hoping to catch a glimpse of their favorite football player as the team walks by, and shortly before kickoff the band will step off from Bond Hall to lead students, fans and alumni into Notre Dame Stadium. The seats will fill, we will watch 60 minutes of Notre Dame football, and when it is all over we will stand arm in arm and sing the alma mater of Our Lady's University.

But our very presence in Notre Dame Stadium on Saturday will represent something much greater than our enthusiasm for football. As we gather around the field, we will be reminded that we are part of a legacy. How many people around the world have dreamed of standing exactly where we will be? How many Irish fans will watch the game on TV and wish that, just once, they too could be present for a game in Notre Dame Stadium? How many have so desperately wanted to become a part of the community that we so often take for granted?

As we look at the faces of the people around us on Saturday, it will not be difficult to see that the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's community transcends nearly every human boundary. There will be people of all ages, races, nationalities, political beliefs and cultures, perhaps with nothing in common but their humanity and their membership in this community. What makes Notre Dame and Saint Mary's so unique is that, unlike many other contemporary organizations or institutions, this common membership is enough. With nothing to bind us to one another but our associations with these two institutions, we come together in friendship and solidarity. We do so not only when we unite to support the Notre Dame football team, but as classmates, study groups and members of student organizations. After graduation, we will continue to do so in the workplace, in service organizations and, in short, life.

We have all been privileged with the opportunity to be part of the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's family. Though we may not always agree with the positions of either school's administration, the Catholic Church, or one another, we should still hold dear the friendships and camaraderie we discover throughout our time as Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students. No matter how far we may travel or what challenges we may undertake, we will always have a common history in South Bend, Ind. Perhaps we should spend just a few minutes of our first football Saturday to remind ourselves how truly precious that is.

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

TODAY'S STAFF

News	Scene
Anne Marie Mattingly	Noreen Gillespie
Maribel Morey	Graphics
Finn Pressley	Katie Annis
Sports	Production
Katie McVoy	Kathleen O'Brien
Viewpoint	Lab Tech
Pat Kelly	Angela Campos

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THIS WEEK IN NOTRE DAME/SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE HISTORY

Dorms adjust to new party guidelines

Sept. 5, 1979

Under the new guidelines, each dorm had to set aside one room in the hall for social functions where liquor would be served. Private parties could still be held, but there would be a limit of 20 persons per party, according to the Director of Residences. Consequently, each dorm was preparing to arrange a party room that fall.

Sorin Hall bans smoking

Sept. 5, 1990

After a dorm-wide vote with a majority in favor of a smoke-free environment, Sorin Hall prohibited smoking in its residences. "[The smoke] gets in the curtains and the rugs and stays forever," said Father Steve Newton, then rector of Sorin. "The first real test of our policy will be on the first home football weekend when many parents come to Sorin and may want to smoke."

OUTSIDE THE DOME

Compiled from U-Wire reports

U. of Virginia places female RAs in all-male halls

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va.

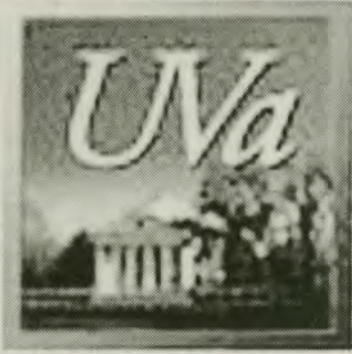
Many things will be different for first-year guys in the University of Virginia's Kent dorm this year. They have a new woman in their lives: She's their RA.

"I thought she (Cara) was just one of the (Greeters) who kept using our bathroom constantly on Move-In Day," first-year College student Craig Kemper said of the woman he later learned was his RA.

This year, three female RAs — second-year College students Charlotte Hudgins and Cara Coolbaugh and third-year College student Miya Hunter — will be in charge of halls of male residents.

Life in University residence halls has been changed. And it's all thanks to a statistical glitch.

"There was a mixup with the num-



ber of students" admitted to the University, said Sarah Chewning, fourth-year College student and co-chairwoman of Residence Life.

According to Chewning, the Admissions Office typically selects a class composed of 60 percent females and 40 percent males. The residence

life department selected RAs in the spring, anticipating that the ratio of females to males would remain three to two.

"We made [resident] staff selections based upon the composition of the typical first-year class," Chewning said.

This year, however, the student body composition is 46 percent male and 54 percent female, according to Ida Wooten of University relations.

Because the number of males admitted was nearly equal to females, residence life found they had under-anticipated the number of males who would enroll.

They had no alternative but to assign three female RAs to male halls. "It was weird for the first half hour, but once I accepted it, everything was alright," first-year Engineering student Grahame Burke said.

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Task force aims to deter drinking

COLLEGE STATION, Texas

Texas A&M University's Alcohol Abuse Task Force is enforcing stiffer penalties for alcohol and substance violations to deter underage drinking and drug and alcohol abuse on campus. Previously, a letter of reprimand was the punishment for a first minor in possession offense on campus. Now, conduct probation is the first punishment, entailing an official warning stating that one is in violation with A&M. The task force is in collaboration with Alcohol and Drug Education Programs (ADEP), Residence Education, Student Conflict Resolution Services (SCRS) and the Corps of Cadets. "Three things can happen once an underage drinker receives an MIP," said Mike Collins, coordinator for SCRS. "In a hearing, a student can accept responsibility, the hearing officer can find him or her responsible, or the student may be found not responsible. The former two receive sanctioning." Sue Foster, assistant director for Residence Education, said the group's goal is to create a healthier, safer environment on campus.

AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Baseball player arrested for DUI

AUBURN, Ala.

Auburn baseball player Joseph Zanthos was arrested Aug. 27 for driving under the influence of alcohol after his Jeep Cherokee collided with Southern Union student Jeffrey Crocket's Toyota Supra around 5 a.m. on West Magnolia Ave., killing Crocket. Crocket, 19, was pronounced dead at 5:43 a.m. at East Alabama Medical Center. His passenger, 18-year-old John Creel, was treated and released from EAMC. Zanthos, 21, was leaving the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity house when he hit Crocket's moving car and then three other parked cars. Chris Strickland, president of Sig Ep, said he didn't know why Zanthos was leaving the fraternity's parking lot or why he was there. "It really didn't have anything to do with us directly," Strickland said. Zanthos, a junior in zoology from Vestavia Hills, was released on \$500 bond for his DUI. Police said no other charges have been filed yet. Crocket's family can decide to press charges for manslaughter or the Grand Jury could decide to indict Zanthos.

LOCAL WEATHER

5 Day South Bend Forecast
AccuWeather® forecast for daytime conditions and high temperatures

	H	L
Friday	91	69
Saturday	82	68
Sunday	86	66
Monday	81	63
Tuesday	81	64

Shows: Showers T-storms Rain Flurries Snow Ice Sunny Pt. Cloudy Cloudy

NATIONAL WEATHER

The AccuWeather® forecast for noon, Friday, Sept. 1.

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Pressure: High Low

Fronts: COLD WARM STATIONARY

Shows: Showers Rain T-storms Flurries Snow Ice Sunny Pt. Cloudy Cloudy

Via Associated Press

Atlanta	81	70	Las Vegas	86	66	Portland	67	54
Baltimore	81	70	Memphis	97	76	Sacramento	77	53
Boston	88	71	Milwaukee	81	67	St. Louis	97	76
Chicago	91	71	New York	82	72	Tampa	88	75
Houston	101	77	Philadelphia	84	72	Wash DC	82	73

CONSTRUCTION

ND to dedicate Learning Center

♦ **Engineering facility offers students 'real-world context' for basic principles**

By NICK SWEEDO
News Writer

Previously the popular venue for weekend movies, Cushing Auditorium has been transformed into a new, state-of-the-art learning center for engineering students.

"We feel that activities within the center will provide our students with a real-world context for the basic principles they are learning in their mathematics, science and engineering courses," said Frank Incropera, the McCloskey Dean of Engineering and a professor of mechanical engineering.

"I think it's a great idea," said

senior engineering student Rebecca Glatz. "It should be a good place for people to go if they are having trouble."

The Engineering Learning Center gives students access to electronic equipment, chemical fume hoods and a variety of engineering modules including pendulums and catapults. The 14 sections of the University's first year engineering course,

Introduction to Engineering Systems, will use the center one at a time, said Natalie Gedde, the Engineering Learning Center manager.

Other engineering students who want to use the Center for a class project or who want access to one of the 18 personal computers in the Center can come in from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday through Friday or from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on week-

ends.

While other universities have similar facilities, only Notre Dame's is available to all first-year students, said Gedde.

While encompassing all fields of engineering, the Center gives students the opportunity to work with engineers in other fields.

"Engineering has undergone such a change," said Paul Gio, director of the engineering and computing facility.

"Collaborative efforts are a necessity. You don't design by yourself anymore."

To assist the first-year students in the Center are 14 peer mentors, who are upperclassmen in the engineering program.

"The dropout rate all over the country is high for engineers because of the difficult curriculum," said Gedde. "The peer mentor program introduces the freshmen to students who have succeeded in the program and who can answer any questions that they might have."

The dedication ceremony, held at 4 p.m. today, will open with a 15-minute presentation detailing the unique history of Cushing 117, including its last 70 years as a lecture hall for thousands of Notre Dame students. Incropera will then discuss the goals of the learning center.

Provost Nathan Hatch and executive vice president Timothy Scully will be present at the ceremony, along with the College of Engineering Advisory Council. The ceremony is open to students, alumni and members of the community.

"The dropout rate all over the country is high for engineers because of the difficult curriculum."

Natalie Gedde
Engineering Learning
Center manager



Incropera

University to help plan, create local community center

By LYNN OLSZOWY
News Writer

Notre Dame announced plans Thursday to establish a Community Learning Center in the former Goodwill building on North Eddy Street. University President Edward Malloy made the official announcement to more than 90 people who gathered at the building site.

The Community Learning Center (CLC) is a collaborative effort between the University and the northeast community of South Bend. The center will offer educational programs, recreational activities and health care services to both the students of Notre Dame and the residents of the northeast side.

As evident by the press conference, the overall mission of the community center is to improve the relationship between Notre Dame students and the northeast residents. South Bend residents Cheryle Ashe and Reverend Timothy Rouse along with Notre Dame sophomore Marguerite Clemency and senior John Micek shared the stage with Malloy.

Rouse said the Center is a great stride in creating a meeting place for these two communities while Micek stressed the importance for student involvement.

"This is an amazing opportunity for Notre Dame students to create an avenue bringing together the community and university," Micek said.

The CLC will furnish a variety of services and programs for both University students and northeast neighborhood residents. The Center will include a Computer Teaching and Learning Center equipped with 20 computers, educational software and Internet access — available to both students and residents.

Additionally, a Health Maintenance Center and Neighborhood Clinic operated by St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center will extend health services to the community. Along with informative health programs, the clinic will also give physical examinations, prenatal assessments and medical assistance.

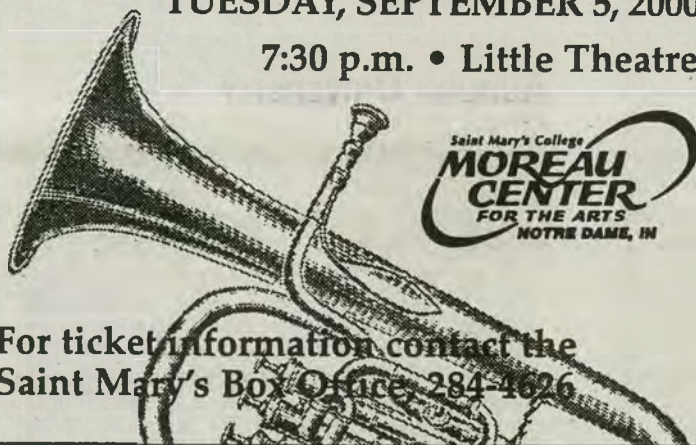
The projected cost for the Center's completion is more than \$500,000 and the annual operating budget is estimated at \$300,000. The University has pledged to fund the renovation and the first year of the Center's staffing.

An advisory committee for the CLC is made up of numerous University administrators as well as local residents and religious, civic and government leaders. Currently, the CLC is applying for grants and performing a search for the Center's program director.

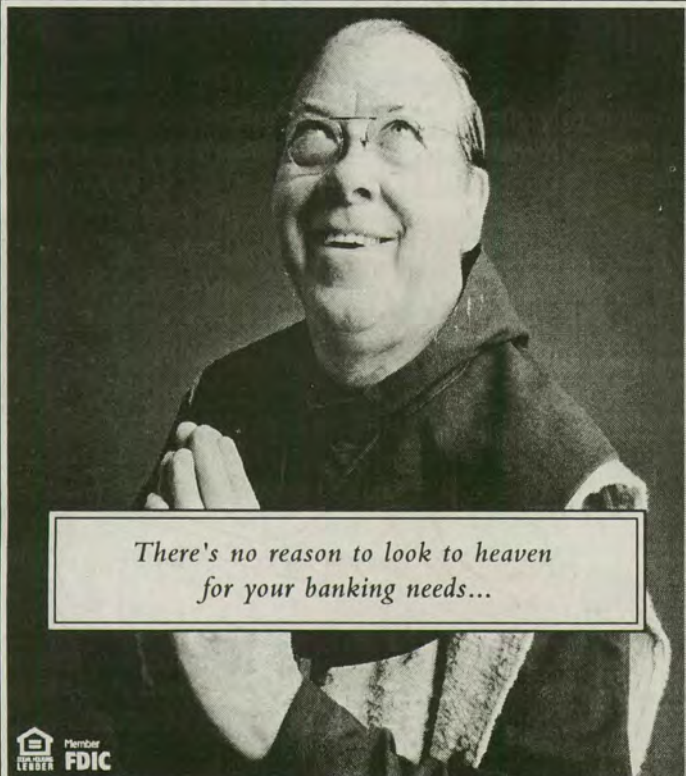
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Kinder

continued from page 1

didn't know I was planning to try out," said Kinder.

Kinder's goal was to make it to the final day of practice and the audition.

"My goal last year was just to do the best I could," she said. "I did everything that every guy did. Whether I made it or not was not what was going to make the try-out successful for me. Last year was more of a personal goal for me."

Her persistence and hard work also eliminated any reservations the males had about her during the tryouts.

"When I talked to some of the guys afterward, they said they were wary at first but they were taken by surprise," she said. "They told me they were cool with it because I did everything they did."

After failing to make the Irish Guard last fall, Kinder was not deterred. While studying abroad in Chile this summer, she took a different approach for training for the rigorous Irish Guard tryouts that would await her when she returned to Notre Dame.

"I practiced marching a lot in the streets of Chile and I think the people thought I was insane," said Kinder. "When I got home I practiced marching on the football field and just continued to prepare mentally and physically for the audition."

This fall, Kinder went into the tryouts knowing what to expect.

Tryouts often consist of three practices per day for up to two hours each. Each practice is a mix of marching with the band across campus to different songs and beats, learning a routine that is a mix of trotting, marching, turns and spins and learning to stand at attention and maintain a straight face. Kinder said that aspect was particularly challenging since other Irish Guard members would try to draw laughs from the candidates.

"There were a few guys auditioning from last year so I felt a lot more comfortable and I had more confidence," said Kinder. "That made a big difference."

When the final audition came on Aug. 20, Kinder felt more confident than ever.

"I was so unnerved, I couldn't believe it," she said.

For her audition junior year, her entire family came from their home in Buffalo, N.Y., for the event. This year, her mom made the eight-hour drive for her audition.

"My mom was at the Grotto praying during my audition and it must have worked," said Kinder.

Her roommates also came to her audition wearing t-shirts that spelled out her last name.

Kinder learned the next morning that she had been selected to fill one of the six openings on the Irish Guard from a field of 28 who auditioned.

"I raced over to the band hall on Monday morning and I was so excited when I saw my name on the list but I didn't know what to think so I said to myself, 'Does this mean I made it?'" she said.

Despite some who think the all-male tradition of the Irish Guard may have been broken for the sake of political correctness, band director Kenneth Dye, who makes the final decision regarding who is selected for the Irish Guard, said Kinder had all the qualifications.

"Molly met every requirement — height and otherwise," said Dye. "She had an excellent audition and her skills were first-rate. The only requirement that has kept the Irish Guard all-male is the height requirement. We've had other women try out in the past but they haven't had the skills or coordination. We had the opportunity to watch Molly at all the practices and those who observed her audition were unanimous that her performance was excellent."

Dye added that the assistant band directors and current captain of the Irish Guard give input into the decision of who is selected for the Irish Guard.

Overall, the response Dye has received from alumni, students and community members has run the gamut.

"I've gotten everything from positive to negative responses, some of which are anonymous," he said. "She is the first female to have made the Irish Guard and it might be another 10 to 20 years before we see another female with her stature and skills who could make the Irish Guard."

Kinder said that she has heard only positive comments and "hasn't yet heard one negative thing said to her face."

"There has been an overwhelmingly positive response from students and faculty and I've received so many emails from alumni and people I don't even know sending me messages of congratulations," she said. "I've also heard from former Irish Guard members sending me congratulations."

The response from within the ranks of the Irish Guard remains unknown. When asked for comment on Kinder's selection, Guard captain Paul Raih declined comment.

Kinder, however, maintains that her gender has not been a distraction.

"It's definitely been an adjustment for everyone but we've been really focused on learning our routine for the game Saturday and we're not focused on the media attention or differences," said Kinder. "It's been a very positive experience so far. We're pretty serious but we have a lot of fun together. After going through tryouts together, the guys know that they can be themselves around me and they know that I can take a joke."

Kinder said she intends to follow all of the traditions of the Irish Guard as closely as possible. Although she has not shaved her head as is the tradition of the Irish Guard, she has cut her hair very short, she said.

"I really want to be as full of an Irish Guard member as possible," said Kinder, although she said she couldn't talk about many of the Irish Guard traditions.

On Saturday, Kinder will have her family in the crowd watching her as she makes history.

"I tried on the kilt today and I'm so excited to put on the whole uniform," said Kinder. "I'm nervous about Saturday because I don't know what to expect. I do know that there will be a lot of attention on me so I just want to do my best and I know that the rest of the games this season should be a lot of fun."



PETER RICHARDSON/The Observer

As a member of the Irish Guard, senior Molly Kinder practices with the University's band for several hours each day. "[The guys] told me they were cool with [my selection] because I did everything they did," Kinder said of her fellow Guard members.

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Rex Reed, NEW YORK POST



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Vincent Canby, New York Times

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WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Tower needs lengthy repairs:

Russia's top construction official predicted Thursday that it will take at least a year to completely repair the landmark television tower that was severely damaged in a 26-hour fire earlier this week. The government has not yet decided how much it will spend on renovating the Ostankino tower.

Eliau returns to school:

Schoolmates of Elian Gonzalez have been encouraged to treat the 6-year-old survivor of a shipwreck and the world's most publicized custody battle "just like anybody else" when he starts the second grade Friday. After recovering from his ordeal in the company of friends and relatives and out of the limelight, Elian is expected to make his public reappearance when he — and 2.2 million other Cuban students — return to classes.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Workers vote to end Maine strike:

Negotiators for Bath Iron Works and its largest union tentatively agreed on new contract Thursday morning after all-night talks. A vote to end the strike by 4,800 shipbuilders will be held Sunday, negotiators said. Workers were expected to maintain picket lines until midnight Thursday. Both sides said the proposed agreement addresses the major concerns of union members, who voted to strike Sunday, but some workers seemed enraged as details trickled out and they learned that wages would not be increased over the previous offer.

F-16 crashes, pilot survives:

A military pilot ditched his F-16 fighter jet in the ocean off the New Jersey coast Thursday after its engine quit, ejecting safely before it crashed. The Air National Guard pilot parachuted into the ocean, landing about 250 yards from shore, witnesses said. He was quickly picked up by a state police boat. The pilot, whose name wasn't released, suffered minor bruises and a backache.

Casinos hurt Apaches:

The plaque outside the Apache Gold Casino declares the \$40 million hotel, golf and gambling resort has "helped enable the San Carlos Apache Tribe to give a better quality of life to its tribal members." But seven years after the casino opened — and four years after the debut of a glittering new complex — many Apache families still crowd in small apartments or mobile homes. The reservation's unemployment rate has climbed from 42 percent in 1991 to 58 percent in 1997, the latest year available. The number of tribal members receiving welfare has jumped 20 percent.

FRANCE



Fishing boats from Nice, Cagnes-sur-Mer and Antibes block the entrance to the harbor of Antibes, France, in conjunction with a nationwide transportation protest against the rising prices of fuel. AFP Photo

Fishermen vote to end blockade

Associated Press

PARIS
French fishermen on Thursday called an end to a nationwide wave of protests, including an hours-long traffic blockade of the Channel Tunnel, after the Agriculture Ministry promised to offset the costs of rising fuel prices.

Earlier Thursday, fishermen had lined up cars to form a picket line at the Channel Tunnel terminal at Coquelles, near the northern port city of Calais, leaving hundreds of tourist buses and other vehicles unable to board the trains that pass under the English

Channel.

After a deal was signed at the Agriculture Ministry in Paris, fishing unions called for an end to the demonstrations that have left many French ports in gridlock for more than a week.

Agriculture Minister Jean Glavany, who met with a delegation of fishermen, pledged a series of financial measures to offset rising fuel prices.

"We're going to take measures to lighten the companies' taxes, which will permit companies to compensate for the ... rising price of fuel," Glavany told France-Info radio after the meeting.

More good news came

from Finance Minister Laurent Fabius, who announced cuts on France's heavy fuel taxes as part of a sweeping tax reform.

The FNSEA farmers' union said Fabius' announcement was only "a first step," and threatened to strike on Friday. The group said it was asking members to send fuel bills to Prime Minister Lionel Jospin. A union of taxi drivers also warned they would block traffic Friday.

In the city of Perigueux in the southwest, truck drivers, farmers and taxis added their voices to the fuel protests, stopping traffic at the principal

entrances to the city.

Earlier Thursday, fishermen had occupied ports from the Mediterranean city of Marseille to Bayonne near the Spanish border to the Normandy city of Le Havre.

The British government demanded action by French authorities to prevent a repeat of the blockade of English Channel ports. Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott wrote to French Transport Minister Jean-Claude Gayssot calling for "new rules of engagement."

Britain "remains deeply concerned at the disproportionate impact on Britain of this kind of industrial action in France," he said.

Castro considers New York visit

Associated Press

HAVANA
President Fidel Castro may travel to New York to attend the U.N. Millennium Summit, but if not Cuba will at least send a top official to argue against what it calls the hijacking of the organization "by a small and powerful group of countries."

"A decision will be made in the next 72 hours" on whether Castro will visit New York for the first time since 1995, when he addressed the 50th anniversary U.N. session, Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque told a news con-

ference Thursday in Havana.

He said he was unworried about the possibility of violence or an assassination attempt against Castro in New York if he attends the Sept. 6-8 U.N. meeting. "No threat or risk is capable of scaring anybody in this country."

Tensions between Cuba and the United States rose this week after the State Department accused the island nation of preventing some Cubans with U.S. visas from emigrating.

Cuba, in turn, accused the United States of failing to provide enough visas for poorer or less-educated Cubans, while selectively giving out

visas to doctors and other professionals in what it claims is a U.S. effort to strip the island of trained personnel.

In Washington, the State Department said Thursday that Cuba had agreed to end a two-month suspension of talks on legal migration of Cubans to the United States under accords signed in 1994 and 1995.

Cuba suspended the semiannual talks in June amid a furor between the United States and Cuban exiles in Florida over Elian Gonzalez, the 6-year-old whose mother died at sea in an illegal attempt to get to America with him.

Market Watch 8/31-

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CISCO SYSTEMS (CSCO)	+3.09	+2.0575	68.62
CLEAR CHANNEL (CCU)	-6.80	-5.25	72.00
MICROSOFT CORP (MSFT)	-.27	-.19	69.81
INTEL CORP (INTC)	+1.88	+1.38	74.88

Tickets

continued from page 1

end, where they were getting overloaded with information," said senior Steve Harris. "Then they get bombarded with this complicated ticket system."

Smith, too, said he "didn't know what was going on, and I'm supposed to be the chief of staff."

A number was drawn to determine which student could buy the first ticket from his class, and sales proceeded in numerical order. Students without stickers on their ticket applications, were placed last in line on days that tickets were sold.

"If I were the number that was drawn first, I'd have to get in line pretty early if I didn't want to be skipped," said graduate student Bill Cassidy, a transfer from Arizona State University. "It sounds like a penalty to me."

