

THE OBSERVER

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All Sport Photo

Flying High

INSIDE COLUMN

Simply the best

SAINT LOUIS

At Notre Dame, we expect the best. And our women's basketball team gave us exactly that. The mistake is to think that we became the best last night when Ruth Riley hit the two freethrows that earned Notre Dame the national championship.

But this team was something special when they stepped on the floor for the first exhibition game in the Joyce Center. For those games, as well as many regular season games, there was no question of who would win. The only uncertainty was whether Notre Dame would win by 20, 30 or 40 points.

Yet the Irish put on a great show each time they took the court.

They displayed their talent, grace and athleticism for anyone who would show up to watch. The end of the games weren't a disappointing blowout, but they were an opportunity to see all 12 of the Notre Dame players on the court. The loudest voices at the end of the game: starters Riley, Kelley Siemon, Neile Ivey, Erika Haney and Alicia Ratay, cheering from the bench. Karen Swanson hitting a three was enough to bring the whole arena to cheer with the same enthusiasm as for a game-winning shot.

The team was the best in December when Purdue came to the Joyce Center. In a fortunate move, students who attended received "Beat Purdue" shirts.

Though few would have guessed it at the time, fans watched a preview of the national championship game.

The Irish were the best when UConn arrived in South Bend.

And finally, the fans were the best also, at the first women's basketball sellout. For the first time, students were turned away from the Joyce Center. Those who made it inside saw Notre Dame reach a new level, one where they became a true rival of UConn. The Uconn team that many predicted "their bench could beat Notre Dame" watched in disbelief as the Irish sent them back to Connecticut with a crushing loss.

As March Madness reached frenzied levels some refused to realize that Notre Dame was the best. In a CNSI article naming the top 16 reasons to watch the Sweet Sixteen ignored the Irish. Tennessee and Connecticut were praised. Purdue's Katie Douglas was lauded. Southwest Missouri State's Jackie Stiles even got the first four reasons all to herself. Hairstyles were even mentioned as an important reason to tune in to the Sweet Sixteen.

Yet not one word about the Irish.

The teams with a history of national championships as well as the team with the all-time leading scorer were eliminated. The Irish were there at the end to cut down the nets when it mattered.

Women's basketball has yet to incite the frenzy that Notre Dame's men's sports do. But excellence in women's basketball is well on it's way to becoming a Notre Dame tradition. The fans who have been there throughout the season, for a few games, or even just when everything was on the line — they've seen the best.

Light up the #1 on Grace Hall.

Our team earned it.



Erin Piroutek
Senior Staff