Smith also expressed concerns about late access to his ticket application. He said the University should consider mailing the applications to off-campus and graduate students prior to the beginning of the academic year.

That would be similar to the distribution system at Ohio State University, according to graduate student and OSU transfer Paul Vasquez. Vasquez said that OSU students receive ticket applications in the spring and their tickets by late summer. He said, however, that a similar program at Notre Dame might pose problems for incoming freshmen, transfer and graduate students.

In the past four years, the University has made annual revisions to the distribution system. In 1997 and 1998, students camped overnight outside the Joyce Center for tickets. But prompted by concerns about alcohol and student safety, the 1999 system featured a lottery similar to this year's, but students were still able to camp inside the stadium gates.

Although he believes the University will not return to the campout system, O'Donoghue said, "If I could bring back the campout, I would."

"A campout to me sounds like the ultimate college experience," said Cassidy.

But while that system may be a no-go, Clemency expressed what he thinks is a very feasible idea.

Clemency's proposal is a procedure he calls "The Test." It is based on the ticket distribution reform platform that Joe Priest and Bill Kuder, both 2000 grad-

uates of the University, ran on when campaigning for student body president and vice president in 1999.

The test would be 100 points, with top scorers from each class receiving priority consideration for stadium seating. Clemency's program would also give automatic points, based on grade level, to Notre Dame and Saint Mary's sophomores, juniors and seniors. Clemency said Notre Dame students would receive an additional 10 more points than Saint Mary's students.

"This is not about gender discrimination. If Saint Mary's students know their stuff, they'll get good seats," said Clemency, who noted that "The Test" would weed out serious football fans from those who attend games to socialize with friends.

It would do so, he said, by quizzing students on football trivia. One-third of the test would be based on Notre Dame football history, one-third on NCAA football history and the remainder on general knowledge of the sport.

There would also be statistical variation among scores to allow friends with similar scores to sit together, said Clemency. But he said that if one friend scores high on the test and another scores low, the top scoring friend would have to opt for "worse" seats if he wanted to sit by the other student.

"If you think it's about socializing, then you don't care where you sit," Clemency said.

Some students, though, expressed doubts about Clemency's recommendation, questioning how to administer it and how to make it fair for all students.

O'Donoghue said he was unsure if the University would move forward with a change as drastic as Clemency's recommendation. He said, however, that he valued the student input.

"I guarantee that there'll be some tweaking, but I can't say that it'll be an entirely new system," said O'Donoghue, who this fall begins his term on the University's ticket planning committee. "This is about what we can do to make the current system work better or to invent a great new system."

O'Donoghue vowed Thursday to keep students informed of his committee work saying he will not serve on it unless the planning for next year's distribution is made a public process.

RUB A DUB DUB



TONY FLOYD/The Observer

University coaches wash cars for \$5 each near Eck Stadium Thursday. The event was intended to raise awareness about the activities of charitable organizations, and the project's proceeds will be donated to the United Way.

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Alumni gifts to establish scholarship

Special to The Observer

The University has received a gift to establish an Alumni Association scholarship fund.

The gift was given by David Johnson of Colorado Springs, Colo., a 1971 graduate and former president of the Alumni Association; his wife, Carolyn; his mother, Mary Jane; and his sister, Susan. Johnson said that other former Association presidents and board members will be urged to contribute to the fund and that he hopes others will contribute.

"The gifts of the Johnsons and of other former Alumni Association officers wonderfully express the Notre Dame family's affection, respect and gratitude for some of our most dedicated students," said University President Edward Malloy.

Students fall victim to summer crime

By ALISON HEINZ
News Writer

Away from the insulated Notre Dame campus, students living just one mile off-campus this summer in South Bend were the victims of crime.

Notre Dame students are learning the hard way how crime prevention techniques can make a difference. Senior Andrew Miller said that after his house near Molly McGuire's was broken into twice this summer he and his roommates doubled their security efforts.

"Our landlord came over and screwed some windows shut and installed some additional locks, and we keep our alarm on now," said Miller. "A third break-in was attempted but the guys couldn't get through the front door locks."

But the crimes this summer did not stop at breaking and entering. A group of Notre Dame seniors living on a nearby street were robbed at gunpoint by masked men. Two weeks later it happened again, this time at another house on the same block. No one was hurt and quick police action led to the apprehension of the suspects on the other side of

"I don't want to think that it happened only because it was summertime and no one else was really here because that makes it too easy to let your guard down now that everyone is back. You still have to be careful."

anonymous robbery victim

town as they attempted another robbery.

"What happened this summer is in my head probably 90 percent of the time," said one of the victims, who asked not to be identified. "I don't want to think that it happened only because it was summertime and no one else was really here because that makes it too easy to let your guard down now that everyone is back. You still have to be careful."

Even though the off-campus residences are technically out of the jurisdiction of the Notre Dame Security Police Department, the NDSP does work with the South Bend Police Department when it comes to protecting the stu-

dents.

"Students may want to follow up with us after they contact the SBPD so that we can watch out for trends," said Chuck Hurley, assistant director of NDSP. "In areas where there has been a number of incidents we are doing what we can to make police presence more strongly felt."

Hurley also said it is important for students to report every crime and to be aware of what makes them easy targets, such as the fact that students are predictable and tend to follow the same schedule everyday. It is easy for anyone watching the house to know when it is empty, he said.

"There are certain implications to moving off campus," said Hurley. "A student looking to move off campus should research the neighborhood and hope their landlord will be honest with them."

"Or, they can also get in touch with the Crime Prevention Bureau of the South Bend Police Department and ask about crime activity for that area. There is a problem and people need to be aware of it, but the last thing I would want to see is more division between Notre Dame and the South Bend community."

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Cheney plugs Balkan exit strategy

◆ Candidate says he'll work for troop reduction

Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.

Dick Cheney said Thursday that if he and George W. Bush are elected they would look at crafting an exit strategy to get U.S. troops out of the Balkans.

European allies could take on "a bigger share of the burden there," the Republican vice presidential candidate said. "We have global commitments, they don't."

Cheney also said President Clinton has no clear plan for removing troops from the Balkans.

"I haven't seen yet any proposal from the administration to get out of Kosovo or Bosnia," he said while campaigning for the GOP ticket at a southern Florida elementary school.

Clinton has been scaling back troops in the Balkans from the nearly 20,000 sent there in 1995.

About 4,600 U.S. troops remain in Bosnia, out of a total of 22,000 peacekeepers. There are about 6,200 troops in Kosovo, out of a total force of 44,000. Administration officials have expressed hope for further reducing the U.S. presence, but have set no deadlines.

The troop deployments that Bush and Cheney criticize, meanwhile, have generated more than \$2 billion in federal contracts for Halliburton, the Dallas-based oil services company Cheney ran from 1995 until two weeks ago.

Halliburton's Brown & Root Services subsidiary reaped a large chunk of business in

1995 when troops were sent to Bosnia. The Army paid it \$546 million to provide logistical support for more than 20,000 U.S. soldiers in Bosnia, Croatia and Hungary. The company had already earned \$269 million on the contract.

Cheney said he had no role in that or any other contracts for Halliburton.

"I never approached the department about any contracts. All those contracts were competitively bid," Cheney said.

Cheney said, adding that he didn't want anyone to criticize him for using his past assignment as defense secretary to get contracts for the company.

Kym Spell, a spokeswoman for Democratic presidential candidate Al Gore, defended the Clinton-Gore administration, saying Bush "is not ready to be commander in chief. He clearly doesn't understand what is going on in the world."

Spell said U.S. troops make up less than a quarter of the peacekeeping forces in Kosovo and in Bosnia. She added that there have been no combat casualties and that U.S. allies pay for 90 percent of the effort.

Cheney delivered a withering attack Wednesday on the Clinton-Gore administration, accusing it of letting troops, equipment, weapons and morale erode.

But asked Thursday what specific additions should be made in defense programs, he couldn't say where or how he thinks the military should be

built up.

"I'm not ready to say that yet," Cheney told reporters at Croissant Elementary School, where he announced a \$2.8 billion proposal to build new schools and repair crumbling ones.

He said there first must be a "complete scrub" of overseas commitments and a look at future defense planning.

"That could conceivably lead you to the conclusion that you

need larger forces, or you may want to change the mix in some fashion," Cheney said.

Cheney, who helped craft U.S. strategy in the Persian

Gulf War, said it is appropriate to send troops on peacekeeping missions — either in a coalition through the U.N. Security Council or unilaterally — when circumstances require the United States to "act aggressively and independently" to protect its interests.

Although critical of Clinton-era deployments, he pointed to only one — Haiti — as a mistake. President Clinton in 1994 sent 20,000 troops to Haiti to help restore the elected government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Earlier this year, the administration withdrew the last of those troops, which had dwindled to 450 by late 1999.

The Gore campaign's Spell said: "Cheney should check with one of his advisers because it was Gen. Colin Powell who helped negotiate the deal and bring in American forces."

"I haven't seen yet any proposal from the administration to get out of Kosovo or Bosnia."

Dick Cheney
Vice Presidential candidate

Gore pushes tough patient's bill of rights

Associated Press

SEATTLE

In person and on the air, Al Gore appealed on Thursday for the support of people who battle with insurance companies over medical coverage. "We can win this struggle," he declared.

"Allow yourself to believe," Gore told a noisy downtown rally. He and running mate Joseph Lieberman spoke to more than 3,000 cheering backers, pushing for "a meaningful, real enforceable patients' bill of rights."

At the same time, the campaign began airing new commercials ripping into "some bean counter behind a computer terminal" who denies needed medical treatment for patients.

The commercial was filmed during Gore's 400-mile boat trip down the Mississippi River following the Democratic National Convention.

All week, Gore has been concentrating on health issues including expanding coverage for children and giving senior citizens prescription drug coverage. He was joined by Lieberman in the Pacific Northwest to focus on two of the biggest issues, bolstering the Medicare system and strengthening the rights of patients in managed care programs.

"Let's recognize what's going on here," Gore told the rally. "Are you with me? Are you ready to win this struggle?"



Gore

Polls suggest that Gore has picked a good issue. Many consumers are unhappy with restrictions they face in managed care.

One measure now stalled in Congress would give patients a right to appeal insurance company decisions and would allow them to sue the companies if they believe they have been damaged by coverage decisions.

Gore said he's making the issue central to his campaign and will have a mandate to act if he wins election.

"We can have it if you will stay with us and win this battle," Gore said.

Republican George W. Bush, too, says that he supports strengthening the rights of patients, but Gore's campaign contends the measure Bush backs is full of holes.

Steven Epstein, a lawyer who represents managed care interests, said politicians are trying to magnify differences that are relatively small.

"It's a non-issue," he said. "It's much ado about nothing."

While in Seattle, Gore and Lieberman collected the endorsement of the American Nurses Association.

Gore has dwelt at length on the often arcane details of his health policy proposals and has sought a contrast with Bush, whom he accuses of offering only vague notions of what he would do if elected.

In Seattle, the vice president also was seeking to light a fire under backers in a state important to his hopes of winning the election, doffing his coat and offering a fiery pep talk.

"I want to ask you to open your hearts and allow yourself to really, sincerely believe without reservation that we can do the right thing in America," said Gore. "Push past any fear of disappointment or disillusionment, reject the appeal of cynicism."

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Study: drug may help asthma treatment

Associated Press

FLORENCE, Italy — A study suggests that an experimental drug could halve the number of asthma attacks suffered by people whose condition isn't well controlled — with current treatment about 15 percent of all asthma patients, a researcher said Thursday.

The first major study of the injectable drug, presented Thursday at the World Congress on Lung Health, also found that it allowed half of patients to stop using steroid inhalers and the rest to reduce their dependence on them, said Dr. Stephen Holgate, who led the study.

Steroids have been linked to dangerous side effects, such as osteoporosis and stunted growth in children. The medication, Xolair, acts earlier in the cascade of reactions that lead to an asthma attack than other treatments, said Holgate, an asthma researcher with the Medical Research Council in London and a professor at England's Southampton University.

"This discovery is really the first major step forward in the treatment of asthma that

we've had in the last 20 years," he said. Those taking the drug had half the number of asthma attacks as subjects who did not receive it.

Their lungs functioned better and they were less often admitted to the hospital with asthma attacks. Some of the patients started improving two weeks into the 18-month study, and no serious side effects were reported, according to the researchers.

The results of the study were presented at a session sponsored by one of the drug's makers, Novartis AG of Switzerland.

"It's an excellent result," said Dr. Mitchell Friedman, head of the lung center at Tulane University in New Orleans, who was not connected with the research. "It may transform asthma treatment, certainly in allergic asthma, but there are a whole lot of things that influence inflammation in asthma. Whether this will be the major one remains to be seen."

Xolair is the first in a new class of drugs that target a chemical in the blood, called IgE, that is involved early in the string of events that lead to the development of asthma.

Greek Church fights ID card changes

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Greece's powerful Orthodox Christian Church is taking its fight against the Socialist government back to the streets in a battle its fiery leader says pits the "sons of darkness" against "the sons of light."

The church hopes it can force the government to revoke a decision eliminating the religion entry from state identity cards. It would like to collect nearly 5 million signatures — about half the total population — to force a referendum on the issue.

But the showdown resonates far beyond just ID cards. It represents an important crossroads for Greece: whether the nation can adopt European Union norms or remain under the influence of clergymen who are highly suspicious of the EU and the influence of the West.

"We will continue our struggle for Greece to remain a Christian state, as we knew it and want to live it,"

leader of the church, said this week during a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. In June, he led huge rallies against the ID changes in Athens and the northern port of Thessaloniki.

While most Greeks vacationed in August, church printing presses worked overtime churning out millions of ballots that will be carried door-to-door as part of their campaign.

Christodoulos planned to formally open the signature drive

Friday, the first day of the ecclesiastic new year. It will end on March 25, the day Greece celebrates its early 19th century war of independence from Ottoman Turkish rule.

By that time, however, the new IDs should be in circulation. The government said it will begin issuing the new cards in October.

Premier Costas Simitis has

the government, arguing it abolished the religion entry because it ran counter to Greece's modernization efforts and European outlook.

Human rights groups and the country's religious minorities, including Jews, Muslims and Roman Catholics, also welcomed the decision. They claimed the old ID cards allowed religious discrimination.

The government fears the church's signature campaign could deeply divide Greece, where more than 97 percent of the native-born population is baptized into the

Greek Orthodox Church but opinion polls show a near even split on the ID issue.

But many Orthodox church leaders are wary of the government's drive to bring Greece into the mainstream of

"We will continue our struggle for Greece to remain a Christian state..."

Archibishop Christodoulos
leader of the Greek church

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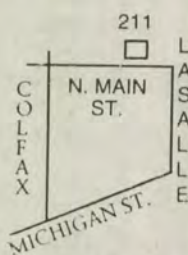
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Clinton vetoes 'death tax' repeal

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

President Clinton vetoed a bill Thursday that would have gradually repealed inheritance taxes, saying it would have benefited the wealthiest Americans while threatening the nation's financial well-being. Republican House leaders vowed a prompt veto override attempt, hoping to keep the so-called "death tax" issue alive in the fall campaign.



Clinton

Clinton, during a ceremony in the White House East Room, acknowledged the estate tax can hit some farmers and small businesses hard, but he said many Democrats favored tax law changes to exempt them without handing the richest 3,000 families an average tax cut of \$7 million apiece.

"Our party is not against reasonable estate tax relief. But this bill is wrong. It is wrong on grounds of fairness. It is wrong on grounds of fiscal responsibility," the president said.

The White House said the \$105 billion cost during the 10-year phaseout would explode to \$750 billion in the decade after full repeal, rapidly consuming budget surplus dollars needed to shore up Social Security and Medicare, pay down the national debt and increase spending on education.

The bill, like the marriage penalty tax cut Clinton vetoed a few weeks ago, was part of last year's vetoed \$792 billion tax cut that congressional Republicans are now trying to pass bit by bit.

The president said these smaller, more popular bills could "snowball" into the same huge tax cut, threatening a return to deficits and higher interest rates for consumers.

"Unless someone stops it, the snowball will turn into an avalanche and you'll have the

same impact you had before....," the president said. "This bill suffered the inevitable fate of a snowball in August."

Only about 2 percent of estates in a given year pay the tax that reaches 55 percent, but sponsors of the repeal won broad support on Capitol Hill by arguing that it inhibits business expansion, threatens breakups of farms and forces millions of taxpayers to pay lawyers, accountants and insurance companies so they can avoid the tax.

"Working men and women across the country recognize that it is simply wrong that after paying taxes your whole life, the government can collect up to 55 percent of these same assets when the head of the family dies," said Rep. Jennifer Dunn, R-Wash. "This is a fairness issue."

The estate tax veto assures the issue will be part of dozens of House and Senate campaigns and the presidential race between Democrat Al Gore and Republican George W. Bush, who told reporters Thursday that Clinton's argument about the wealthy amounted to "class warfare."

"I would have signed the bill," said Bush, who has proposed repeal as part of his 10-year, \$1.3 trillion tax cut proposal.

In the House, 65 Democrats joined all Republicans in passing the bill this summer, just over the two-thirds threshold necessary to override the veto. House GOP leaders tentatively plan next Thursday to put those Democrats on the spot — particularly those in difficult re-election fights — and some say they'll vote against Clinton.

"The president is wrong, and to his veto I say no," said Rep. Ronnie Shows, D-Miss.

Judge halts hearing of suspected terrorist

Associated Press

BRADENTON, Fla.

A judge has granted a motion to halt bond proceedings in the case of a Palestinian immigrant being held as a suspected terrorist.

Mazen Al-Najjar has been jailed for three years without charges on the basis of secret evidence. His bond hearing Thursday was halted so a federal can rule on the handling of that evidence.

The former University of South Florida Arabic instructor is seeking to be released while he appeals a deportation order. The Immigration and Naturalization Service arrested him in May 1997 after the order was issued.

At issue is whether immigration Judge R. Kevin McHugh should review the secret evidence before giving Al-Najjar's attorney, David Cole, a chance to view a summary of it.

Cole plans to ask U.S. District Judge Joan Lenard to order McHugh to give him a copy of the summary before the evidence is presented.

"This is information being presented behind closed doors," Cole told McHugh. "It should not be considered

unless the evidence is necessary and appropriate."

McHugh scheduled a Sept. 18 conference call with the attorneys.

None of the secret evidence against Al-Najjar has been introduced. The INS showed classified material to McHugh in May 1997, prompting him to order Al-Najjar detained as a national security threat.

Lenard ruled in May that Al-Najjar's civil rights had been violated and ordered the bond hearing.

"It's just another week after another week," Al-Najjar said Thursday. "I will complete reading another book, maybe."

McHugh's latest decision came one day after a federal agent acknowledged the government lacks any direct evidence that Al-Najjar had raised money for a terror group or had helped organize any violence.

On Wednesday, INS attorney Daniel Vara played a 13-minute videotape of various gatherings organized by the Islamic Committee for Palestine as evidence Al-Najjar had consorted with known terrorists.

Al-Najjar was an officer in the committee and helped organize the conferences, some of which were attended by leaders of the terrorist group Islamic Jihad.

The tape was compiled from nearly 500 hours of video seized in 1995, but INS agent William West was unable to offer any example of Al-Najjar soliciting money for the Islamic Jihad.

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EL SALVADOR

Convicted nun-killer loses release appeal

Associated Press

SAN SALVADOR

One of two former soldiers still imprisoned for the 1980 slaying of four U.S. religious workers has lost an appeal for release, the Supreme Court announced Thursday.

Magistrate Eduardo Tenorio said the court rejected the petition of Francisco Orlando Contreras because it believed he had not been rehabilitated.

A former member of the country's National Guard, Contreras was one of five men sentenced to 30 years in prison in 1984 for the slayings of nuns Ita Ford, Maura Clarke and Dorothy Kazel, and layworker Jean Donovan during the country's civil war.

The women had been detained at a highway check-

point in December 1980 while headed to the capital from the nearby international airport. Their bullet-riddled bodies were found a day later. They apparently had been raped.

Three of the men were freed in 1998 for good behavior under a law that reduced some sentences to ease prison overcrowding.

Contreras and Carlos Joaquin Contreras Palacios were kept in prison because they had participated in a prison uprising.

Human rights organizations have long pressed the government to act against higher-ranking military figures they say were responsible. Families of the victims said they believe the women were targeted because officials suspected they sympathized with leftist guerrillas during the war.

SOMALIA

New president calls for peace

Associated Press

MOGADISHU

Enjoying his first full day in Somalia as the troubled country's head of state, President Abdiqasim Salad Hassan warned Thursday that without the will of the people there can be no effective government.

Hassan, who was inaugurated as the nation's first president in almost a decade Sunday in neighboring Djibouti, said he wanted reconciliation with the armed faction leaders and would bring stability to Somalia.

"Through peaceful means and reconciliation, we can maintain our unity and achieve prosperity," he told a jubilant audience of businessmen, adding that his government would work "under the principles of Somali tradition."

Hassan had been in the small Djiboutian town of Arta where he was elected and where Somalia's new assembly currently sits.

Neither the assembly nor the president were expected to return to Somalia — viewed as their staunchest test — until a prime minister and Cabinet had been appointed. The appointments have yet to take place.

But in a highly unexpected move Wednesday, the 58-year-old flew into the Horn of Africa nation, which has endured nine years of violence and chaos, to be greeted by tens of thousands of ecstatic, flag-waving Somalis.

Hassan's decision to go to

Mogadishu was seen as a bold move to demonstrate to his assembly's opponents, and a generally skeptical international community, that he and his legislators have the support of the Somali people, observers say.

"It's very significant that he returned and proved the pundits wrong," Babafemi Badejo, a senior adviser from the U.N.'s political office for Somalia, told The Associated Press in a telephone interview from Djibouti.

"Several of the faction leaders made statements with affect that any of the people who went to Arta would not be allowed to enter any airport in Somalia. It also demonstrates to the international community ... that the Arta process has support within Somalia."

Throughout a peace process which began in Arta on May 2, there has been opposition among a number of faction leaders and skepticism from the international community.

Brainchild of Djibouti President Ismael Omar Guelleh, the Arta conference was the 13th attempt to find a peaceful solution to Somalia's problems.

So far it has led to the election of Hassan and a 245-member parliament —

designed along Somalia's clan structure — which is expected to lead the country through a three-year transitional period.

And for Somalis, who have been glued to their television screens throughout, it has brought an optimism unmatched for years.

Hassan's inauguration was attended by four African leaders and representatives of regional bodies. He also received a message of support from U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

The country descended into chaos and has had no central government since opposition leaders joined forces to oust

dictator Mohamed Siad Barre in 1991. Factional leaders then fought with each other, turning the nation of 7 million into

battling fiefdoms ruled by heavily armed militias.

Among those opposed to the peace process are the leaders of the breakaway regions of Somaliland and Puntland, self-declared President Mohamed Ibrahim Egal and Col. Abdullahi Yussuf, respectively.

The pair have established relative stability and their own administrations in the northern regions and despite the apparent success of the initiative they remain indifferent.

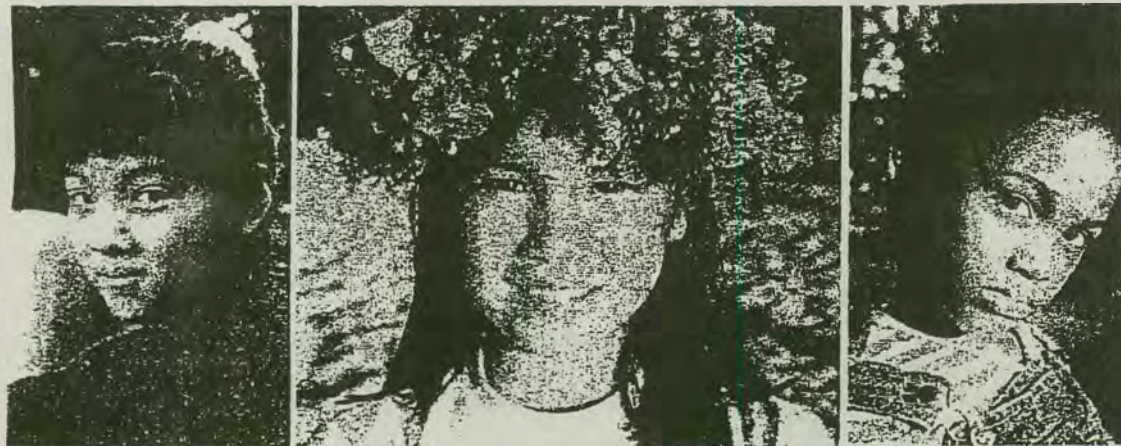
"Through peaceful means and reconciliation, we can maintain our unity and achieve prosperity."

Abdiqasim Salad Hassan
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VIEWPOINT

THE
OBSERVER

page 14

Friday, September 1, 2000

THE OBSERVER

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

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CONTACT US

OFFICE MANAGER/GENERAL INFO.....631-7471
FAX.....631-6927
ADVERTISING.....631-6900/8840
observer@darwin.cc.nd.edu
EDITOR IN CHIEF.....631-4542
MANAGING EDITOR/ASST. ME.....631-4541
BUSINESS OFFICE.....631-5313
NEWS.....631-5323
observer.obsnews.1@nd.edu
VIEWPOINT.....631-5303
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POLICIES

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The news is reported as accurately and objectively as possible. Unsigned editorials represent the opinion of the majority of the Editor in Chief, Managing Editor, Assistant Managing Editor and department editors. Commentaries, letters and columns present the views of the authors and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Viewpoint space is available to all readers. The free expression of all opinions through letters is encouraged. Letters to the Editor must be signed and must include contact information.

Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief Mike Connolly.

Gender is not a factor in tradition

In light of Molly Kinder's acceptance as the first female member of the Irish Guard, the traditions of the Irish Guard and this University have come into debate. Some have questioned if Kinder can fulfill the duties of a Guard member. No one should doubt, however, if women in general can fulfill those duties.

Although a female member of the Guard changes its all-male history, it does not have to change the tradition of the Irish Guard as honorable repre-

sentatives of the University. While there has never been a female member of the Irish Guard, the Irish Guard was not formed to represent malehood. The Irish Guard function as a visible symbol of the University.

For 192 years, the United States Supreme Court had a history of being an all-male body. With the appointment of Sandra Day O'Connor in 1981, that history changed.

The tradition of the Court, however, remained the same. The Court still represents the justice and integrity of the United States,

regardless of the Justices' gender.

Whether in Washington D.C. or under the Golden Dome, the principle should remain the same. As long as the spirit of a tradition is maintained, it should not matter whether a male or female upholds that tradition.

The Irish Guard promotes pride and respect; both of these qualities transcend gender lines. Tradition is only broken when a member of the Guard does not honorably represent the University. As long as the standards of the Irish Guard are not changed, then the gender of a Guard member should not matter.

The Observer Editorial

Living in post-graduation limbo

I am officially at a confusing age. Awkward does not quite do justice to the peculiar situation in which we Domers who began our studies in the first half of the 1990s find ourselves.

With ages ranging from 23 to 28, we are not yet old enough to go back to South Bend and feel any great amount of nostalgia for the place; or even to impress people who currently attend our alma mater with stories of how things have changed. We are not long departed and thus it would be overly dramatic for us to wax poetic about our days in "the Bend."

Also, we cannot yet have moments as occurred in 1993 when I told my assembled family that I would be living in Keenan Hall, only to hear both my uncle (ND '59) and father (ND '66) refer to that 1950s bomb shelter of a residence hall as "one of the new dorms."

I do get a certain satisfaction out of telling students that my freshman year roommate planned to move from Keenan Hall to Cavanaugh Hall for his sophomore year and then watch as visions of expensive Swedish operations involving very private areas race through their thoughts. But otherwise, I just don't fit the standard image of "alumnus."

However, as I prepare to trek up to the first football game of the century, I realize that I can't really go up and fit in seamlessly. Even if I had my ID still, I don't look anything like the 22-year-old pictured on it. The headshot near the beginning of this column is actually of a 21-year-old assistant news editor, not of a slightly balding, 25-year-old writer and book editor. (Note: I will update this for later columns, it is my fault that they

have had to run that photo. I haven't posed in a while.)

The last game that I went up for, crowds at Coaches, the 'Backer and 'Fat Shirley's appeared to be made up of people who look more and more like my 16-year-old baby sister. Sitting in my seats in the southeast corner of the stadium seemed miles away from the undulating field of shirt-color that is the student section.

I have visited some off-campus parties since graduation and been asked what classes I'm in only to be forced into the somewhat laborious explanation about "visiting friends." Add to that the fact that nearly all of the people who I knew have graduated in the ensuing two years, and I feel as though I do not really belong with the students.

Caught in the limbo that exists in being too old to party with the undergraduates and too young to claim any sort of historical alumni status, we can turn to the only thing that really binds all of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's alumni(ae) together: football.

At what other school are you able to travel thousands of miles from home territory and still be greeted in the parking lot by vast numbers of tailgaters all offering you free food and drink simply because of your status as a student or alum of Notre Dame or Saint Mary's? What other school can have people from many different generations sitting in a bar cheering and screaming for its team nearly every Saturday in the fall?

Notre Dame football has an enormous pull on anyone who has experienced it. While I was exploring this continent immediately following my graduation in

1998, I saw the home opener against Michigan on television in Anchorage, Alaska, where I had resolved to experience the Arctic winter. That game stirred within me a homesickness to see the campus again and dragged me out of my planned hibernation. A former colleague and I traveled to South Bend last year to tailgate and on the off chance that we might find tickets and get into a game. We did and it was great fun.

But, that same weekend, I stayed over and walked around the silent, somewhat unwelcoming campus. I had no reason for being there. But the previous Friday and Saturday felt like I was part of the family.

On that weekend trip, I noticed that I don't quite fit with the students from the 1980s and earlier either. Their lifestyles are on my distant horizon.

But come this Saturday I will be standing, perhaps at Coaches, perhaps in LaFortune Student Center, perhaps in the parking lot as a tailgater, perhaps in the stadium itself. I will be standing there with those people to whom I cannot yet relate on the one hand and with those to whom I can no longer relate on the other.

But, through this weekend's game we become one family that can meet on one issue, pride and support for our school.

Matt Loughran is a 1998 graduate of the University of Notre Dame and currently works as an editorial production assistant for a publishing house in Maryland.

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



Matt Loughran

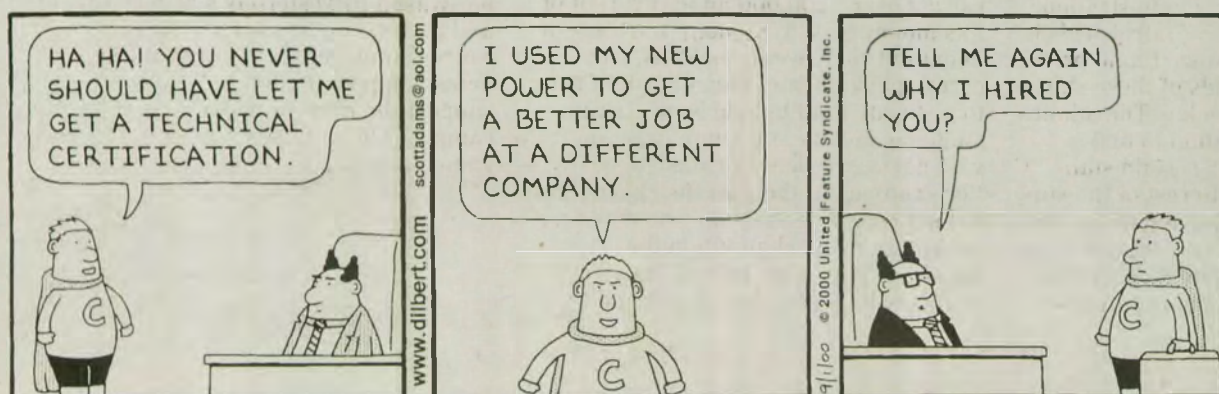
Random
Thoughts



DILBERT

SCOTT ADAMS

QUOTE OF THE DAY



"Nobody will ever win the battle of the sexes. There's too much fraternizing with the enemy."

Henry Kissinger
Secretary of State

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Voicing support for female on Irish Guard

Guard chosen because skill and talent

Last week a girl made the Irish Guard. A girl. Yesterday, Anthony Farina kept up with a lost, but not forgotten Notre Dame tradition: whining. He felt sorry for the current Irish Guardpersons, but not for its newest female member. He believed that Notre Dame broke with tradition in order to promote equality. That is what he said and this is why he is wrong.

The most important thing at Notre Dame is not tradition, Anthony the Agitated, it's excellence. I seriously doubt that Dr. Dye or the captains of this heralded team chose this "young lady" simply because she fit the six-foot-two-inch criteria. Did it ever cross your mind that she was the best person for the job? Were you aware that she tried out last year and had to try doubly hard to make it this year? I doubt it, because in your eyes everything must be politically correct.

Dr. Dye will not regret his decision, as you presume, because the excellence will not be lost. The duties and skill of the new Irish Guardpeople will not have changed. They won't attempt to "fit in better with some of the idiotic ideas floating about in our society." There is simply a girl on the Irish Guard. They won't exchange their big fluffy hats for upside-down backwards visors and they won't lead the band into the stadium doing the Roger Rabbit. What they will do, however, is represent the University like those before them.

Every tradition, Mr. Farina, is inevitably broken. I am just glad that this female pioneer was chosen because she is excellent and deserving, not because of her sexuality. This anti-1950s "Oh my God, when did woman leave the kitchen" phenomenon, which "causes feelings of anger and nausea to arise in (yourself) and every Notre Dame alumnus" means only that you are close-minded. Many alumni, most students and even past Irish Guardsmen are happy for the team's prettiest smile.

So when you get a chance to watch the new Guards lead the band into the stadium on any given Saturday, I advise you to look closely. I hope you aren't too proud to notice that nothing has changed. The newest female member will be marching proudly and well. But don't get too close, my new friend, or she will unhesitatingly put you in your place. And deservedly so.

Christopher Howald
Senior
off-campus
August 31, 2000

Proud to be led by newest Guard member

This letter is in response to Anthony Farina's letter "New Guard Breaks Tradition." While I can understand Mr. Farina's viewpoint that some traditions should not be broken, he blatantly missed the fact that the criteria for the Irish Guard are: (1) the guard candidate should be over six-foot-two-inches tall and (2) she exhibits superior marching skills. No guideline for the sex of the candidate is ever mentioned.

The fact is that there are not many women taller than six-foot-two and even less women that would wish to represent the University as an Irish Guard member. Molly Kinder is: (1) over six-foot-two and (2) she exhibits superior marching skills. Obviously she meets the criteria to be in the Guard.

I have heard of women trying out in the past, but none have had marching skills strong enough to make the Guard. The fact that a woman has never been in the Guard before is not a "time-honored tradition," it is a matter of circumstance.

Anyone present at band auditions would have observed that Molly marched an outstanding audition. Dr. Dye, the Assistant Directors and the graduate students all deemed that she had the qualities necessary to be a member of the Irish Guard.

Molly was not selected for the band "to be politically correct, or to try to fit in better with some of the idiotic ideas floating about in our society." Nothing about the decision was made to "promote equality." She was selected to be a member of the Irish Guard because she possesses superior marching abilities and she will exude a strong presence on the field.

Since day one of her selection into the Guard she has excelled at learning and memorizing the half-time show and showing her complete dedication to the spirit of the band.

I feel that Molly exemplifies the spirit of the Fighting Irish and I am proud to lead the band with Molly Kinder as a member of the Irish Guard.

Jim McFarlin
Head Drum Major
University of Notre Dame Marching Band
August 31, 2000

Breaking traditions is progress

Out of the sense of spirit that so characterizes everything we do at Notre Dame and a desire to watch history being made, I attended Molly Kinder's tryout for the Irish Guard. I saw her nail each and every complicated maneuver, easily outclassing most of her male competitors. Not only did she possess the necessary height and skill requirements, she had more grace and presence than almost all of the men out there. If the other nine men on the Irish Guard have any insight at all, they will take advantage of what Molly has to offer instead of feeling sorry for themselves or excluding her as Farina suggests.

Furthermore, I had the luck to live only a hall away from Molly last year in McGlinn and I was constantly amazed by how warm, friendly and inviting her personality was. Never did I feel inferior to her as a freshman and I was always greeted with a broad smile whenever I saw her. She truly does exemplify the best of what it means to be a Notre Dame student and could only improve, not taint, the hallowed image of the Irish Guard.

I realize that every person is entitled to an opinion, but it baffles me that anyone could possibly suggest we should deny an outstanding, skilled and qualified person the opportunity to showcase her talents simply because it would break tradition. Was it as equally "angering" and "nauseating" to see women admitted to the University of Notre Dame in 1972, breaking a 130 year tradition? What kind of a school would Notre Dame be if we weren't constantly re-evaluating our rules, regulations and traditions? Yes, tradition is often a vital and necessary component of life at Notre Dame. However, Farina makes it appear as if breaking tradition were a cardinal sin, as if the entire infrastructure of Notre Dame would crumble if one of its "prized traditions" was changed. Guess what? Traditions are broken everyday: it's called progress.

Meg Fitzpatrick
Sophomore
McGlinn Hall
August 31, 2000



President of "The Shirt" committee defends decision

As head coordinator of "The Shirt," I feel compelled to respond to yesterday's article entitled "Student questions 'The Shirt's' new design concept." This article is full of false information and may be the least objective article The Observer has ever printed.

Contrary to the article, "The Shirt" is student-run. Every year, students choose the design of the shirt, the color and the manufacturer. They negotiate with vendors, deliver the shirts and handle marketing. University officials are not involved in any of these activities. As President, I am the one who, in the end, not only chose the design, but helped design it as well. I also was the

one who chose the manufacturer for the Shirt, Cadre Athletic.

No Notre Dame official made that decision, I did. Regarding Neil Fitzpatrick, we apologize that his design was not allowed by the administration, but that was beyond our control. This is the most visible shirt Notre Dame produces. Tens of thousands of these shirts will be seen on NBC weekly. The administration has the obligation to make sure "The Shirt" passes certain standards. I had the best interest of the student body when I made the decision to create a new design. The design is original and uses photography that far outdates Mr. Fitzpatrick's own composi-

tion.

The true purpose of "The Shirt" is to raise money for Student Activities and a unique Notre Dame charity. It is the largest student fundraiser on campus raising over \$200,000 annually. Half of this money goes to Student Activities to help fund such events as SYRs, concerts, speakers, etc. The other half goes to a charity fund to help Notre Dame students, faculty and administration who have experienced catastrophes. For example, in the past the charity has helped very sick students who could not afford the medical attention they required. This year, part of the shirt's profits will be distributed to rectors to

help students who may be in need.

Basically, what it boils down to is that "The Shirt" is a great tradition at Notre Dame. It will be awesome to see everyone wearing green at the game. Don't be swayed by yesterday's article. Go out and purchase "The Shirt!" Support Notre Dame, support your fellow students, support the football team, and support the most important charity on campus. I hope to see you all out at the game Saturday, donning "The Shirt."

Doug Pardon
Senior
off-campus
August 31, 2000

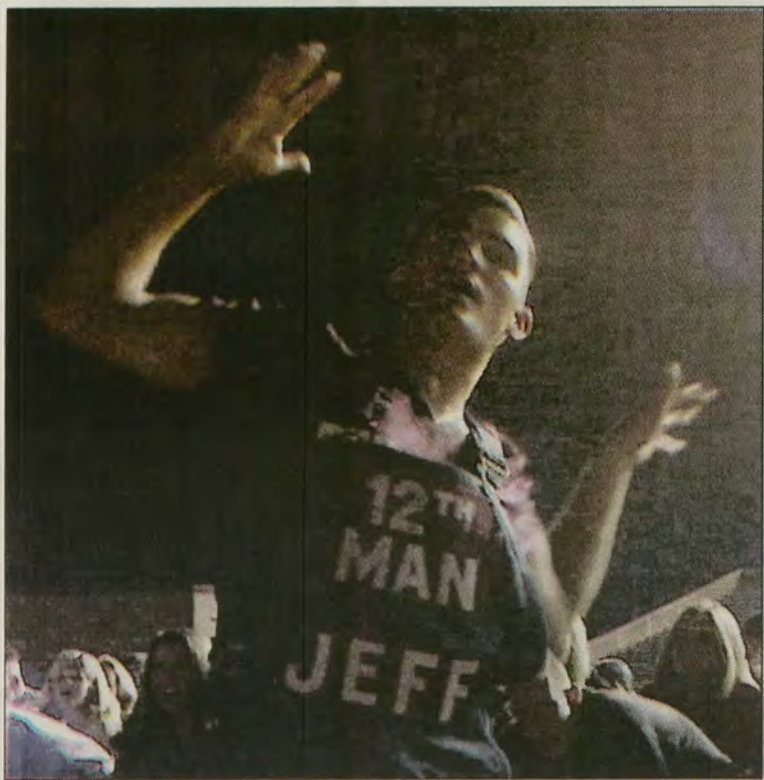


Photo courtesy of yell.tamu.edu

Yell leaders need more than a big mouth to earn their position. Being a yell leader means knowing a dozen different cheers for each season, and having the spirit to get the crowd behind their Aggies. Above, 1999-2000 yell leader Jeff Bailey starts a yell at a midnight Rally. Center, current leader Bubba Moser gets down on his knees to get the crowd moving. Bottom, Bailey lets the microphone help project his booming voice.

Open your

*The rich tradition of Texas A&M
motivation to pump*

By MIKE CONNOLLY
Scene Writer

At last year's home opener, Irish traditions and spirit had the whole stadium to themselves. Kansas wasn't really known for its football traditions and its fans were more interested in seeing the Dome than cheering for their team. This year, everything has changed. While the spirit of Notre Dame and its wondrous traditions are unmatched, they will not go unchallenged.

This year, the Aggies are coming to town.

While A&M's success on the gridiron is great, the stands are where the best in A&M traditions reside. Led by five student "yell leaders," A&M fans are known for their synchronized hand motions and cheers, known as "yells."

"It's a whole lot of fun," head yell leader Ricky Wood said about cheering at an A&M game. "Even when you are a freshman you feel like you are a part of something bigger."

The yell leaders act as the preachers before the choir of Texas A&M fans. Students, alumni and fans all know the yells and hand motions that are as much a part of an A&M game as the quarterback.

The first documented evidence of yell leaders dates back to 1907 but Wood believes the tradition extends into the 19th century. The all-male military school atmosphere at A&M gave rise to the organization and spirit needed for the boisterous yells, according to Wood.

Although A&M students are no longer required to join the Corps of Cadets and the school went co-ed in 1973 (yes, some schools took even longer than Notre Dame to admit women), the traditions of the yell leaders live on.

Wood expects the yell leaders to use between 10 and 12 yells this year. Each yell is many years old but is occasionally modified by the yell leaders to fit certain games.

"It's at the discretion of the yell leaders to choose the yells to motivate the crowds," Wood said. The yells range in tone from humorous to motivational but all of them are loud. "It really depends on the situation. Some are funny. Some make fun of the other team and some are just for motivating the team."

After every cheer each student makes a noise and hand motion known as a "wildcat." Each class is assigned a different "wildcat." Every Aggie fan will know which yell to cheer by watching the hand signals of the yell leaders. The hand signals and cheers are taught to the freshmen at yell practices. Yell

practices are midnight pep rallies that are attended by up to 30,000 fans the night before each game.

The two junior and three senior members of the squad are elected by a popular vote of the students. "It's sort of like a small town election," Wood said.

The students choose the person who will best represent the school. In addition to leading the cheers at sporting events, the yell leaders also attend many social functions and meet with alumni groups.

"It's not always the craziest guy," Wood said. "People assume it's the guy who can drink the most and yell the loudest but it is really the people who will be the best representatives for the school."

The Aggie cheers will surely make the Stadium an intense place this Saturday



Texas A&M yell leaders Kevin Graham, Ben Cholik, Ricky Wood, their nationally known hand signals and cheers to motivate fans

mouth and yell!

yell leaders will give Notre Dame fans some extra volume in the stands this weekend.



Photo courtesy of yell.tamu.edu

Bubba Moser, and Sam Seidel will make the stadium roar this weekend as they use

ry predictions.

"With the past couple of years, I am hesitant to say we'll win," she said. "Diego is a little more laid back than I am. He will be a lot less upset if Notre Dame wins than I will be if Notre Dame loses."

The couple met through their jobs with Spirit shortly after graduation and were married in 1999. While Diego and Christy have gotten along well despite the upcoming gridiron showdown, Diego is a little concerned with the way an A&M fan will be received at Notre Dame.

"I am a little worried about how I'll be treated," he said. "With my A&M hat and shirt, I going to try to keep it a little covered. I just have to be ready with some witty comebacks."

Although the crowds at A&M are known for their spirit throughout the stadium, Christy has been disappointed sitting with the alumni since she graduated.

"That's one negative about coming back to a game as an alumna," she said. "You don't feel the spirit of the stadium. You are with adults and they are much more relaxed. They just sit there."

Thanks to the yell leaders at A&M, however, the whole crowd gets into the games.

"It's pretty intense," said Diego. "It seems kind of silly to talk about but once you are there its extremely powerful. They do the yells and so all the motions with the songs that the students do. There's a lot more movement at A&M." He

assessed the Notre Dame crowds as "pretty tame" in comparison.

A possible reason for the yell leaders ability to incite a crazier crowd at A&M than the Irish cheerleaders can incite in the Stadium could be the physical preparations the yell leaders go through. Rather than attending separate cheerleader practices, the yell leaders all work out with the football team.

Although NCAA regulations prohibit them from suiting up in pads anymore, the yell leaders still run, lift and drill in the hot Texas sun, right along side the football players.

Wood says the Aggies are ready to avenge the previous loses to the Irish.

"Regardless of what y'all are ranked, it's still a big deal to beat Notre Dame," he said.

After the two Irish Cotton Bowl victories, his A&M friends have been itching for a chance for a rematch.

"Notre Dame is kind of the evil northern aggressor who came down and trampled them one too many times," he said.

While Newhouse and his friends have exchanged friendly barbs, things have remained relatively calm in the home of Diego and Christy Jimenez — Texas A&M Class of 1996 and Notre Dame Class of 1996 respectively.

"I wouldn't say there is any extra tension," Christy said. "I hope Notre Dame wins but we'll see."

Although A&M is known for their intense fans, Christy says she takes her football more seriously than Diego. Considering last year's record, however, Christy isn't making any bold victo-

Other loud traditions

In addition to the yell leaders, the Aggies have several other traditions that may seem odd to Notre Dame fans. Here are just a few of Texas A&M's many traditions that you might see on campus this weekend.

Corps of Cadets

Although A&M students have not been required to join the Corps of Cadets since 1965, the military organization is still a power force in College Station. Some of the 2,200 students who are in the Corps may be walking around campus this weekend in their tan uniforms and black boots.

Gig 'em

This 'thumbs-up' hand sign and cheer originated at a 1930 Yell Practice. Before a game with the Texas Christian Horn Frogs, Pinky Downs of the class of 1906 was asked what the Aggies were going to do to the Horned Frogs. Pinky responded "Well the best way to make a frog jump is to gig 'em, and made a thumbs up sign." This term for frog hunting has since been adapted as an unofficial school motto.

Scoring after the score

Following every Texas A&M score (if they do manage to cross the goal line) look for A&M coeds to kiss. This kiss can range from a simple peck to a full-fledged get-sent-to-ResLife make-out session.

Reveille

The full-blood collie mascot of the Aggies has been a fixture on A&M sidelines since 1931. Named for the bugle wake up call that awakens the Cadets, Reveille is one of the most highly revered figures in College Station.

Cadets must address the current Reveille, Reveille VI, as "Miss Reve ma'am" and must sleep on the floor if they find her sleeping in their bed.

The 12th man

The student section at Texas A&M is known as the 12th man. Every student stands throughout the game signaling the readiness to enter the game at any time. In a 1922 game against top-ranked Centre College, A&M suffered numerous injuries and the only healthy players remaining were the 11 players on the field.

Head coach Dana Bible called A&M student E. King Gill, a former football player, down from the stands and asked him to suit up in case of another injury. Although Gill never saw action, he was ready to play at any time for the Aggies. Today, every student stands throughout the game signaling their readiness to enter the game.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Braves drop out of lead in race for NL East pennant

Associated Press

The Atlanta Braves fell out of first place in the NL East for the first time since April 19, losing to the Cincinnati Reds 4-3 on Sean Casey's tiebreaking double.

Atlanta dropped a half-game behind the idle New York Mets. The Braves lost three of four to Cincinnati, going 2-6 on a home-stand that left them with a 14-15 record in August.

This is first time since 1993 the Braves have not been in first place this late in the season. Atlanta has won eight straight division titles.

The Reds, held hitless for four innings by starter Kevin Millwood, overcame a 2-0 deficit with a four-run sixth inning.

Millwood broke his nose in a bunting drill Monday and was not expected to make his scheduled start. But after throwing off the mound Wednesday, he said he was ready.

Rookie John Riedling got the win with 1 2-3 innings of relief, helped by a baserunning blunder by Andruw Jones in the sixth.

Rafael Furcal opened the Atlanta sixth with a walk and Jones, who earlier hit his 30th homer of the season, was hit by a pitch. Chipper Jones then flied out to Dmitri Young at the left-field wall and Andruw Jones raced past second base but failed to touch it on his return to first and was ruled out.

Andres Galarraga followed with a walk and B.J. Surhoff blooped an RBI single off reliever Dennys Reyes. Scott Sullivan relieved and struck out Javy Lopez on three pitches.

Sullivan walked the bases loaded with two outs in the seventh before striking out Chipper

Jones to end the threat.

Danny Graves pitched the ninth for his 24th save.

The Reds had done little until the sixth, when Pokey Reese led off with a single and Chris Stynes doubled.

Ken Griffey Jr. followed with an RBI groundout and Dmitri Young singled home a run. Casey doubled for a 4-2 lead and one out later, Benito Santiago hit an RBI single.

Devil Rays 2, Royals 1

Bobby Smith doubled home the go-ahead run in the eighth inning as the Tampa Bay Devil Rays beat the Kansas City Royals.

Steve Cox, who went 3-for-3, opened the eighth with a walk from Jeff Suppan. Pinch-runner Jason Tyner stole second with one out and went to third on Fred McGriff's grounder. Smith, mired in a 1-for-27 slump, doubled to center field.

Tony Fiore worked a scoreless eighth to get his first major league win. Roberto Hernandez got the final three outs for his 28th save in 34 opportunities.

Suppan gave up two runs and seven hits in 7 2-3 innings. It was just his second loss in seven decisions since the All-Star break.

Tampa Bay has won 13 of the last 16 meetings between the two teams.

Todd Dunwoody's sacrifice fly in the second inning gave the Royals 1-0 lead. The Devil Rays tied it in the sixth when Smith hit into a double play with the bases loaded.

Devil Rays starter Paul Wilson allowed one run and five hits over seven innings in his second start of the season. The right-

hand, acquired from New York Mets July 29, missed all of last season after elbow surgery.

Tampa Bay got a runner to third base in the first, third and seventh innings with two outs. McGriff struck out to end the first, Greg Vaughn flied out in the third and Gerald Williams hit a seventh-inning fly ball.

Padres 11, Cubs 5

Phil Nevin hurt the Chicago Cubs again, driving in four runs, but the San Diego Padres victory was marred when winning pitcher Jay Witasick was hospitalized for heat exhaustion.

Witasick wasn't the only one affected by the heat, which was 88 but felt about 10 degrees warmer because of the humidity.

Cubs star Sammy Sosa left the game after the seventh inning because of cramps in his left leg. Sosa said afterward he was fine.

Witasick left the game after the fifth inning, dizzy and disoriented, and was taken to Illinois Masonic Hospital.

"When he came up here, he didn't know what inning it was," Padres general manager Kevin Towers said. "He was having a hard time running the bases. He said that when he was looking at Wiki, Wiki was sideways and he was seeing black spots."

Witasick will stay overnight, and the Padres don't know if he'll make his next start.

Nevin hit a two-run homer and drove in another two runs, finishing 4-for-5. In the last 30 games, the former No. 1 pick has hit .407 with nine doubles and 34 RBIs — he drove in a career high-tying six runs Monday at Wrigley Field.

Pinch-hitter Kory DeHaan added a two-run homer, and

Gonzalez drove in a pair of runs for the Padres.

Witasick gave up four runs and six hits in five innings, and also drove in his third run of the year.

Willie Greene hit a three-run homer for the Cubs in the first inning, but Kevin Tapani gave up his 34th homer of the year, second-most in the NL.

Tapani allowed seven runs and nine hits in 5 2-3 innings, his shortest outing since going two innings May 20.

The loss finished off a miserable August for the Cubs, who were only six games below .500 on Aug. 2. Since then, they've gone 8-19.

They also lost the season series to the Padres for the first time since 1995. San Diego won five of the teams' eight games this season.

Brewers 8, Dodgers 2

Jeremy Burnitz and Luis Lopez each drove in three runs, leading the Milwaukee Brewers over the Los Angeles Dodgers 8-2.

Geoff Jenkins homered, doubled, singled and scored three runs. Lopez homered and Burnitz doubled twice and singled.

Burnitz, who has struggled all season after being named to the NL All-Star team in 1999, raised his average to .225.

Paul Rigdon allowed two runs on five hits in six innings, striking out four and walking one.

Carlos Perez gave up six runs and seven hits in two-plus innings.

Milwaukee chased Perez in a four-run third inning. Mark Loretta drew a one-out walk, Jenkins doubled and Richie Sexson and Burnitz hit RBI sin-

gles.

After Charlie Hayes reached on an infield single to load the bases, Matt Herges relieved and struck out Henry Blanco. Lopez followed with a two-run single to increase the lead to 6-1.

The Dodgers got a run in the fourth on Alex Cora's sacrifice fly. Jenkins' single and a two-out double by Burnitz made it 7-2 in the bottom half.

Lopez homered in the eighth.

The Brewers erased a 1-0 deficit with two runs with two outs in the first. Jenkins tied it with his 25th homer. Sexson walked and Burnitz hit an RBI double.

Giants 10, Pirates 2

Kirk Rueter beat the Pittsburgh Pirates as much with his bat as with his arm, driving in four runs with three hits to back his two-run pitching as the San Francisco Giants cruised to a 10-2 victory.

Bill Mueller and Jeff Kent homered as the Giants won three of four in the series to increase their NL West lead over idle Arizona to three games.

Their eighth loss in 10 games finished a miserable August for the Pirates, who have the majors' worst record.

With manager Gene Lamont almost certain to be fired as soon as the season ends, the Pirates fell a remarkable 52 games under .500 over the last two calendar years. They lost 25 of their final 30 in 1998 and were 78-84 last season.

The Giants didn't need long to get to Jose Silva (8-9), who allowed eight runs on 10 hits in 3 2-3 innings while failing to last five innings for the fifth time in six starts.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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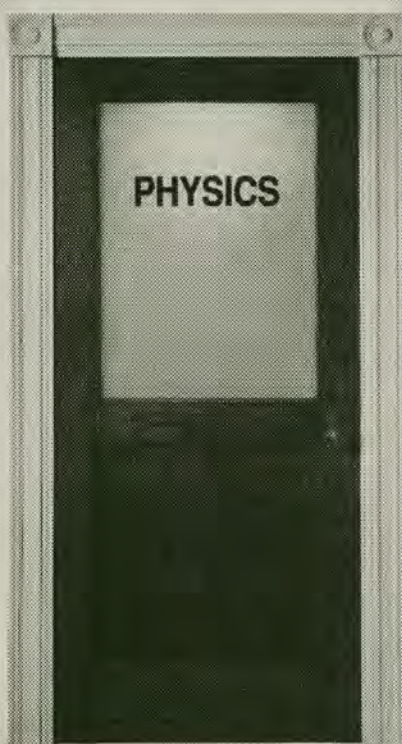
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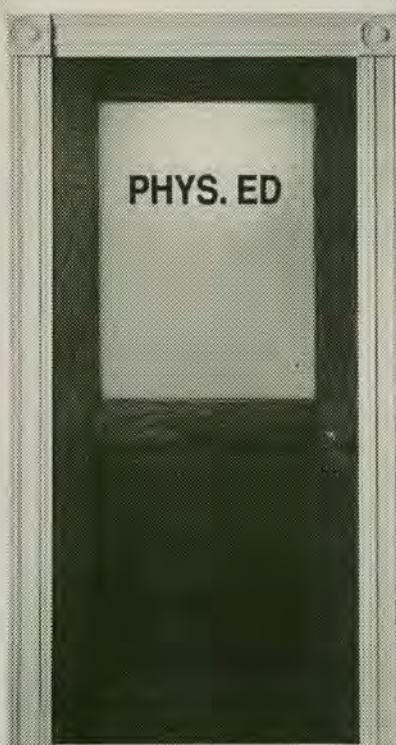
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NBA

Trail Blazers trade for height

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore.

The Portland Trail Blazers have been scheming and conniving all summer long, trying to figure out a way to beat Shaquille O'Neal.

In less than 24 hours, the Blazers added nearly 14 feet of brawn aimed at slowing down Shaq and disrupting the Lakers' chances of repeating as NBA champions.

A day after acquiring 6-foot-10 Shawn Kemp from the Cleveland Cavaliers, the Blazers got 6-11 Dale Davis in a trade with the Indiana Pacers on Thursday.

"We're trying to win a championship," Blazers general manager Bob Whitsitt said. "We're close, and we're trying to do all we can while we're in that window."

Kemp was traded Wednesday in a three-way deal that also sent Brian Grant from Portland to the Miami Heat, who dealt Chris Gatling and Clarence Weatherspoon to Cleveland along with a future first-round pick. To get Davis, the Blazers gave up underperforming and unhappy forward Jermaine O'Neal and 38-year-old veteran Joe Kleine.

The trades came right after Whitsitt returned from a safari in Africa, and once again he bagged the high-profile star players he went after. Last season, Whitsitt brought Scottie Pippen to Portland through a sign-and-trade with Houston, then landed Steve Smith in a deal with Atlanta.

The revamped team came 10 minutes short of making

the finals, blowing a 15-point lead early in the fourth quarter to lose Game 7 of the conference finals to the Lakers.

In the finals, Shaq led the Lakers past Indiana, but Davis played well against O'Neal. Davis had 20 points and 14 rebounds in the deciding Game 6.

"He's a terrific rebounder, shot-blocker and defender," Portland coach Mike Dunleavy said. "And I thought his offensive game was the best he's had in the NBA."

The Blazers might have more forwards than they know what to do with, but Dunleavy insists all the big men will give him more versatility. Kemp likely will back up Rasheed Wallace at power forward, but he also could play center behind Arvydas Sabonis and small forward in relief of Pippen.

That adds up to a lot of fouls to throw at O'Neal.

"The best thing to do with Shaq is to put a guy like me and Rasheed Wallace on the court and let us outrun Shaq," Kemp said. "If he can do that for seven games in a series and not be tired, he might be the real Superman. But I can't see that."

While Davis averaged 10 points and 9.9 rebounds, making his first All-Star team, O'Neal contributed virtually nothing since coming out of Eau Claire (S.C.) High School in 1996. He averaged just 12.3 minutes, 3.9 points and 3.3 rebounds last season and couldn't crack the rotation playing behind forwards Wallace and Grant.

"I just don't think he was as

talented as the guys who were playing in front of him," Dunleavy said.

O'Neal, entering the second year of a four-year, \$24 million contract he signed last summer, demanded to be traded in mid-June. Dunleavy said O'Neal could have improved his chances at more minutes by playing on Portland's summer league team, but on the day he was supposed to leave for Long Beach, O'Neal went shopping for hats at a department store.

Portland must seem like paradise revisited for Kemp, who fled a terrible situation in Cleveland and returns to the Pacific Northwest, where he became a star with the Seattle SuperSonics.

"It's going to be a rebirth of my career," Kemp said.

Kemp deftly handled questions about his weight, which soared past 300 pounds last summer and brought him waves of taunts with the Cavaliers.

"I've heard so much about the weight the last couple years that all I can tell you is, once I go to training camp, that won't be a problem," he said.

Kemp had his best statistical season in 1999, the year of the lockout and his second with the Cavs. He averaged a career-high 20.5 points and 9.2 rebounds.

Losing took its toll, however. Cleveland made the playoffs just once during Kemp's three seasons. And all the while, Kemp was hounded for his unwieldy contract, which will pay him \$46.5 million in 2002-03 and 2003-04.

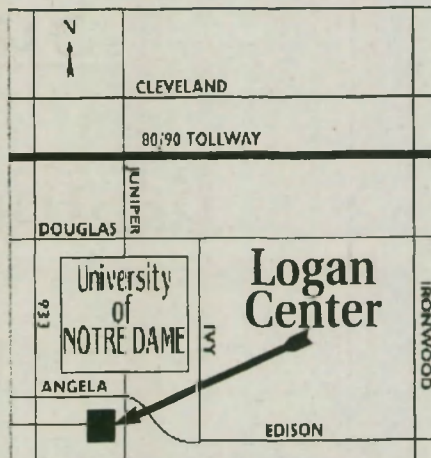
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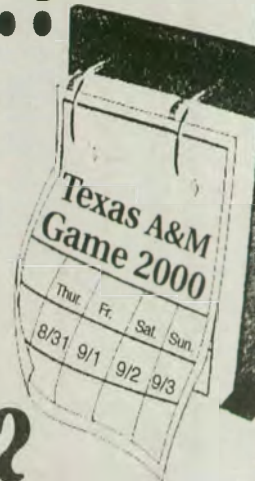
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Sunday Masses

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PRO TENNIS

Davenport ignores scoreboard in comeback victory

♦ **No. 2 player advances to third round of U.S. Open**

Associated Press

NEW YORK

The scoreboard message was not encouraging.

Lindsay Davenport, seeded No. 2 in the U.S. Open, winner of three Grand Slam events in her career, was down a set and struggling against Kim Clijsters, who came within four points of beating eventual champion Serena Williams here a year ago.

Concerned?

Not Lindsay.

"I hadn't gotten worried," she said. "I would probably think about going home if I was down a break or something. I wasn't thinking that yet."

And she never would.

Davenport pulled her game together Thursday and advanced to the third round with a 4-6, 6-2, 6-2 victory over Clijsters.

"I knew it was going to be a tough match," she said. "It never got quite to that scenario where I was down a set and a break, really close to losing. I think it's tough for any younger player when they're about to beat a top player, especially at a Grand Slam, to really close it out. That's probably the toughest thing to do."

She knows that first hand.

In 1993, before she was a world-class player, Davenport was 17, playing the full Grand Slam circuit for the first time, and found herself facing Gabriela Sabatini at the Open. Sabatini had won the tournament just three years earlier and still was at the top of her game.

"I think I was up a set and 4-3, not like 5-1," Davenport said. "Lost in two tough sets. Probably let her off the hook. That's what happens. It's very tough your first time out there to win the match without thinking about it."

"I mean, you've probably worked your whole junior career to get to that situation. When you're finally about to have your big win, I would say like 80 percent of the players never continue with the win

because it is tough to close matches out. I think you get a little too excited and not know how to play the points right."

So even when she was in a touch a trouble, down a set and 2-2 in the second, Davenport never thought about how close Clijsters had come against Williams a year ago.

Instead, she was searching for solutions, looking for a way back.

"That's not a situation you want to find yourself in, down a set, even in the second set," she said. "Once I got that one

break, then I felt like the whole match swung on that, and I never looked back from there."

Now, she must try to figure out a way to deal with

higher-profile players. Lurking ahead in her quarter of the draw is defending champion Serena Williams,

seeded No. 5. Down the road could be Serena's sister, Venus, No. 3, and maybe No. 1 Martina Hingis.

Before Davenport thought about those challenges, she considered Thursday's result.

"I ask myself, 'Did you beat a good player?'" she said.

"Yeah."

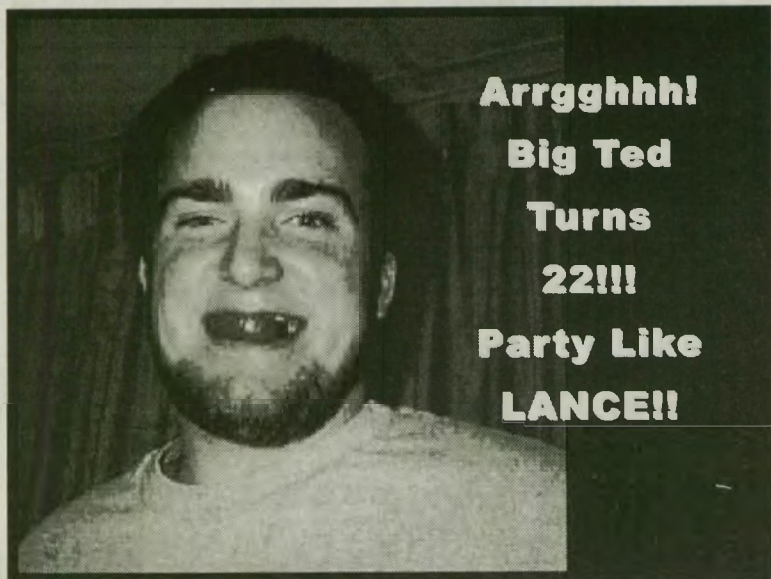
"That's all I worry about. You can play bad for three matches, all of a sudden when you play a good player, your game can change overnight."

"For me, I do feel like I'm hitting the ball well. I feel like I can get better. As long as you can get through, you never know what happens when you face a player later on in the tournament. I don't worry about that."

She'll worry about that tomorrow.

"I feel like I can get better. As long as you can get through, you never know what happens when you face a player later on in the tournament. I don't worry about that."

Lindsay Davenport
pro tennis player



the elms

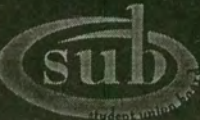
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WEEKEND EVENTS

THE FOLLOWING EVENTS ARE HAPPENING AT THE HAMMES NOTRE DAME BOOKSTORE:

Author Events:

Nicholas Sparks, Class of 1988, author of three bestselling novels, will sign copies of his books on **Friday, Sep. 1** from 11:00 a.m. to noon, including the newly released paperback edition of *A Walk to Remember*.

Also on **Friday, Sep. 1** from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., University of Notre Dame President **Father Malloy** will be signing copies of his book, *Monk's Reflections*.

Professor **Ralph McInerny** will be signing copies of his newly released Notre Dame mystery, *The Book of Kills*, on **Saturday, Sep. 2** from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. **McInerny** is the author of over 30 books including the popular Father Dowling mysteries.

On **Saturday, Sep. 2** the *Stellaluna* storybook character will appear periodically during the day - cameras are welcome.

Also appearing on **Saturday, Sep. 2** from 10:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. is **Gerry Faust**, to sign copies of *The Golden Dream*.

Storytime featuring a reading of *Stellaluna* by **Janell Cannon**, with craft and sing-along on **Tuesday, Sep. 5** at 11:30 a.m.

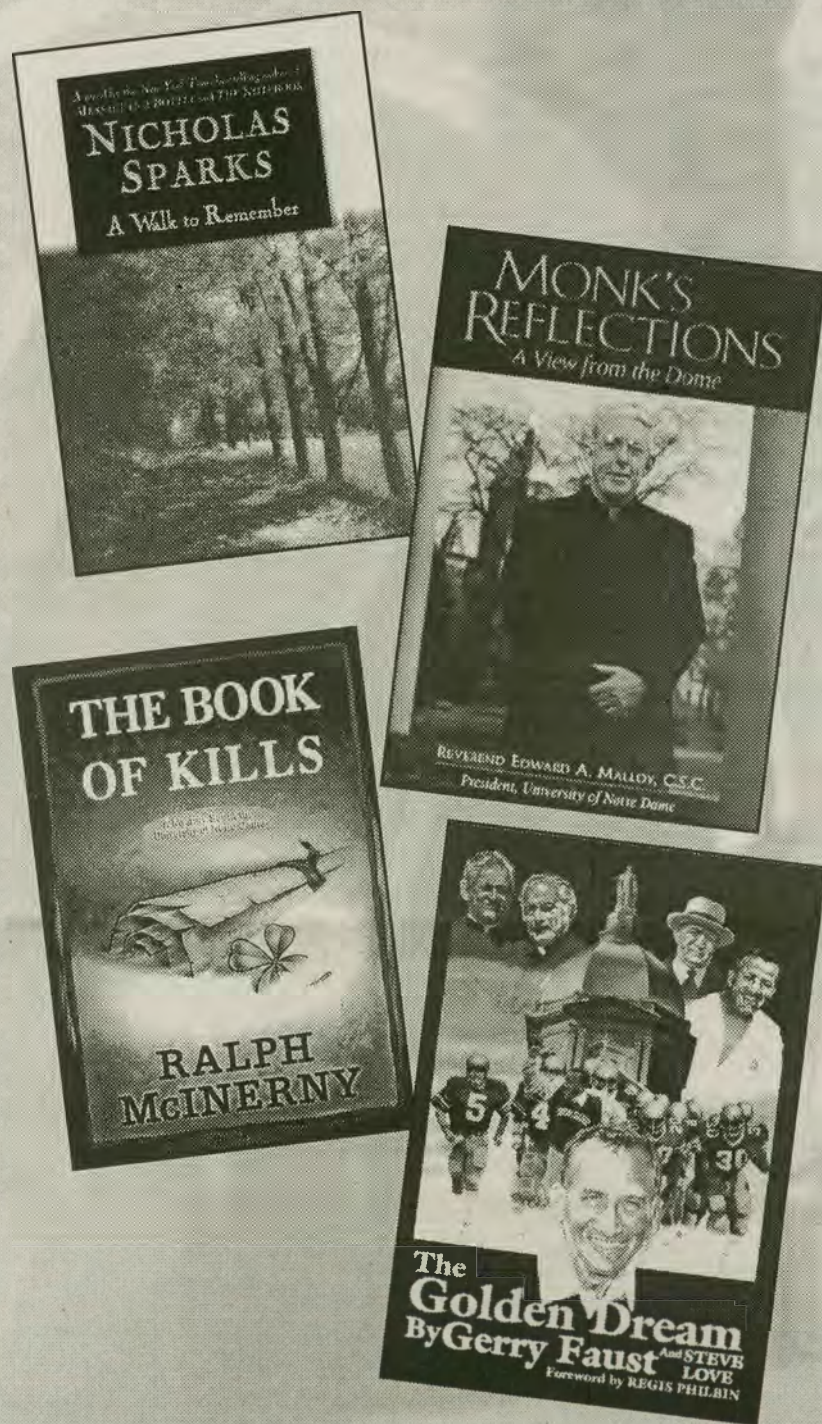
Music Events:

On **Friday, Sep. 1** from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and **Sunday, Sep. 3** from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Pianist **Emmeline Schoen**, Class of 2003, performs.

On **Friday, Sep. 1** from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and on **Sunday, Sep. 3** from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., nationally renowned Pianist **Tim O'Neill**, Class of 1994, performs and signs copies of his CDs.

On **Saturday, Sep. 2** at 8:00 a.m., Bagpiper **Joseph Smith**, Class of 2001, performs. Also on **Saturday, Sep. 2** from 10:00 a.m. to noon, Pianist **Joe Fremeau**, Class of 2002, performs.

Acapella group, The Undertones, performs one hour after the game on **Saturday, Sep. 2**.



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PRO TENNIS

Clement knocks Agassi out of U.S. Open in straight sets

Associated Press

NEW YORK

There was no sadness in Andre Agassi's eyes, no regret over the listless loss of his U.S. Open title, no excuse that his thoughts were on his cancer-stricken mother and sister more than his tennis.

Agassi stared straight ahead, his eyes clear, his voice firm, and gave all the credit to Frenchman Arnaud Clement for ending his reign as champion Thursday, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4.

"It was just a brutal day," the top-seeded Agassi said as he followed No. 2 Gustavo Kuerten and two-time champion Patrick Rafter to a quick exit.

It has been a brutal summer for Agassi after a brilliant year. From a run of four straight Grand Slam finals and three titles, he stumbled to second-round exits in the French and U.S. Opens, and a stinging semi-final loss at Wimbledon. It was a summer when he hurt his back in a car accident and learned his mother had breast cancer, just as his sister did.

With all that, perhaps it was understandable that the 30-year-old Agassi would reveal a sense of perspective on his latest loss, saying, "Don't be too sorry," when someone sought to

comfort him on the way to the players lounge.

When Agassi saw his girlfriend, Steffi Graf, minutes after the match, he smiled and joked a bit, performed a quick dance step with her, their hips bumping, and moved on to chat with other friends.

"There are obviously things that are clearly in play," Perry Rogers, Agassi's best friend and manager, said in reference to his mother and sister's illness. "He hasn't had the best summer, and I don't think he came in here with the expectation that he would be able to impose his game on his opponents."

Agassi didn't even come close to imposing his game on the 37th-ranked Clement, who had lost to him in the French and U.S. Opens last year in their only previous meetings.

While Clement bounced jauntily around the court, whacking 36 winners to Agassi's 19, Agassi looked leaden, his feet barely moving, his usually quick hands moving slowly, his shots lacking pace and depth and accuracy.

They each made 27 unforced errors, but Clement's usually came when he went for winners, Agassi's when he missed easy shots that he might normally make with his eyes closed.

"It's finding the balance between hitting offensively enough to control the point, but not playing too big," Agassi said. "I struggle with that. Sometimes I played too big and occasionally I just took a little bit off of it. I never found my quality pace shot that allowed me to dictate without taking too many chances. It was a little breezy down there, tough conditions."

"Once you start second-guessing your shots, your fee don't respond as well. When the ball's moving around and your feet aren't adjusting, mistakes are going to happen."

Agassi had jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first set, then he simply melted in the muggy heat, losing eight of the next nine games. His body language, with his head drooping, his shoulders sagging, his eyes wandering, indicated the frustration he was feeling. Clement could

see it, even through his wrap-around sunglasses, and so could the perplexed fans who tried futilely to pump him up.

"Good morning!" one fan yelled out as Agassi struggled on in the late afternoon. Truly, Agassi looked half asleep.

When asked if his heart was in it, Agassi said, "Yeah, very much."

When asked if he was distracted at all, he said he wasn't. When asked if his back bothered him, he said no. If Agassi was hurting, emotionally or physically, he was

keeping it to himself. "Just, you know, trying to figure out how to get to him, but I couldn't do it," Agassi said. "Just got outplayed. ... You've got to give people credit where credit's due."

In truth, Clement played splendidly, but not spectacularly. It was a case, this time, of Agassi shooting nothing but blanks.

"For sure, he didn't play a great match today," Clement said. "He did a lot of mistakes. I don't think about him. I just think about me. To win this match ... it's unbelievable because it's on an unbelievable court. Maybe 15,000 persons. Everybody is for him. It's my best victory in my career."

Clement needed five match points before he put this one away, but there was never any real thought that Agassi might claw his way back after he was broken to 5-4 in the third set.

Clement celebrated prematurely when he hit what he thought was a second-serve ace on his second match point, only to be told the ball had clipped the net cord. On his fourth match point, he thought he had won again with an ace, and he complained about a linesman's call that it was out. But when the fifth match point came, Agassi simply dumped the return into the net, walked to the net, shook hands and looked relieved that the ordeal was over.

"It was just a brutal day."

Andre Agassi
pro tennis player

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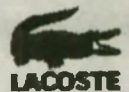
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GENERAL MEETING

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ROOM

MONDAY,

SEPTEMBER 4

M. Soccer

continued from page 32

is far from inexperienced. The majority of the sophomores logged significant playing time as freshmen last season. Also, the eight freshmen joining the team are regarded as perhaps the best recruiting class in the history of Notre Dame men's soccer.

Apple has already used this depth to his advantage in the preseason.

"We played 19 players last weekend [in exhibition play], we've never been able to play that many players in a game or in a weekend."

After a day off on Saturday, the Irish take on the host Rebels Sunday afternoon. The Rebels are coming off of a 1-0-1 preseason which saw them defeat Master's College 1-0 before playing to a 3-3 tie against Grand Canyon. Last season the Rebels finished 7-11-0 and placed seventh in the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation, four places below New Mexico.

Junior forward Jason Melendez leads the Rebel offense. Melendez tallied

eight goals and four assists last season, and already has scored twice in the two preseason games.

Sophomore Tuomas Talvio added five goals and four assists last year, and also has put the ball in the net once this year in a preseason game against Grand Canyon.

The Irish counter with a defense that combines youth and experience. The team's other two tri-captains, Steve Maio and Connor LaRose, are both returning starters. They are joined by returning starter, sophomore Andreas Forstner who is known for his intelligent play which helps him to intercept passes.

The new man in the back is freshman Greg Martin. Like Detter, Martin is a Parade All-American and played on the 1999 Youth World Cup team. A hard-nosed player, Martin's maturity has impressed teammates this fall.

"He has taken on a role in the back that is very difficult for a young player," said Pridmore. "He has been able to fit in right away."

The Irish return home to open their home season next Wednesday against Bradley at Alumni Field.



The Irish hope to rely on a strong recruiting class to add depth to their roster. They open their season today against the New Mexico Lobos, followed by a game with the University of Nevada-Las Vegas Rebels on Sunday.

JOHN DAILY/The Observer

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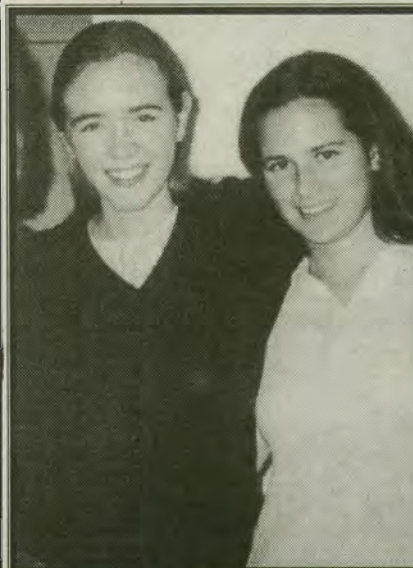
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NCAA FOOTBALL

NCAA hands 26 Wisconsin players suspensions

Associated Press

MADISON, Wis.

The NCAA suspended 26 Wisconsin football players Thursday for one to three games for receiving unadvertised discounts at a shoe store, forcing the Badgers to bench 11 players for their opener.

The 11 suspended for the No. 4 Badgers' game with Western Michigan on Thursday night included starting receivers Chris Chambers and Nick Davis, cornerback Jamar Fletcher, offensive lineman Ben Johnson and linebacker Bryson Thompson.

Eleven of the 26, including Fletcher, Davis, Johnson and Chambers, were suspended for three games for receiving benefits of more than \$500, school officials said.

Another 15 players, including running back Michael Bennett, defensive tackle Wendell Bryant, cornerback Mike Echols and Thompson, were suspended for one game and ordered to do 12 hours of community service.

Chambers' suspension could be an especially tough blow to the Badgers. The team's leading receiver from last season was already sidelined by a stress fracture in his right foot that was expected to keep him out until at least the end of September. School officials aren't sure if he will be allowed to serve the suspension while injured, meaning he could miss more than half the season.

"I think you have tremendous disappointment. You have to feel for them," Wisconsin athletic director Pat Richter said. "We felt this was not warranted."

The NCAA ordered all 26 players to serve the suspensions within the first four games of the season. The other six suspended for Thursday's game were: Delante McGrew, George Pratt, Ryan Simmons, Chuck Smith, Stephon Watson and Scott Wille.

The suspensions stem from reports last month that members of the football and men's

basketball teams may have received special credit arrangements at The Shoe Box in Black Earth, Wis., that were not available to other clients.

Another 21 players, including starting quarterback Brooks Bollinger, were not suspended but were ordered to perform 24 hours of community service for the discounts they received.

Women's soccer player Wynter Pero was suspended for two games and ordered to do 24 hours of community service.

All will be required to repay the discounts they received.

The school also investigated allegations that some athletes may have exchanged university-issued shoes for merchandise but found no evidence of that so far, said Melany Newby, vice chancellor for legal and executive affairs.

A report in the Wisconsin State Journal detailed purchases by eight members of the Badgers' Final Four men's basketball team and 14 players from the Rose Bowl champion football team. The paper reported players received discounts of 25 percent to 40 percent and interest-free credit.

The university and NCAA still have to review the eligibility of winter athletes, who also could face penalties.

The NCAA notified the university Monday that 81 fall athletes would be ineligible in various capacities. Richter said the university appealed the finding, and the NCAA then decided to knock down the number of athletes required to serve suspensions and pay reparations to 48.

Richter said the university proposed lighter sanctions when they made their initial report to the NCAA, and many of the players told NCAA officials they did not know they had violated any rules.

"This was a shock to them," Richter said.

NCAA spokesman Wally Renfro confirmed the suspensions but would not comment specifically on the infractions.

Shoe Box owner Steve Schmitt said Thursday he

talked to university officials several times about the discounts he offered players, which he said are extended to all his regular customers.

Schmitt has men's basketball season tickets and has donated money to the university in the past, which would qualify him as a booster under NCAA rules.

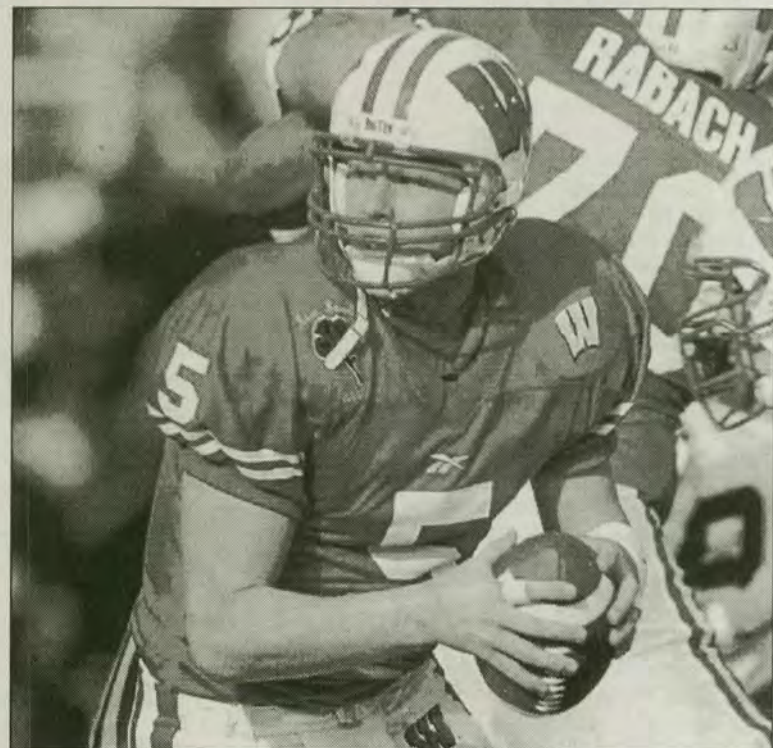
Newby said the university's investigation was continuing and the school had not made a recommendation to the NCAA whether the violations constitute a major or secondary violation. But the players' transgressions individually were ruled to be secondary.

If the purchases constitute a major rules violation, it would be the third such infraction within the last decade for the university.

The wrestling program was put on probation in 1994 for improper use of booster funds that included impermissible benefits to athletes, a major rules violation.

Last year, the NCAA found the athletic department had committed a major rules infraction because coaches and staff members received reimbursement for expenses from a boosters fund without approval from the chancellor. That probation was scheduled to end in November.

Still, the NCAA Committee on Infractions did not penalize the university under repeat violator rules last year, partly because Wisconsin self-reported the violations.



AFP Photo

Wisconsin quarterback Brooks Bollinger (No. 5) was ordered to perform 24 hours of community service for NCAA violations.



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NCAA FOOTBALL

Wisconsin beats Western Michigan despite suspensions

Associated Press

MADISON, Wis.

Michael Bennett rushed for 128 yards and a touchdown as No. 4 Wisconsin survived the suspension of five starters in a lackluster 19-7 victory over Western Michigan on Thursday night.

In the Badgers' first game since the graduation of NCAA career rushing leader Ron Dayne, Wisconsin's offense struggled to produce the methodical drives once led by the Heisman Trophy winner. Bennett got 30 carries but rarely broke into the Broncos' defensive backfield, and Wisconsin's passing game was erratic.

But Wisconsin's underwhelming performance can't be attributed entirely to the suspensions. Only four Badgers expected to play a significant amount were suspended.

Receiver Chris Chambers — who's injured anyway — receiver/kick returner Nick Davis and offensive tackle Ben Johnson were the only offensive starters out. All-American cornerback Jamar Fletcher and linebacker Bryson Thompson were the missing defensive starters.

Wisconsin didn't get an offensive touchdown until a 68-yard drive capped by Bennett's 8-yard run around the left end with 9:31 to play. Thirteen seconds later, defensive end Ross Kolodziej sacked Broncos quarterback Jeff Welsh in the end zone for a safety.

Josh Hunt scored on an 89-yard punt return in the second quarter for the Badgers, who entered the season with the highest preseason ranking in school history. Hunt, a junior

playing in his first game, made the second-longest punt return in school history.

Wisconsin quarterback Brooks Bollinger frequently scrambled but found no one open. Bollinger, the Big Ten freshman of the year last season, was 6-for-11 for 96 yards while improving to 9-0 as a starter.

Western Michigan's wide-open passing offense capitalized on Fletcher's absence. Welsh, in his first start since replacing Tim Lester, was 20-for-39 for 243 yards and was intercepted once.

Wisconsin's first drive in the post-Dayne era ended on downs when Bennett was hit for a 3-yard loss by Jared Pike at Western Michigan's 29. But linebacker Ben Herbert recovered a fumble moments later, and the Badgers scored on a 21-yard field goal by Vitaly Pisetsky.

The game then descended into a turf war, with neither team able to gain significant yardage. Wisconsin's offense even heard a smattering of boos when it failed to move the ball midway through the second quarter.

The Broncos trailed 10-7 at halftime after Welsh capped an 80-yard drive with a 2-yard TD pass to Mobolaji Afariogun with 1:54 left in the second quarter.

Miami 61, McNeese State 14

Ken Dorsey threw three touchdown passes and Santana Moss gained 204 all-purpose yards as fifth-ranked Miami beat Division I-AA McNeese State.

The Hurricanes totaled 630 yards, most of it coming in the first half. Dorsey, Moss and many other starters sat out much of the second half while their backups picked up playing time.

It was a good start to what

should be Miami's most productive season in recent years.

In Butch Davis' five seasons at Miami, the Hurricanes have as many losses (19) as they had in the 12 years before he arrived. They also won four national championships in that span.

After enduring NCAA sanctions and 31 lost scholarships between 1995 and 1997, the program has been rebuilt and reloaded with talent at every position.

It showed, especially against the overmatched Cowboys.

Miami scored on six of eight first-half possessions, including five touchdowns.

Dorsey, a sophomore, hit Reggie Wayne on a pair of perfectly thrown fade passes in the same corner of the end zone in the first quarter. Dorsey also hit Daryl Jones on a 23-yard pass in the second to give Miami a 34-7 lead.

Dorsey completed 17 of 29 passes for 248 yards, winning for the fourth time in as many starts. In his four starts, Dorsey is 81-for-120 for 966 yards with 12 TD passes and just one interception.

He has plenty of weapons surrounding him, like Moss.

The speedy 5-foot-10 receiver returned a punt 77 yards late in the first quarter, putting the 'Canes ahead 20-7. He picked up the bouncing kick at the 23, cut right toward the sideline, turned upfield and sprinted untouched into the end zone. He got two key blocks on the play, one from Andre King and another from Al Blades.

Moss added a 75 yard run on an end around, skirting outside the defense and cutting back across the field for the score. Moss finished with 35 yards receiving, 75 yards rushing and

94 return yards.

He sat out the second half with a sore right foot.

The Cowboys (0-1) answered Miami's opening-drive score with a nine play, 65-yard drive that they kept alive by converting a fourth-and-3 play at the Hurricanes' 36. Jessie Burton scored two plays later, breaking three tackles en route to 21-yard run.

McNeese State added a late touchdown, converting a Miami turnover into a 27-yard scoring pass from Slade Nagle to Jermaine Martin. The Cowboys tallied 409 yards.

But they just couldn't stop Miami.

The 'Canes added two late touchdowns. Ethnic Sands connected with Andre Johnson on a 32-yard pass play, and Clinton Portis outran the defense 82 yards for the final score.

Marshall 63,**SE Missouri State 7**

Chanston Rodgers ran for three touchdowns and Byron Leftwich threw for two more in their first starts as Marshall beat Division I-AA Southeast Missouri State.

The sophomores helped Marshall run its winning streaks to 32 overall and 18 straight at home, both tops in Division I-AA.

Marshall compiled 573 yards in total offense and held the Indians scoreless over the final three quarters.

Rodgers, returning from a torn knee ligament suffered in spring practice, scored on second-quarter runs of 2 and 7 yards and added a 5-yarder in the third period. He had only 25 yards rushing on seven carries as part of Marshall's three-back rotation.

Leftwich, who missed most of last season with injuries and received a medical redshirt, took over this year for Heisman Trophy finalist Chad Pennington. Leftwich went 13-of-20 for 205 yards before sitting out most of the second half.

The 63 points were the most scored by Marshall in an opener since a 71-7 victory over Morehead State in 1994. It was the most allowed by Southeast Missouri since it moved up from Division II in 1991.

The game was little more than a tuneup for Marshall as it prepares for non-conference games at Michigan State and North Carolina.

It marked the debut of Southeast Missouri coach Tim Billings, a Marshall assistant the past 10 years and its defensive coordinator last season, when the Herd ranked second in the nation in fewest points allowed at 10 per game.

Billings used those same schemes Thursday and they worked for awhile. The game was tied at 7 until midway through the second quarter when Rodgers and Leftwich helped Marshall score on its final three drives for a 28-7 halftime lead.

Early in the second half, Southeast Missouri backup punter Nick Reggio put his knee to the ground while fielding a low snap at his 5-yard line. Marshall took over and Rodgers scored two plays later for a 35-7 lead.

On Marshall's next possession, Lanier Washington returned a punt 33 yards to the Southeast Missouri 10, setting up Ernest Pitts' 1-yard TD run for a 42-7 lead.

Southeast Missouri was held to 259 total yards.

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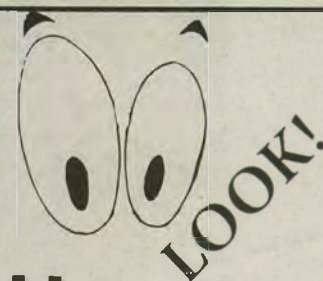
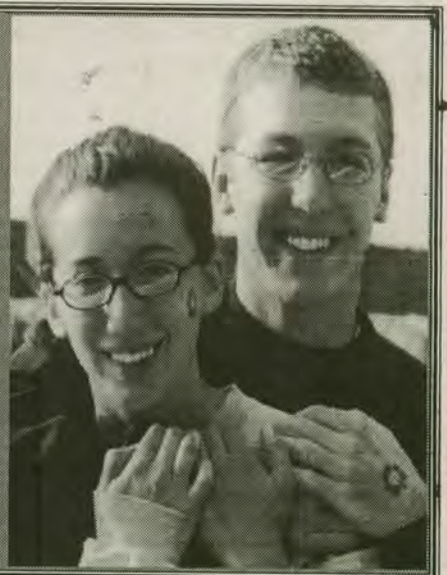
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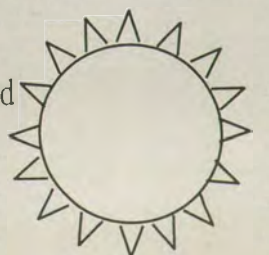
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VOLLEYBALL

Irish start season with Shamrock Invitational

By RACHAEL PROTZMAN
Sports Writer

Irish volleyball kicks off the season today as it faces Fairfield in game two of the 2000 Shamrock Invitational Tournament in the Joyce Center.

Notre Dame will be participating in the Shamrock Invitational for the fourth straight year. The Irish finished second last year behind Pacific and have an overall 14-3 Shamrock record in its six appearances.

Senior Denise Boylan led the Irish in last year's tournament, being named to the 1999 Shamrock all-tournament team. Boylan also earned honors this year as the 2000 Big East preseason player of the year, while fellow senior Christi Girton joined her on the preseason all-Big East team.

The Irish finished 20-9 overall last season while grabbing the regular season conference title with an 11-0 record in Big East play. The Irish controlled their home court last season, finishing with a Joyce Center record of 10-2. Since 1991 Irish volleyball has racked up 108 wins out of the 124 home matches for an outstanding homecourt advantage.

Notre Dame returns 10 monogram



Girton

winner, including five starters and also gains five new freshmen.

"Our starting lineup looks like it's going to be all returners so that's good for us. We also have a lot of depth and versatility which seem to be our strengths," said co-captain Girton.

Friday's match will mark the second meeting between Fairfield and Notre Dame with the Stags having the upperhand defeating the Irish in 1998 14-16, 15-13, 8-15, 15-4 and 15-17. Fairfield combined for a 30-win season last year while gaining the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference title.

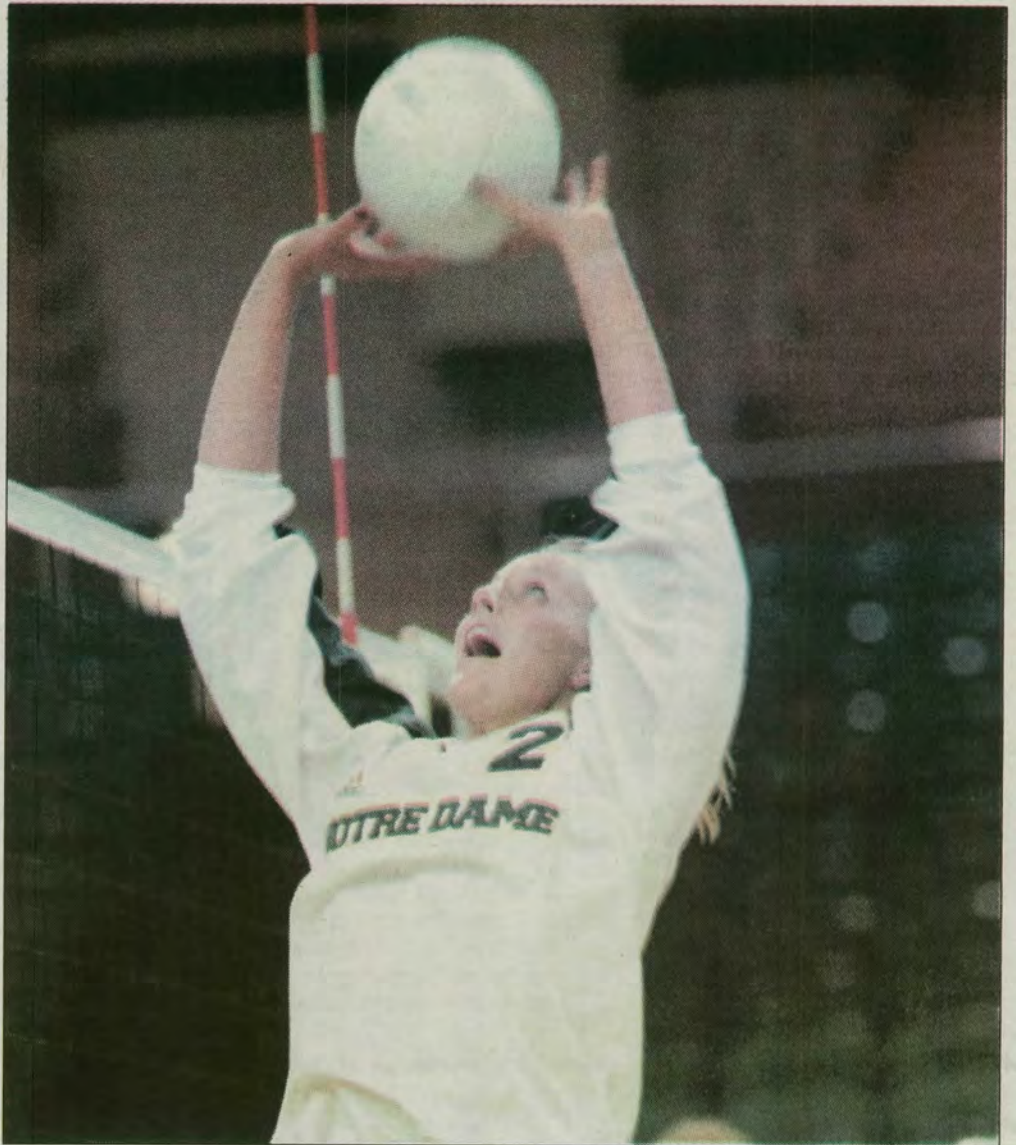
"Fairfield's a revenge match from two years ago for those of us who were here," said Girton.

On Saturday Notre Dame continues tournament play as they face No. 15 Brigham Young University at 7 p.m. BYU has a two-match advantage over the Irish with a 12-15, 7-15 and 7-15 success last year.

Clemson looks to gain the upperhand Sunday as it faces Notre Dame. The Tigers have played against the Irish twice, taking their last match in three games in 1999.

"We are going to go out and play well and take care of things on our side," Girton said, "We are just going to play the way we know how and the games will take care of themselves."

The Irish will play against Fairfield at 4 p.m. in game two of the Shamrock Invitational followed immediately by the football pep rally.



JOHN DAILY/The Observer

Senior setter Denise Boylan won Big East preseason player of the year this season, and was joined on the preseason all-Big East team by teammate Christi Girton. The Irish hope to compete for the Big East Championship.

Correction: The tryout tennis tournament will be Monday, September 4, at 4 p.m.

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Notre Dame President Emeritus

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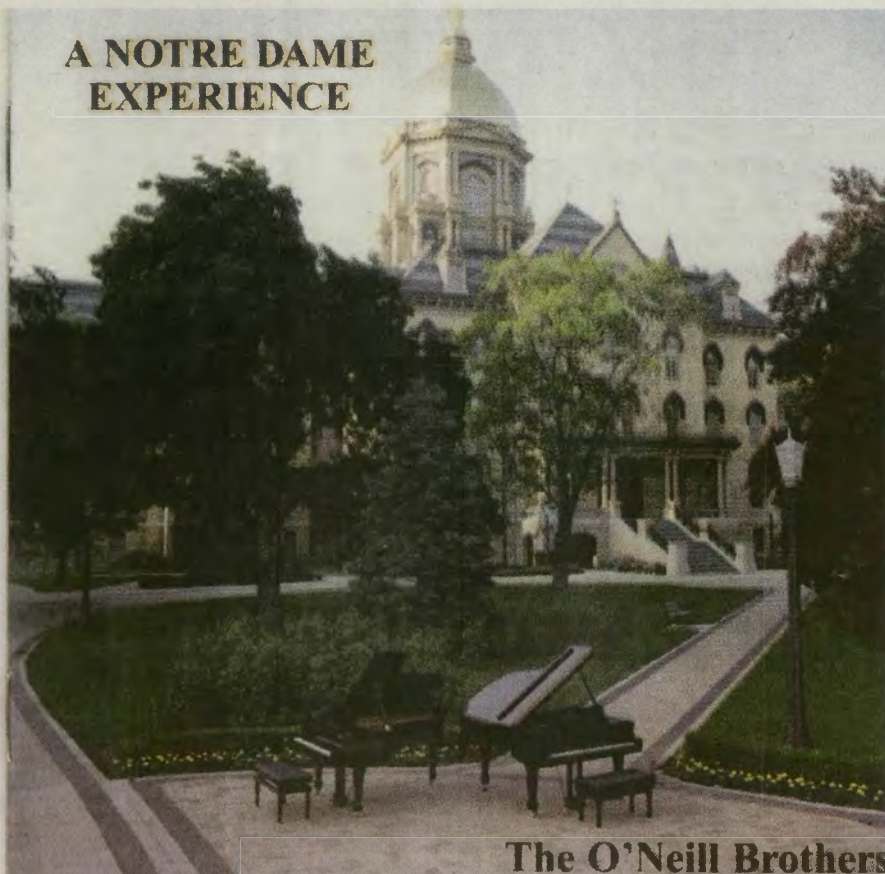
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Volleyball

continued from page 32

Saint Mary's will face its other tough competition of the weekend on Saturday, when the women line up against Wittenberg College at 9 a.m. Wittenberg finished the 1999 season with an 18-12 record.

"We've played well against Wittenberg, but things may change this year because our team is so young," Butcko said. "Wittenberg will be another tough match."

The Belles finish off two more matches on Saturday before heading home. Saint Mary's will play Carthage and Aquinas Saturday afternoon.

Carthage came out on top

when the two teams met last year, winning the game 3-1. The Belles dropped the matches 17-19, 12-15, and 11-15. This season's match promises to be a close one.

Saint Mary's has not played Division II school Aquinas previously.

The winner of the tournament will be decided by the team with the best record after five games.

The Belles are looking forward to this weekend's tournament.

"We are all really excited for this weekend," Butcko said. "This is our only overnight tournament so

we're going to play our best and really work on our skills."

Because her team is so young, Schroeder-Biek has been working on the basics at practices.

The women, who have only had one day off since pre-season practice began, have been focusing on solid passes,

aggressive net play and good passing.

"We've really been focusing on defense as well," Butcko said. "We don't have any big blockers this year, so that's a main area to look at."

The extensive practices seem to be paying off following a successful scrimmage against Lake Michigan College on Wednesday. Although they did not keep score, Saint Mary's considered its performance on Wednesday to be a victory.

"We played very well on Wednesday," Butcko said. "We are way ahead of where we thought we'd be at this point in the season."

"We've really been focusing on defense as well."

Victoria Butcko
senior

NCAA FOOTBALL

Michigan starts new quarterback Navarre

Associated Press

At first glance, the situation at Michigan has disaster written all over it.

John Navarre, a redshirt freshman who has never taken a snap in a college game, will start the Wolverines' season-opener against Bowling Green on Saturday. He was pushed into the quarterback's job last week after Drew Henson broke his right foot.

Still, coach Lloyd Carr has been in this situation before. The results that time were dramatic.

In 1995, Carr's first season after Gary Moeller was forced to resign, The Wolverines opened with another untested quarterback. It wasn't pretty, but it wasn't a train wreck, either.

Michigan trailed Virginia 17-0 with 12 minutes remaining, but Scott Dreisbach brought the

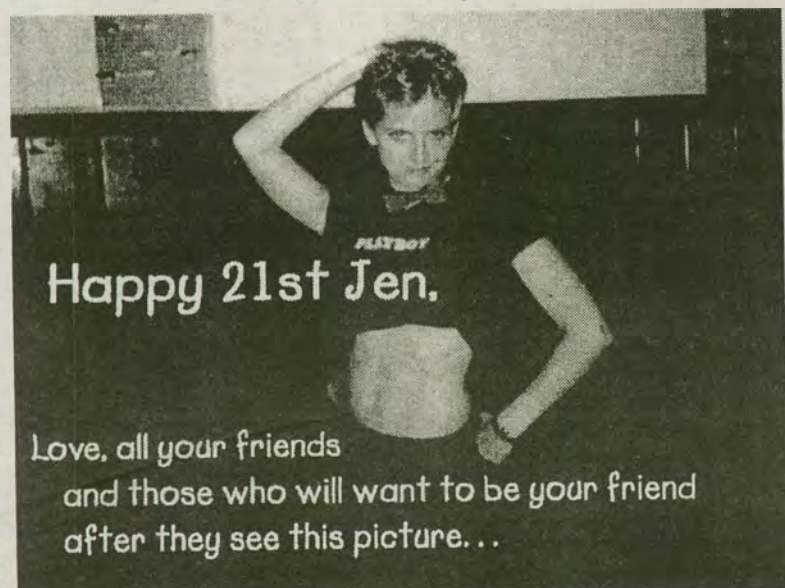
Wolverines back. His touchdown pass on the final play of the game lifted Michigan to an 18-17 victory.

"Dreisbach was the last redshirt freshman to start for us," Carr recalled. "He didn't play very well for three quarters. But he certainly finished like a champion."

This was supposed to have been Henson's day. The talented two-sport star, who plays professional baseball in the summer, paid his dues as Tom Brady's understudy the past two years. Henson passed for 800 yards and six touchdowns as the backup.

Henson's potential, coupled with many returning offensive players from a team that went 10-2 with an Orange Bowl win over Alabama last season, earned the Wolverines a No. 6 ranking in this week's AP poll.

It will be Navarre's job to hold the fort until Henson returns. A tall order, to be sure.



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WOMEN'S GOLF

Belles strike into action Saturday

By STEPHANIE
REDWANSKI
Sports Writer

The Saint Mary's golf team opens its season this Saturday at the Ferris State University tournament at Katke Golf Course.

The Belles are returning seven members of last year's team who finished the 1999 season with a strong third place finish in the MIAA.

The seven returning players and three freshman golfers will be competing against some of the top golfers in the area. Saint Mary's will face tough competition from Tri-State, Ferris State University, Grant Valley State, Aquinas, Ashland, Dayton, Depaw, Findley, Indianapolis, Louis

University, Manchester, Nebraska-Omaha, North Wood and University of Saint Francis. Although all the teams the Division III Belles face are Division I or II, head coach Theresa Pekarek believes her team has a chance to come out in a top position in this two-day tournament.

"I have no certain expectation, but I think this team will really surprise its competitors," she said.

The Belles will look to

experience from senior captain Kyle Veltri and team leader Natalie Cook. Cook, a returning senior, was named to second team All-MIAA last season.

The Belles have a good chance in this competition if they capitalize on their short game. Pekarek wants the team to be able to improve its putting, chipping and bunker play.

"We've really been focusing on our short game," Pekarek said. "A good short game can win a match."

With the short game goal being met, Saint Mary's could be strong competition.

Pekarek believes, "winning is not out of the question. It can be done and we are capable of a first or second place."

Pekarek is looking to this tournament as the beginning of a successful season.

"We finished third last year," she said. "And I think we have a very good chance of finishing in the top two in the MIAA this year."

The Belles only finished six strokes out of second place last year.

Saint Mary's will begin conference play at their home match at Brookwood Golf Course on Sept. 14 at noon.



ALLISON DOHERTY/The Observer

Golfer Kyle Veltri returns for the Belles, who open their season at the Ferris State University tournament this weekend.

W. Soccer

continued from page 32

scored six goals.

Waldrum knows that his squad will have limited chances against a Tulsa team that has yet to yield a goal. He stresses that his team must convert the chances it gets on Friday night.

"We need to do a better job around the goal. We really do," he said.

Junior Melissa McCormick and sophomore Julie Twellman — the Hurricanes' best — will lead the thrust against the Irish.

Senior star Anne Makinen will do her best to prevent an Irish loss. After tallying one goal in addition to handing out two assists, Makinen already looks to be in midseason form.

Waldrum insists there is no sentimentality on his part as he battles his former team, but there are other ties between Tulsa and Notre Dame. Assistant coach Amy Edwards played at Tulsa and then coached there from 1995 to 1998.

"There might be a bit more motivation for Amy," he said. "She still has connections there and still knows a lot of the girls there."

The Irish will get little rest before they begin Big East Conference play against the Lady Friars Sunday afternoon at Alumni Field.

Providence is off to a 2-1 start but played poorly in a 4-0 loss to Connecticut earlier in the week. Waldrum is unsure of what to expect.

"They're (Providence) one of the teams we didn't get a chance to play last year," he said. "We don't have much to go on other than stats."

Even with the limited information he has, Waldrum believes that Providence is a threat to his Notre Dame squad.

With an attack anchored by junior forward Mary-Frances Monroe, the Lady Friars boast a potent offense that will have a young untested Irish defense on its toes.

Youth is a concern for Waldrum, who hopes that his team becomes more coherent as the season progresses.

"Right now we are a bit young and inexperienced," Waldrum acknowledged. "We're still trying to fit the pieces together. We're just hoping to play well and get the conference schedule off to a good start."

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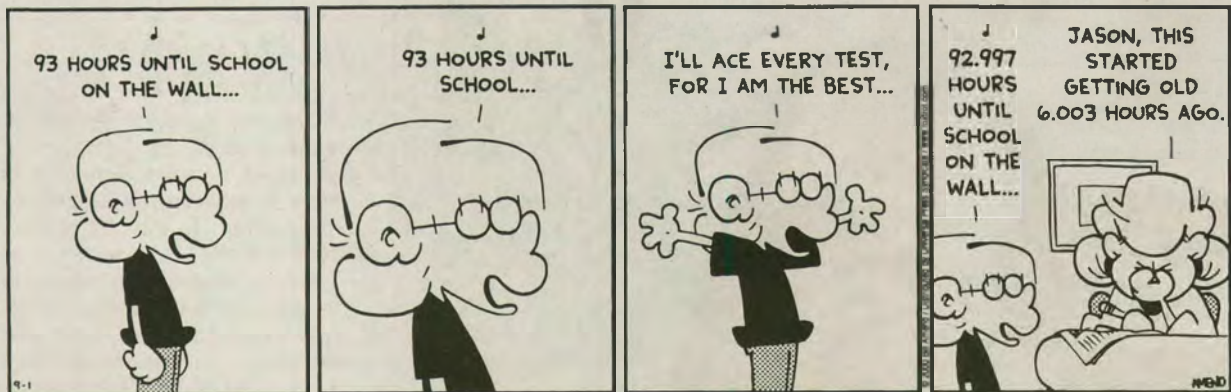
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- ACROSS**

1 Tag sale tag

5 Arab patriarch

10 Crumpled

14 20-0 win, e.g.

15 Little wriggler

16 Lena of "Havana"

17 Good buddy

18 1950's sitcom star

19 Alliance

20 With 37-Across, what the music critic said about 55-Across?

22 Stag

23 Pillow material

24 Drench

26 Kind of service

27 Union ____: Abbr.
- 28 Nicholas of ____, patron saint of mariners and thieves

32 Drug

34 Electrify

36 Things that help people to carry on?

37 See 20-Across

40 Phlebitis targets

41 Salt

42 White Rabbit's cry

44 Opp. of legato, in music

45 Idled

48 Photo ____

49 High-tech program, for short
- 51 "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" woman ____ Nolan

53 They may be odd

55 This puzzle's subject, born 7/21/20

59 Press

60 "Semper Fidelis" composer

61 No. 2

62 Second starter

63 Not so new

64 Result of a gas shortage

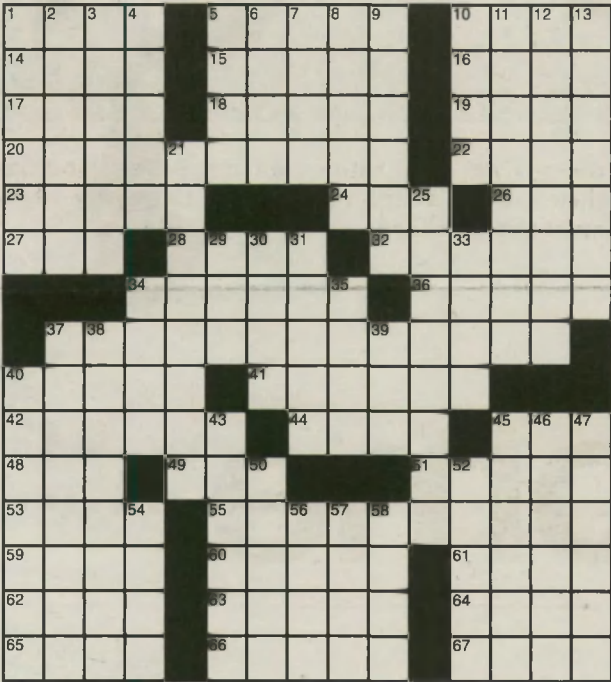
65 Load

66 Young dragonfly

67 Support system?

DOWN

- 1 Curves
- 2 "Very well"
- 3 Mrs. Marcos
- 4 Shooting ____
- 5 Czech, e.g.
- 6 One with big ears
- 7 Marine birds
- 8 Six Russian czars and grand dukes
- 9 Instruments seldom seen in orchestras
- 10 Oodles
- 11 Ration out
- 12 Broken
- 13 55-Across has played many of these



Puzzle by Elizabeth C. Gorski

- 21 Auto amenities

25 1970's fad

29 Pointer's cry

30 Hightails it

31 Dolts

33 Bell sound

34 Madame Karenina

35 New York, e.g., to Henri

37 Time-related

38 Blade sharpener

39 Author LeShan
- 40 55-Across has played many of these

43 Holder of 1,093 patents

45 He's a Wonder

46 On
- 47 Shows fear

50 Capri, for one

52 In any way

54 Winter blanket

56 A6 or TT

57 Not in harbor

58 Wit

Answers to any three clues in this puzzle are available by touch-tone phone: 1-900-420-5656 (95¢ per minute). Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

A	B	B	A	S		T	R	O	N		A	R	T	Y
S	W	A	L	E		S	E	R	B		R	O	A	M
S	A	I	L	S		T	H	E	C	C	C	C	C	C
A	N	T		T	A	I	L				H	A	S	T
M	A	S	S	E	U	R		S	O	U	R			
			T	T	T	T	T	T	G	R	O	U	P	S
B	O	G	U	S			H	A	L	L		G	A	L
O	M	E	N		C	H	O	R	E		A	L	L	A
I	N	E		S	O	A	R				B	L	I	M
L	I	K	E	P	P	I	N	A	P	O	D			
			D	R	A	G			D	A	D	A	I	S
S	C	H	W	A			M	O	D	E		N	A	E
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W	R	E	N		M	O	S	S			S	I	R	E

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SPORTS

Luck of the Irish
The Notre Dame volleyball team hosts Fairfield, BYU and Clemson in the Shamrock Invitational in the Joyce Center.
page 28



page 32

THE
OBSERVER

Friday, September 1, 2000

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Nation's No. 4 team preps for home opener

By KEVIN BERCHOU
Sports Writer

The action at Alumni Field kicks into full gear this weekend for the fourth-ranked Notre Dame women's soccer team.

After whipping the University of Detroit 6-0 in the season opener, the Irish anticipate much sterner competition from the Golden Hurricanes of Tulsa and the Lady Friars of Providence.

The Golden Hurricanes come blowing into South Bend with its best start in seven years. The Golden Hurricane defeated Oklahoma and Oklahoma State to win the Oklahoma Shootout.

Irish head coach Randy Waldrum, who coached at Tulsa, is leery of the team.

"They've been a real solid team over the years," he noted. "They're good enough to beat you if you're not ready. To be honest I'm a bit concerned."

On paper, the match-up looks to favor the Irish heavily, but the Golden Hurricanes could strike back if given the right opportunity.

Waldrum hopes to strike early and prevent that situation.

"We need to convert our chances better than last week. If we do that we'll be in good shape," he said.

During last's week win over Detroit, the Notre Dame out shot Detroit 49-2, but only



LIZ LANG/The Observer

Junior defender Lindsey Jones (No. 16), shown here in Notre Dame's 6-0 win over Detroit Mercy, is a valuable veteran for the Irish.

see W. SOCCER/page 30

MEN'S SOCCER

Irish begin season beneath Las Vegas lights

By NOAH AMSTADTER
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame men's soccer team plays under the bright lights of Las Vegas this weekend as it opens the 2000 season at the UNLV Fila/Snickers Rebel Classic. The Irish take on New Mexico tonight at 9 p.m. and host Nevada-Las Vegas at noon on Sunday.

First-year head coach, Chris Apple, is optimistic heading into the tournament.



Apple

"We've never played either of the teams," he said, "We expect to go out and win the tournament, though. That is our goal and that is our expectation."

The Irish face their first test tonight against the Lobos of New Mexico. New Mexico is coming off a 1999 campaign that saw the team finish third in the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation with an overall record of 9-8-1.

The Lobos rely on an experienced defensive backfield. Seniors George Creamer, Hank Schwyzer and team captain Alan Watson combine to challenge the Irish offense. The Lobos' main offensive weapon is senior forward Ty Hibbert. Hibbert led the team in scoring last season despite logging only 1,318 minutes due to a

variety of injuries.

New Mexico is coming off a loss in their only preseason game falling to Colorado-Spring on August 26, 3-1.

The Irish bring in a revamped offense to challenge the Lobos. Returning sophomore Erich Braun was named the Big East Rookie of the Year in 1999 after leading the Irish in scoring with 24 points on nine goals. Braun is coming off a preseason hamstring injury, but is expected to take the field in Las Vegas. Senior tri-captain Dustin Pridmore ranked fourth on the team in scoring last season.

The biggest change from last season on the offensive end is a group of talented freshmen. Following the loss of Andrew Aris and Alan Lyskawa to

graduation, the team found itself without its number two and three scorers, respectively from last season.

Enter a talented group of freshmen, who already have accounted for three of the five goals the Irish scored in winning two of three preseason games. Two of those three goals were scored by freshman Justin Dettler. Dettler, a Parade High School All-American last season, traveled with the National Team at Bradenton Academy.

Dettler also assisted on two more preseason goals, one to sophomore Justin Ratcliffe and the other to classmate Devon Prescod.

Although more than half of the team is underclassmen, it

see M. SOCCER/page 25

VOLLEYBALL

Youthful Belles jump into action

By KATIE McVOY
Assistant Sports Editor

The young Belles' volleyball team, under the direction of head coach Julie Schroeder-Biek, is looking to get its feet wet at the Alma Tournament this weekend.

Saint Mary's will open its season today at 5 p.m. against Alma College and play four other games during the Friday/Saturday tournament. With only four returning members, the team is looking to become a cohesive unit.

"We really want to use this tournament to gel as a team and get to know each other because we are so young," said senior Victoria Butcko.

"These are very intelligent women who are playing for the love of the game," Schroeder-Biek said. "They can learn to work well together."

Schroeder-Biek returns to Saint Mary's after taking four seasons off to stay home with her daughter. The women on the team are looking for her to bring focus to the team.

"She's very goal oriented," senior Angie Meyers said. "She makes sure we focus on our goals."

Those goals will be important in getting the Belles off to a good start this weekend.

"We really want to improve, stay intense on the court and gel as a team," Meyers said.

Saint Mary's, after finishing last season with a 17-14 overall record and a 5-3 MIAA record, will face the 16-16, 4-4 Alma Scots in the season opener. The Scots finished in a tie for fourth place with Kalamazoo College, right behind Saint Mary's. The Belles are looking for good competition from the Scots.

"Alma has always been a pretty solid team, so it will be a tough match," Butcko said.

Saint Mary's had the upper hand in last year's encounter with Alma, winning 15-8, 15-8, 15-7.

After a short break, the Belles will face off against the Spring Arbor Cougars at 8 p.m. tonight.

"We've never played Spring Arbor before, so we don't know what to expect," Butcko said.

see VOLLEYBALL/page 29

SPORTS
AT A
GLANCE



Volleyball
vs. Fairfield
Today, 4 p.m.



vs. New Mexico
Today, 9 p.m.



Volleyball
at Alma Tournament
Friday-Saturday



vs. Tulsa
Today, 7:30 p.m.



vs. Texas A&M
Saturday, 12 p.m.



vs. Alma
Sept. 4, 4 p.m.



Cross Country
at Valparaiso Inv.
Sept. 8, TBA

IRISH INSIDER

Friday, September 1, 2000

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OBSERVER

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college games
this week

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pregame
commentary

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**Stepping onto the
Battlefield**



game hype

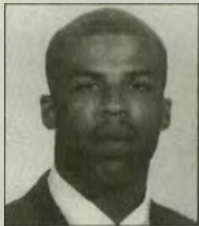


Kurt Vollers
right tackle

"We lost our last four games ... that's not acceptable here at Notre Dame."

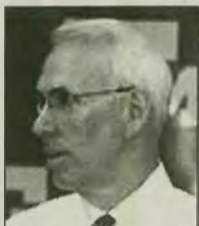


Bob Davie
Irish head coach



Arnaz Battle
quarterback

"There is more uncertainty here than there has been in a long time."



R.C. Slocum
Aggie head coach

"We've been licking our chops waiting for this season to kick around."

"We'll put Notre Dame back where it's supposed to be."

A&M game gets personal for Notre Dame

By KERRY SMITH
Sports Editor

When two teams do not compete regularly, it's usually hard to start a rivalry.

Notre Dame and Texas A&M have met only three times in their programs' histories, but personal ties on both sides make Saturday's season opener as competitive as any heated rivalry.

Twenty players on the Irish roster hail from Texas, and seven attended high school with Texas A&M players. Irish head coach Bob Davie spent nine years coaching beneath Aggie head coach R.C. Slocum.

"It is a different kind of game playing against someone you may consider your best friend," said Davie. "But I think both of us have been in this profession long enough and both of us plan on being in this profession for a long time to come."

Saturday's season opener is not only an opportunity for friends to take opposite sides of the field, but, more importantly, it's a chance for Davie and the Irish to prove they are more competitive than last year's 5-7 record shows.

Junior quarterback Arnaz Battle will take the helm for the Irish on offense. Battle paid his dues for two years as Jarious Jackson's understudy and is ready to lead an offense tailored to his strengths.

"I think the guys are fired up. We are a lot closer this year and we're all in this



JOHN DAILY/The Observer

The Irish, shown here in their 23-13 loss to Michigan State last season, are primed to avenge their 1999 5-7 season beginning with rival Texas A&M.

together," said Battle.

Notre Dame's aerial attack will rely on top returning receiver Joey Getherall. His 35 catches in 1999 make him a potent offensive threat. Tight ends Jabari Holloway and Dan O'Leary will also be go-to players Saturday. The Irish plan to balance Battle's throwing game with a diversified running attack supplied by the trio of Tony Fisher, Terrence Howard and Julius Jones.

The Irish coaching staff made some changes to its defensive strategy in the off-

season, switching from a two-end tackle set-up to one featuring two ends, a tackle and a nose guard. Davie hopes this adjustment will improve on last season's coverage, but knows only time will tell.

Anthony Denman and Rocky Boiman return as starting linebackers for the Irish, while seniors Tony Driver and Brock Williams, both coming off of suspensions, will anchor the secondary.

The Irish special teams unit has been competitive within itself. David Miller, Nick Setta,

Joey Hilbold and Matt McNew will rotate on kicking duties.

Saturday's game against the Aggies begins an uphill battle for the Irish as Notre Dame is slated to take on Nebraska, Purdue, Michigan State and Stanford in coming weeks, but Davie's squad knows better than to look past their opener.

"I can't help but notice our schedule, but our team is focused on A&M," said Davie. "A&M is such a good opponent. With all those personal ties, we don't have the excuse of overlooking A&M."

Papa Predicts
Notre Dame - 27
Texas A&M - 10



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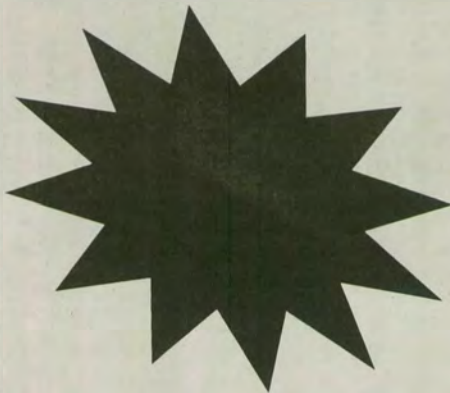
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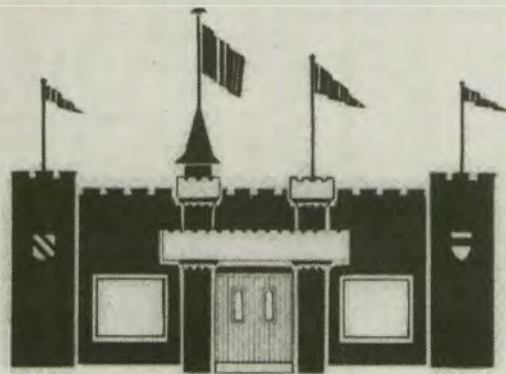
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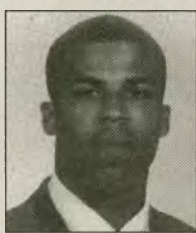
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Battle steps out from Jackson's shadow

♦ Junior starter ready to create his own legacy

By TIM CASEY
Assistant Sports Editor



Battle

Arnaz Battle is no longer just Arnaz Battle.

He is now Ar-nez, Ar-naz, No. 3, Battle, "the quarterback", "Jarious's successor" and "the guy who can run but can't pass." Alumni, subway alumni and non-alumni all have preconceived opinions of the 11th starting Irish quarterback since 1985. He has more aliases than Prince — or is it The Artist?

When the 6-foot-1 inch, 218-pound junior jogs onto the Notre Dame Stadium field in tomorrow's season opener against Texas A&M, the entire college football world's eyes will be focused on the humble, quiet kid from Shreveport, La.

If he throws touchdowns, avoids tacklers, runs over line-backers, he will be adored by fans, media and sponsors.

If he throws interceptions, pitches errantly on the option, is chased down by defensive linemen and leads the Irish in defeat, he will be constantly criticized by the same triumvirate.

All for tossing and running with an oblong shaped pigskin. All for being the quarterback at Notre Dame.

"I never thought I'd be here," Battle said. "I envisioned myself as probably playing at a southern school, an Arkansas or a Mississippi State or somewhere like that."

The will to win

On a cold, November afternoon in 1989, while gathered with his family, Battle's life forever changed. That day, Battle's brother Brandon was found floating in his grandmother's swimming pool. A few hours later, Brandon Battle died in a Louisiana hospital.

Brandon was 3. Arnaz was 9. In the summer of 1998, Arnaz had an image of his brother's face tattooed on the upper portion of his left arm.

"It's a constant reminder," Battle said of the tattoo. "I still think about him every day. But life goes on."

After the tragedy, Battle focused more on athletics. He had started in organized football at age 6 as a running back before switching to quarterback in junior high. But in those pre and early-teenage years, his attention was split between football and basketball. Battle played AAU ball with 2000 NBA draft picks Stromile Swift, Kenyon Martin and Marcus Fizer but after breaking both his wrists during an eighth grade scrimmage, Battle devoted himself to the gridiron.

He played both quarterback and wide receiver as a fresh-

position: quarterback
year: junior
awards: Parade prep All-American, rated 39th best player nationally by *The Sporting News*, *USA Today* honorable mention All-America pick, third-team All-South quarterback by *Fox Sports South*
notables: backed up Jarious Jackson his first two seasons, had 74-yard TD run in Kansas game in 1999.

man at C.E. Byrd High School before becoming a full-time signal caller as a sophomore.

"We were a very untalented team," Battle said. "Most of [the offense] was just bootlegs, roll-outs and belly options. It was like backyard ball."

Despite the lack of individual stars, Battle led Byrd to a 10-0 record as a junior, then a 9-2 mark a year later. He accounted for over 4,500 total yards in his three years as Byrd won two district and conference championships.

Battle's high school heroics caught the attention of many major programs. Nebraska, Tennessee, Georgia and Texas A&M were among Battle's final five choices in the winter of 1997.

But after spending the first weekend of December in South Bend and the following weekend in Lincoln, Battle cancelled his remaining visits.

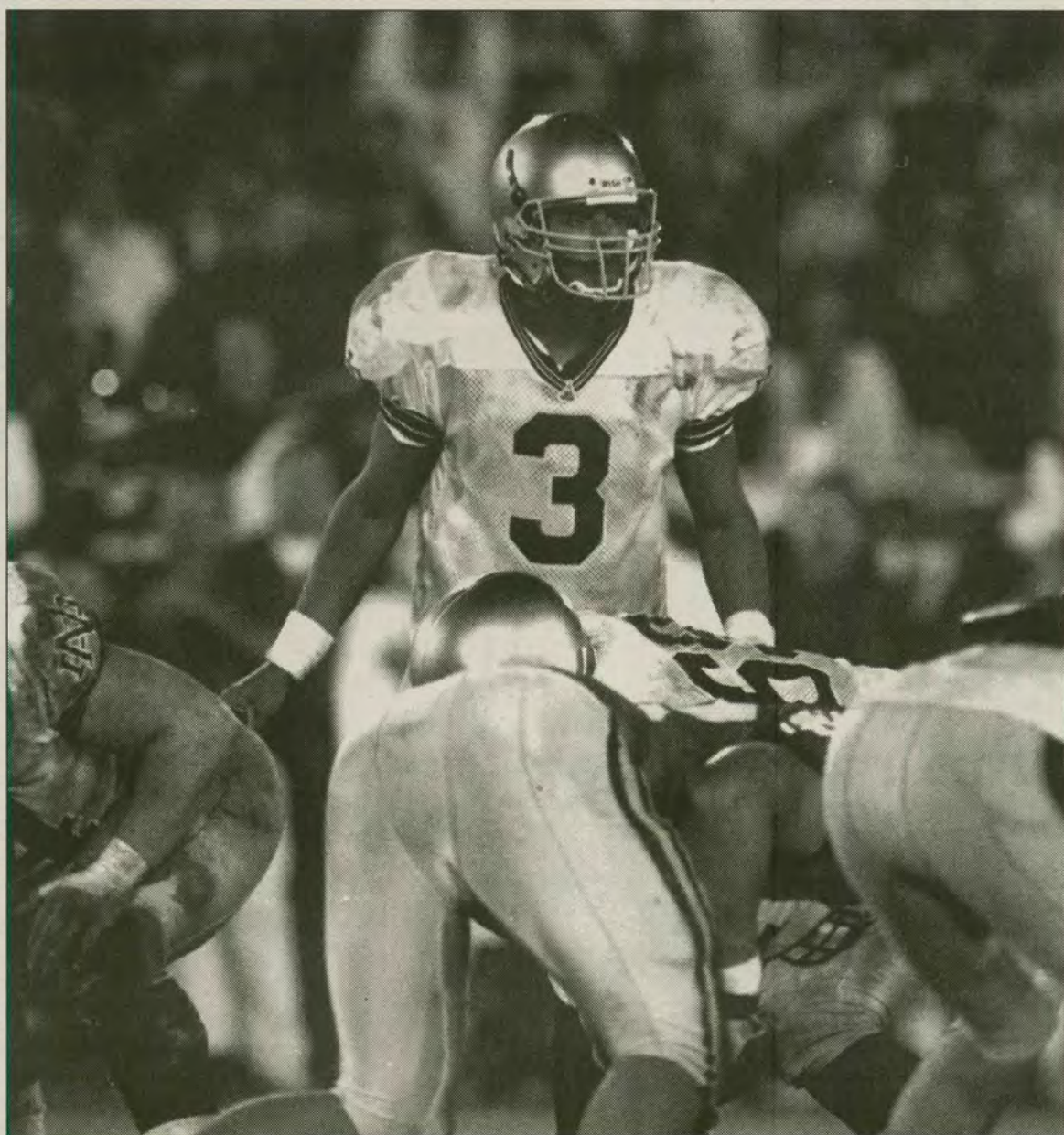
"Notre Dame's the pinnacle of college football," Battle said. "Watching Tony Rice and all those guys when I was little and just the gold helmets and the fight song. I wanted to be a part of it."

A New Chance

Two distinct moments stand out thus far in Battle's college career.

On Nov. 28, 1998, Battle was inserted into the USC game with 11:53 remaining in the second quarter. Starter Jackson suffered a regular-season ending right knee injury the week before against LSU and backup Eric Chappell struggled mightily in his first career start.

So coach Bob Davie turned the offense over to a freshman, who four weeks earlier had sprained his right shoulder against Baylor. His statistics (7-of-19 passing for 94 yards and two interceptions plus seven carries for 25 yards) combined with a 10-0 loss, which denied the Irish a BCS bowl appearance, left Battle with a sour introduction to college football.



JOHN DAILY/The Observer

Arnaz Battle, shown here in Notre Dame's 1998 10-0 loss to USC, saw action in four games as a freshman. After playing in seven more last year, the junior will start his first game Saturday.

"I probably knew 70 percent of the offense and that was mainly running plays," Battle said. "It was a tough situation to be in."

In the season opener a year ago against Kansas, Battle got his second chance, albeit one with much less pressure. He quarterbacked 12 plays, mixing poor throws with sensational running in the 48-13 Irish win.

With 2:08 left in the game, Battle scrambled to his right on a keeper, broke a tackle and ran 74 yards for his first and only career touchdown.

"I finally showed what I can do," Battle said of the run. "Too bad it didn't carry over throughout the season."

He appeared in seven games last season as Jackson's backup but only played a few series or plays at a time.

Besides learning the college game, Battle also had to adjust to a new offensive coordinator, Kevin Rogers, who implemented a more complex system, with the main emphasis on the quarterback.

But despite the difficulties, Battle had a chance to learn from a seasoned veteran.

"Watching Jarious Jackson and the way he handled things helped me out a lot," Battle said. "This year we'll put Notre Dame back where it's supposed to be. I think guys are fired up."

Adjusting as leader

The interview requests are constant, the attention is just beginning.

Already this preseason, ESPN, NBC, MSNBC, the San Diego Union-Tribune, College Football News Online and KTBS, the Shreveport CBS affiliate, have sent reporters to question Battle.

Not to mention all the local media outlets hounding Battle every day, looking for sound bites, quotes or anything else.

"Everyone wants a piece of him," said Lisa Nelson, Notre Dame's publications coordinator who handles football media relations. "I guess it all comes with being the quarterback at Notre Dame."

Said Davie: "I told Arnaz they'll probably shut down that Wal-Mart in Shreveport in honor of him on Saturday, it's such a big day. That's pretty big when they shut that Wal-Mart down."

Most of Battle's family, including his parents and grandmother, will be in the stands on Saturday as Battle, a sociology and CAPP major, makes his starting debut.

So far, the reviews from teammates and coaches on Battle's preseason performances are consistently solid.

"He's taken on more of the

leadership role," said backup quarterback Gary Godsey. "You can tell, the way he's moving everybody around, recognizing when there's mistakes and trying to correct everything."

That leadership is not limited to the practice field.

Battle has made a conscious effort to help his younger teammates, especially the three freshman quarterbacks, Carlyle Holiday, Jared Clark and Matt LoVecchio, deal with the transition to college.

He has taken it a step further with Holiday, a neighbor at Carroll Hall.

"Every morning I go there and wake him up," Battle said. "I make sure he gets to class and makes it to practice. I'm not making it to turn my back on them just because they're competing with me."

Battle hopes the Irish fans will heed his advice of sticking with the 2000 Irish in victory or defeat. But that may only be a dream.

"Until Arnaz is under the gun, until he picks up those newspapers Sunday morning after the game and goes through the whole thing it takes to be the quarterback at Notre Dame you just don't know for sure (how he'll handle it)," Davie said. "You never know."

His future is uncertain, but one thing is clear: Arnaz Battle

up close &
personal
WITH ARNAZ BATTLE

birthdate: Feb. 22, 1980
hometown: Shreveport, La.
dorm: Carroll Hall
major: sociology and CAPP
dimensions: 6-foot-1, 218 lbs.
Battle's top three teams in college football this year: Notre

Dame, Florida State,
word to describe him off the field: explosive
word to describe him on the field: humble
favorite sports teams as a child: Notre Dame, San Francisco

49ers, Los Angeles Lakers
and Chicago Bulls
area he would like to improve most as a player is: Passing
greatest personal athletic moment: Earning Parade All-American in high school

Fighting Irish schedule

Sep. 2 TEXAS A&M
 Sep. 9 NEBRASKA
 Sep. 16 PURDUE
 Sep. 23 at Michigan State
 Oct. 7 STANFORD
 Oct. 14 Navy (Orlando, Fla.)
 Oct. 21 at West Virginia
 Oct. 28 AIR FORCE
 Nov. 11 BOSTON COLLEGE
 Nov. 18 at Rutgers
 Nov. 25 at USC



Davie
head coach

fourth season at
Notre Dame

career record:

21-16

at Notre Dame:

21-16

against Texas
A&M: 0-0

Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	YR
1	Brock Williams	CB	5-10	190	SR
2	Carlos Pierre-Antoine	ILB	6-3	242	JR
2	Dan Novakov	QB	6-1	220	SO
3	Arnaz Battle	QB	6-1	218	JR
5	Ron Israel	SS	6-0	208	SR
6	David Givens	FL	6-3	217	JR
7	Carlyle Holiday	QB	6-2	190	FR
8	Lorenzo Crawford	WR	5-11	175	FR
9	Jared Clark	QB	6-4	220	FR
10	Matt LaVecchio	QB	6-3	200	FR
10	Ryan Krueger	QB	5-9	178	JR
11	Jay Johnson	SE	5-11	195	FR
12	Tony Fisher	TR	6-2	225	JR
13	Nick Setta	K/P	6-0	175	SO
13	Joe Recendez	QB/TE	6-0	222	SR
14	Gary Godsey	QB	6-7	240	SO
15	Clifford Jefferson	CB	5-9	180	JR
16	Abram Elam	QB/DB	6-1	190	FR
17	Joey Hildbold	P	5-10	190	SO
18	Joey Gotherall	FL	5-7	175	SR
19	Glenn Earl	SS	6-2	215	SO
20	Gerome Sapp	FS	6-0	210	FR
21	Javin Hunter	SE	6-0	186	JR
22	Julius Jones	TB	5-10	201	SO
23	Chris Yura	FB	5-11	211	SO
24	Chad DeBolt	CB	5-10	193	SO
25	Tony Driver	FS	6-2	220	SR
26	Garron Bible	RB	5-10	185	FR
27	Jason Beckstrom	CB	5-10	190	SO
28	Donald Dykes	SS	5-11	195	JR
29	Justin Smith	FS	5-11	193	SR
29	Brian Oleniczak	FL	5-11	195	SR
30	Rocky Boiman	OLB	6-4	240	JR
31	Dwayne Francis	CB	6-0	195	JR
32	Terrance Howard	TB	6-1	195	JR
33	Courtney Watson	ILB	6-1	220	SO
34	Vontez Duff	RB	6-1	175	FR
34	Jascint Vukelich	FB	5-10	229	SR
35	David Miller	K	5-11	191	JR
35	Tim O'Neill	TB	5-5	170	JR
36	Tom Lopienski	FB	6-1	245	JR
38	Preston Jackson	DB	5-10	172	FR
38	Eric Nelson	LB	6-0	225	JR
39	Anthony Denman	ILB	6-2	235	SR
40	Jason Murray	FB	6-1	259	SR
41	Mike Goolsby	LB	6-4	225	FR
42	Shane Walton	CB	5-11	183	JR
43	Anthony Brannan	ILB	5-10	215	SR
44	Grant Irons	DE	6-5	275	SR
45	Matt Sarb	SS	5-11	201	JR
46	Jeremy Juarez	FB	5-11	251	SR
47	Mike McNair	FB	6-0	240	JR
48	Kyle Budinscak	DL	6-5	250	FR
49	Derek Curry	LB	6-4	225	FR
50	Cedric Hilliard	DT	6-2	290	SO
51	Tyreo Harrison	ILB	6-2	242	JR
52	Jeff Faine	C	6-3	292	SO
52	Mark Mitchell	OLB	5-10	220	SR
53	Jason Halvorson	LB	6-2	230	SO
54	Luigi Rao	ILB	5-10	215	SR
55	Jim Jones	OG	6-2	310	SR
56	Pat Ryan	ILB	6-3	235	SO
57	Justin Thomas	OLB	6-1	245	SO
58	Joseph Mueller	LB	5-11	195	SR
59	Brian Dierckman	ILB	6-1	255	SR
60	Darrell Campbell	DE	6-4	285	SO
61	Mike Zelenka	FB	6-0	225	SR
62	Casey Robin	OT	6-7	305	SR
63	Brennan Curtin	OT	6-8	315	SO
64	John Crowther	C	6-2	240	JR
65	Sean Milligan	OG	6-4	295	SO
66	JW Jordan	C	6-1	275	SR
67	Ryan Gillis	OG	6-3	292	SO
69	Mike Gandy	OG	6-4	315	SR
70	Jim Molinaro	DE	6-6	265	SO
72	Ryan Scarola	OG	6-5	301	JR
73	Adam Tibble	K	5-11	201	JR
75	Kurt Vollers	OT	6-7	310	SR
76	John Teasdale	OT	6-5	305	SR
77	Greg Pauly	DL	6-6	275	FR
78	Jordan Black	OT	6-6	310	JR
79	Sean Mahan	OT	6-3	288	JR
80	Omar Jenkins	WR	6-2	180	FR
81	Jerome Collins	WR	6-4	200	FR
82	Ronnie Rodamer	WR	6-4	185	FR
82	Bernard Akatu	SE	5-10	180	JR
83	Josh Gentile	K/P	5-11	199	SO
84	John Owens	DE	6-3	265	JR
85	Jeffrey Campbell	TE/DE	6-1	200	JR
86	Dan O'Leary	TE	6-3	260	SR
87	Jabari Holloway	TE	6-3	260	SR
88	Jovan Witherspoon	WR	6-4	205	FR
89	Gerald Morgan	TE	6-4	261	JR
90	Lance Legree	NG	6-1	285	SR
91	Andrew Dempsey	DE	6-2	265	SR
92	Matt McNew	K	6-3	200	SR
93	B.J. Scott	DT	6-3	290	SR
94	Andy Wisne	DT	6-3	272	SR
95	Ryan Roberts	DE	6-2	251	JR
96	Billy Palmer	TE	6-3	250	FR
98	Anthony Weaver	DT	6-3	276	JR
99	Jason Sapp	LB	6-3	230	FR

IN POSITION: kicking duties



KEVIN DALUM/The Observer

David Miller is the most experienced returner at the highly competitive kicker position heading into the 2000 season opener.

Irish kick off on right foot

Observer Staff Report

One of the most hotly contested positions on the Notre Dame football team this year is that of kicker/punter. The Irish hope to finally gain some consistency here after the roller coaster Jim Sanson era.

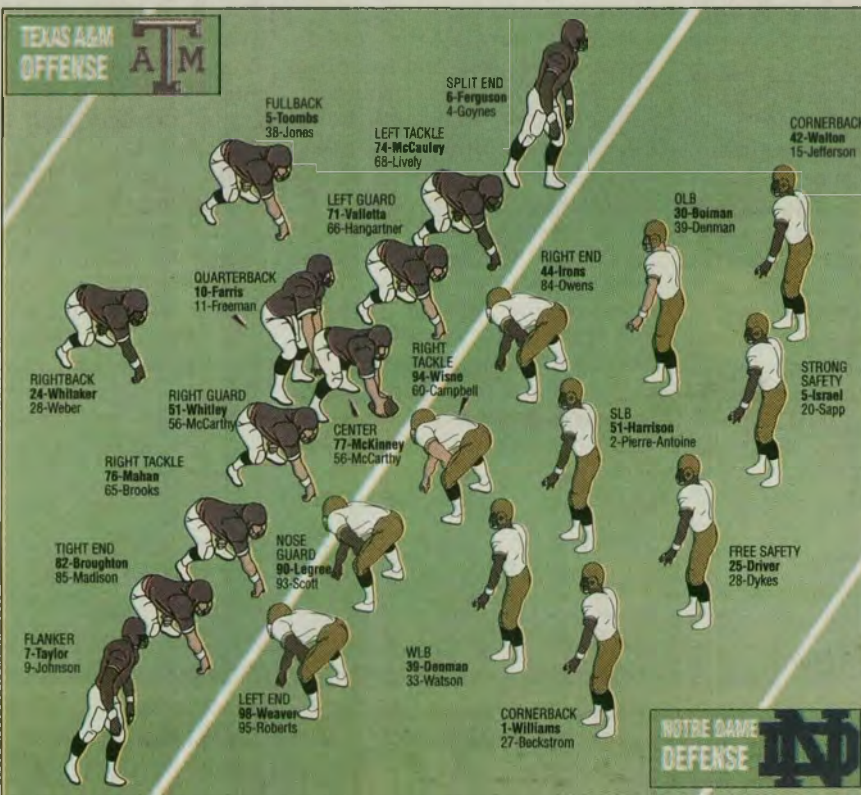
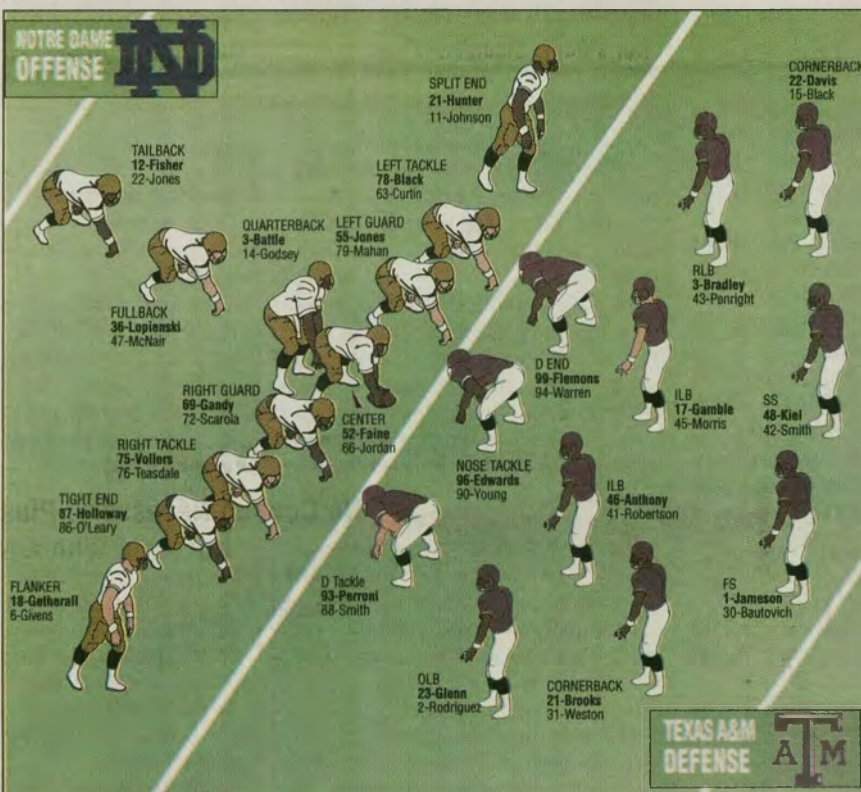
David Miller, who missed part of last season due to an injury, could cement

his role as the starting placekicker with a strong performance Saturday. Sophomore Nick Setta and senior Matt McNew will also compete for the kicking position.

Setta and classmate Joey Hildbold will test each other at the punting position.

The race is so close that Davie has predicted all four will share kicking duties throughout the season.

DEPTH CHARTS



Aggies schedule

Sep. 2 at Notre Dame
 Sep. 9 WYOMING
 Sep. 16 TEXAS-EL PASO
 Sep. 30 TEXAS TECH
 Oct. 7 COLORADO
 Oct. 14 at Baylor
 Oct. 21 at Iowa State
 Oct. 28 KANSAS STATE
 Nov. 4 at Oklahoma State
 Nov. 11 OKLAHOMA
 Nov. 24 at Texas



Slocum
head coach

12th season at
Texas A&M

career record:

102-32-2

at Texas A&M:

102-32-2

against Notre
Dame: 0-2

Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	YR
1	Michael Jameson	DB	5-11	188	SR
2	Christian Rodriguez	LB	6-2	225	JR
3	Roylin Bradley	LB	6-1	234	SR
4	Dwain Goynes	WR	5-10	179	SO
5	Ja'Mar Toombs	FB	6-0	275	JR
6	Robert Ferguson	WR	6-2	220	JR
7	Chris Taylor	WR	5-11	184	SR
8	Vance Smith	QB	6-4	226	SO
9	Bethel Johnson	WR	5-11	188	JR
10	Mark Farris	QB	6-2	206	SO
11	Colby Freeman	QB	6-2	214	SO
12	Denis Patrick	P	5-11	169	SR
13	Terence Kitchens	K	5-9	170	SR
14	Dawon Gentry	DB	5-11	189	FR
15	Adam Black	DB	5-10	173	FR
16	Derek Lechler	P	6-0	223	SO
17	Brian Gamble	LB	6-2	223	SR
18	Dustin Long	QB	6-3	185	FR
19	Roddy Alexander	WR	5-8	161	SO
19	Eric Stanford	DB	6-2	195	SO
20	Cody Scates	P	6-0	180	FR
21	Jay Brooks	DB	5-9	183	JR
22	Sammy Davis	DB	6-0	180	SO
23	Jason Glenn	LB	6-1	228	SR
24	Richard Whitaker	RB	5-10	197	SO
25	Chris Sims	K	6-0	163	FR
26	Jonte Buhl	DB	5-9	163	FR
27	Jesse Hunnicutt	LB	6-2	237	SO
28	Joe Weber	RB	6-0	228	SO
29	Maurice Harris	RB	5-8	185	SO
30	Wes Bautovich	DB	6-2	210	JR
30	Keelan Jackson	DB	6-1	209	FR
31	Sean Weston	DB	5-9	170	SO
32	Oschlor Flemming	RB	5-10	204	SO
33	Damien West	LB	6-2	237	SO
34	Keith Joseph	RB	6-2	221	FR
35	Mike Pinesette	DB	5-11	193	JR
36	Amor Simon	RB	6-1	224	JR
37	Jerome Weber	DB	5-11	166	FR
37	Russell Bynum	K	5-9	176	SR
38	Stacy Jones	RB	5-11	229	SO
39	Eric Crutchfield	DB	6-0	180	FR
39	Jack Milligan	RB	6-0	203	SO
40	Kevin Mangum	DB	5-10	176	FR
41	Harold Robertson	LB	6-2	205	SO
42	Everett Smith	DB	6-2	205	SO
43	Jarrod Penright	LB	6-3	233	SO
44	Greg Porter	WR	6-4	228	SO
45	Jared Morris	LB	6-3	237	SO
46	Cornelius Anthony	LB	6-0	226	SR
47	LeBrandon Shepard	LB	6-1	219	FR
48	Terrance Kiel	DB	5-11	196	SO
49	Timm Gergeni	P/K	5-9	159	SO
50	John Kirk	OL	6-4	282	SO
51	Taylor Whitley	OL	6-4	305	SO
52	Brendan Patrick	OL	6-3	260	FR
53	Toron Wooldridge	LB	6-0	220	SO
54	James Milkavich	OL	6-2	270	SO
55	Timothy Joseph	LB	6-2	267	FR
56	Toby McCarthy	OL	6-2	274	SR
57	Richard Martin	DB	6-1	223	SR
58	Ricky Cardoza	LB	6-4	223	FR
59	Brian Thompson	LB	6-0	213	FR
63	Chance Pearce	DS	6-2	230	SO
64	Kevin James	LB	6-2	248	FR
65	Andre Brooks	OL	6-4	298	SO
66	Geoff Hangartner	OL	6-5	272	FR
67	Wes Dennard	OL	6-4	225	SO
68	Britt Lively	OL	6-4	299	SO
69	Don Muhlbach	DS	6-4	267	SO
70	Moses Vakalahi	OL	6-5	300	JR
71	Chris Valletta	OL	6-3	302	SR
72	Billy Yates	OL	6-1	280	SO
73	Alan Reuber	OL	6-6	280	SO
74	Tango McCauley	OL	6-3	288	JR
75	Chris Montgomery	OL	6-8	317	SO
76	Michael Mahan	OL	6-6	293	SO
77	Seth McKinney	OL	6-3	290	JR
78	Kasey Cheshier	OL	6-4	279	FR
79	Matt Enzler	TE	6-2	234	JR
80	Ellison Collins	WR	6-3	206	SO
81	Joey Perot	TE	6-5	257	FR
82	RoDerrick Broughton	TE	6-1	258	SR
82	Nick Rodgers	WR	6-2	243	SR
83	Mickey Jones	WR	5-9	178	JR
84	Tahumbræ Brown	TE	6-3	255	SO
85	Lonnie Madison	TE	6-3	236	JR
86	Fred Spiller	TE	6-3	252	SO
87	Michael de la Torre	TE	6-5	244	SO
88	Linnis Smith	DL	6-4	250	FR
89	J.P. LeCompte	TE	6-3	243	SR
90	Stephen Young	DL	6-0	275	SR
91	Marcus Jasmin	DL	6-4	323	FR
92	Al Reilly	TE	6-3	252	SR
93	Evan Perroni	DL	6-5	265	JR
94	Ty Warren	DL	6-4	294	SO
95	Rocky Bernard	DL	6-3	275	SR
96	Ron Edwards	DL	6-3	284	SR
97	A.J. Thill	DE	6-4	270	SR
98	Mark Huggett	DE	6-3	265	SR
99	Ronald Flemons	DE	6-5	249	SR

EYE ON THE ENEMY

“Wrecking Crew” looks to crush Irish hopes

By KATHLEEN O'BRIEN
Associate Sports Editor

The “Wrecking Crew” of Texas A&M hopes to demolish Notre Dame's hopes of a season-opening victory Saturday.

Senior outside linebackers Roylin Bradley and Jason Glenn tallied 27 tackles for losses and 12 sacks a season ago. Along with two experienced inside linebackers in Cornelius Anthony and Brian Gamble, the Aggies' linebackers have their sights set on breaking up the Irish offense. Notre Dame's offense must counter the Aggies despite having a rookie quarterback and an unproven offensive line.

“Every time we touch the ball on offense, there's going to be someone new handling it,” Irish coach Bob Davie said. “Whether we're in the shotgun or whether the quarterback is under center, that's a concern.”

Texas A&M finds itself in a similar position, with a new quarterback in sophomore

Mark Farris. Farris virtually mirrors Notre Dame quarterback Arnaz Battle at 6-foot-2 and 212 pounds, and both players will have all eyes on them every time they set foot on the field.

If Farris comes through, he's got a talented running and receiving corps.

Running back Ja'Mar Toombs led the Aggies in rushing a season ago, racking up 583 yards and nine rushing touchdowns. In the air, the best options are Chris Taylor and Bethel Johnson, the top two wide receivers in 1999.

While the Irish starters at linebacker — Tyreo Harrison, Anthony Denman and Rocky Boiman — form a solid block, Davie is concerned about the opposition.

“The question will be, can we block really explosive players like A&M has, [a really] explosive scheme like they have?” Davie asked. “How do we handle their quickness up front? How do we handle their experience up front?”

The Aggies' offensive line, like that of the Irish, has suf-

fered from injuries which struck at their consistency. The defensive line, on the other hand, starts an experienced trio in noseguard Ron Edwards and ends Ronald Flemons and Rocky Bernard.

Texas A&M will be hard-pressed to replace All-American punter and kicker Shane Lechler, but punter Terence Kitchens and Timm Gergeni will give it their best shots.

Texas A&M and Notre Dame, both schools with storied histories, are coming off less than satisfactory seasons. The Aggies finished last year at 8-4, while the Irish were 7-5. Head coach R.C. Slocum, a member of the 100-career victories club, was Irish coach Bob Davie's mentor a few years back.

With close parallels in the two teams, Saturday's matchup should be well balanced and hard-fought. Texas A&M is ranked 25th while Notre Dame is looking to break into the top 25. Both teams are looking to raise their rankings with a season-opening victory.



AFP Photo

Texas A&M's Jay Brooks, a defensive back, is shown here returning an interception last year. The Aggies hope to give the Irish offense fits with their talented defensive crew.

fast facts

ABOUT TEXAS A&M

- ◆ Location: College Station, Texas
- ◆ Enrollment: 43,422
- ◆ Colors: Maroon and White
- ◆ Nickname: Aggies
- ◆ Conference: Big 12
- ◆ Founded: 1871
- ◆ Aggies' coach R.C. Slocum is one of seven Division I coaches to reach 100 wins in just 11 seasons.
- ◆ Texas A&M's home stadium with 80,650 seats is slightly larger than Notre Dame Stadium.



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AROUND THE NATION

Friday, September 1, 2000

A LOOK AT THIS WEEKEND'S COLLEGE FOOTBALL ACTION

page 6

Associated Press Top 25

	team	record	points
1	Nebraska (35)	0-0	1,728
2	Florida St. (30)	1-0	1,723
3	Alabama (3)	0-0	1,577
4	Wisconsin (1)	0-0	1,442
5	Miami, Fla.	0-0	1,404
6	Michigan	0-0	1,381
7	Texas (2)	0-0	1,308
8	Kansas St.	1-0	1,256
9	Florida	0-0	1,248
10	Georgia	0-0	1,230
11	Virginia Tech	0-0	1,050
12	USC	1-0	966
13	Tennessee	0-0	902
14	Washington	0-0	785
15	Purdue	0-0	728
16	Ohio St.	0-0	601
17	Clemson	0-0	597
18	Mississippi	0-0	545
19	Oklahoma	0-0	469
20	TCU	0-0	408
21	Illinois	0-0	395
22	So. Mississippi	0-0	248
23	Colorado	0-0	182
24	Michigan St.	0-0	162
25	Texas A&M	0-0	141

ESPN/USA Today poll

	team	record	points
1	Nebraska (40)	0-0	1,446
2	Florida St. (17)	1-0	1,416
3	Alabama (1)	0-0	1,305
4	Michigan	0-0	1,214
5	Wisconsin (1)	0-0	1,211
6	Miami, Fla.	0-0	1,112
7	Florida	0-0	1,088
8	Texas	0-0	1,040
9	Kansas St.	1-0	989
10	Virginia Tech	0-0	955
11	Georgia	0-0	924
12	Tennessee	0-0	831
13	USC	1-0	747
14	Purdue	0-0	663
15	Washington	0-0	606
16	Ohio St.	0-0	564
17	Mississippi	0-0	417
18	Clemson	0-0	392
19	Oklahoma	0-0	347
20	Illinois	0-0	300
21	TCU	0-0	250
22	Michigan St.	0-0	225
23	Texas A&M	0-0	215
24	So. Mississippi	0-0	206
25	Colorado	0-0	154

Observer experts



Kerry Smith
editor

NOTRE DAME

ALABAMA

COLORADO

TENNESSEE

Season Record

0-0



Kathleen O'Brien
associate editor

NOTRE DAME

ALABAMA

COLORADO

TENNESSEE

Season Record

0-0



Tim Casey
assistant editor

NOTRE DAME

ALABAMA

COLORADO

TENNESSEE

Season Record

0-0

GAME OF THE WEEK



AFP Photo

Alabama's Shontua Ray (No. 33), shown here knocking down a Vanderbilt punt returner in last year's 28-17 victory over Vanderbilt, returns at cornerback for the deep Crimson Tide squad.

Crimson Tide return talent-laden team

By PEYTON BERG
Sports Writer

Alabama coach Mike DuBose started last season denying allegations of sexual misconduct. He finished by beating Florida in the SEC Championship game en route to a 10-3 record.

The Crimson Tide lost its two best players to the NFL, but the roster is far from depleted. Alabama comes back loaded at every position and expects to return to the SEC title game.

The Tide go two deep

at quarterback, a luxury few teams enjoy. Andrew Zow will start, but DuBose won't hesitate to play sophomore Tyler Watts. The tailback position is a question, where Shawn Bohanon takes over for the departed Shawn Alexander. Wide receiver Freddie Milons is a deep threat and probably the most talented offensive player in the SEC. Look for him to see action at quarterback, receiver, and kick returner throughout the year.

The defense is strong and quick, with trade-

mark Alabama defensive ends and linebackers putting heat on opposing quarterbacks. Linebacker Saleen Rasheed reminds Tide fans of 'Bama great Derrick Thomas.

Two years ago, Cade McNown and Company were contenders until the Bruins' defense missed the flight to Miami and surrendered 500 yards to the Hurricanes. Coach Bob Toledo parlayed this successful season into a stellar recruiting class, which now enters its sophomore year. Injuries, a handicapped parking permit scandal and the

departures of McNown and Danny Farmer hurt the Bruins last season.

This year, however, the Bruins will make a statement.

Offensive threats Brian Poli-Dixon and DeShaun Foster return from injury to inject speed into what was, at times, a dormant 1999 offense. Promising defensive end Kenyon Coleman will lead an improved defense. Look for the Bruins to contend for the PAC 10 Championship, provided they can survive their final two games against Washington and USC.

OTHER TOP GAMES

Colorado vs. Colorado State

Once upon a time, this "rivalry" was thought to be an easy victory for the vaunted Buffaloes. Gone are the days of Kordell Stewart, Rashaan Salaam, and Hail Marys to beat Michigan in the final seconds.

The Rams humiliated Gary Barnett in his coaching debut last year 41-14, so revenge will be a motivating factor.

Colorado State will be the first of six tough teams in a row on Colorado's schedule, giving the Buffaloes the toughest schedule in the nation.

Barnett, must find a new quarterback and break in an inexperienced secondary quickly. He has talent at the skill positions, most notably prized recruit tailback Marcus

Houston and wide receiver Javon Green.

Colorado's linebackers may be the best in the Big 12. Jashon Sykes has All-American potential, and follows a great CU linebacking tradition that includes Chad Brown, Greg Biekert, and Ted Johnson.

So. Mississippi at Tennessee

Tennessee was decimated by players graduating (quarterback Peyton Manning) and leaving for the NFL (Jamal Lewis). But a rebuilding year for the Volunteers means losing two games. The Golden Eagles return an experienced crew and should make the top 25, but are not talented enough to overcome the Volunteers.

around the dial

Boston College at W. Virginia
11 a.m., ESPN

Alabama at UCLA

2:30 p.m., ABC

Louisiana Tech at Kansas St.

6 p.m., FOXSN

Colorado vs. Colorado State

5 p.m., ESPN2

So. Mississippi at Tennessee

6:30 p.m., ESPN

Stanford at Washington State

10:15 p.m., FOXSN

the inside edge



records: 0-0
A.P. rank: NR
coach's poll: NR



records: 0-0
A.P. rank: No. 25
coach's poll: No. 23

Series Record

Notre Dame
leads Texas A&M

2-1



quarterbacks: Both teams' quarterbacks are untested. Battle's seen more game time than Farris, and wins the edge.

EVEN

running backs: A&M's No. 1 fullback Toombs is a powerhouse, but Notre Dame rotates in a trio of talented tailbacks at Fisher, Howard and Jones.

EVEN

receivers: The Aggies' Taylor and Johnson averaged more than 18 yards per reception in 1999. The Irish lost Bobby Brown but return tight ends O'Leary and Holloway as captains.



offensive line: The Irish gained experience last year, although both team's lines battled injuries in 1999.



defensive line: The Aggies start one of the most veteran defensive lines around. For the Irish, Irons and Weaver need to step it up.



linebackers: Two words: Wrecking Crew. Denman, Harrison and Boiman are solid but not yet at the same caliber as the Aggies.



secondary: Both teams lost a great deal to graduation, but the Irish have seniors Driver and Williams back in the lineup.

EVEN

special teams: A&M's All-American punter graduated, but Kitchens impressed in the early season until his kicks lost height. Notre Dame's Miller is back and healthy after losing his starting role to an injury last year.



coaching: Davie trained under Slocum, but has not matched his mentor's success. Slocum ranks among the winningest coaches of the 1990s.



intangibles: The Irish need this win for momentum heading into the game against the 'Huskies. Plus they're on their home field.



Overall

Even though it's the first game of the season, most people consider it do or die for the Irish. Texas A&M struggled on the road last season in tough stadiums, and Notre Dame Stadium is unforgiving. The teams almost mirror each other in experience and talent, so it may come down to the intangibles, which favor Notre Dame.

IRISH INSIGHT

Unpopular Davie deserves a fresh start in season opener

Here we are again, at the start of the 112th Notre Dame football season.

The Bookstore is on pace to earn more in six weekends than the entire yearly GNP of Malaysia.

Alumni-Senior Club is occupied by 10 times as many of the former as the latter. VIP's are seen mingling with RV drivers.

Otherwise fashionable alumni are clothed in a crude combination of blue, green and gold.

And, since school commenced, there have been 467,923 "Davie sucks" chants (or variations of it) on campus. Another million or so rants will be heard this weekend.

When I arrived here three years ago, freshmen were immediately programmed to despise two evils.

Zahm and parietals.

Back then, Davie was driving his golf cart, distributing adidas T-shirts to each dorm and convincing people he would return the program to national prominence. Davie had yet to utter the infamous words about Notre Dame's band, cheerleaders, alumni, German professors, Board of Trustees, dining hall employees and janitorial staffs all being the best in the country.

Now, as the freshmen experience their first football weekend, the dubious duo of Zahm and parietals have some company — a fourth-year head coach and former defensive coordinator who graduated from Youngstown State University in 1976.

Davie has reached the depths of unpopularity not seen here since before any of the undergraduate student body was born. Gerry Faust? At least he was a devout Catholic. Ron Powlus? He had an excuse of the pre-freshman year broken right clavicle injury. Jim Sanson? Maybe.

But in sheer magnitude, from Anchorage to Athens, from Portland to Providence, Davie's Q rating is lower than John

Rocker's. Already, rumored replacements for Davie are being mentioned. Most of the speculation is as reliable as a Shaq free throw. I suggest a new one — any coach whose first name does not begin with 'L' or 'B' cannot be considered. Or else the 1812 Overture will be terminated.

Is all the criticism justified? Of course not. It never is. But it's convenient.

Plenty of question marks exist on the 2000 team besides Davie's 21-16 career record. The defensive secondary features Clifford Jefferson, the Clifford Jefferson of 1998 (Brock Williams), a former star soccer player (Shane Walton) with four minutes of college football experience and two senior safeties (Tony Driver and Ron Israel) who have nine combined starts in three years. Only two defensive reserves (left defensive end Ryan Roberts, and Jefferson, who is competing with Walton for the starting right cornerback position) played more than 35 minutes in 1999.

David Miller is the lone place kicker with any game experience after finishing 2-for-5 on field goals, including misses from 25 and 29 yards out last season. The top returning wide receiver (Joey Getherall) stands 5-foot-8 and weighs less than 180 pounds. Arnaz Battle has never started and the quarterback backups have never played in a college contest.

All pretty gloomy facts.

I can hear the grumblings: Aren't those players the same recruits Davie mentions every February as "talented" and "outstanding"? Isn't it Davie's ultimate responsibility to surround him with the best possible athletes? Is there any way Notre Dame should ever go 5-7?

Yes, Yes and No.

Yet, place some of the blame on the player's shoulders and on the other members of the coaching staff.

Even better, don't place any blame at all on this team. Give the 2000 Irish time, say four or five games. Then judge.

We've all heard enough, spoken enough and read enough about last year's debacle.

ESPN's Beano Cook likes to say the three toughest jobs in America are, in order, being the mayor of New York, President of the United States and Notre



KEVIN DALUM/The Observer

Public opinion of Bob Davie has declined during his three years as head coach, leaving him to hope for a fresh start in the 2000 season.

Dame football coach. This is the same guy who predicted Ron Powlus would win two Heismans so his "expertise" is questionable.

But he has a point.

This season, whether fair or not, will probably have a major

impact on the 26th Irish head football coach's future.

Borrowing a line from a white rapper not named Snow or Vanilla Ice, "will the real Bob Davie please stand up?"

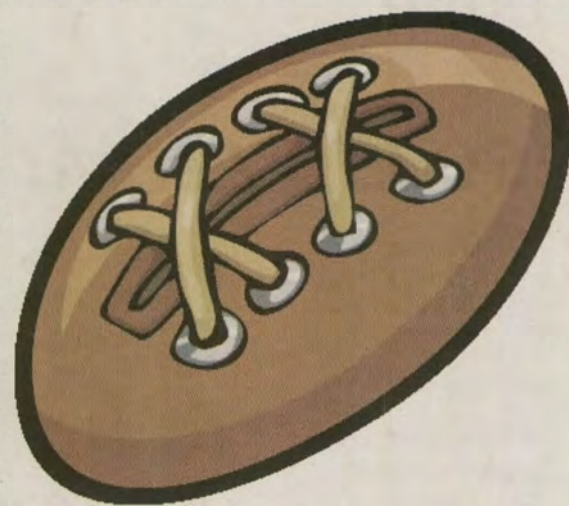
If it's the Davie of '97 and '99, he can take solace in one

fact.

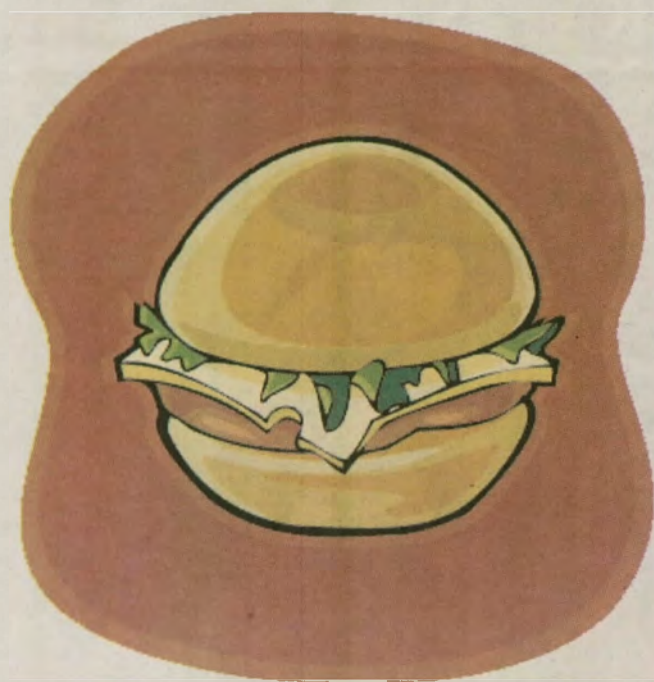
There's always Zahm and parietals.

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

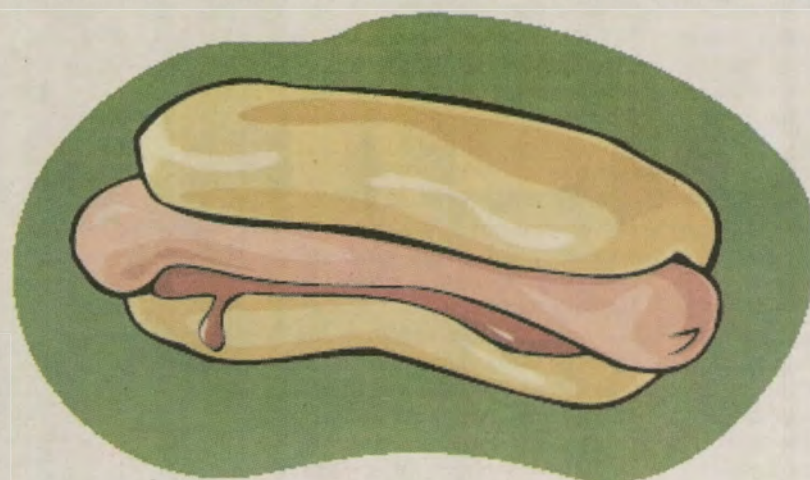
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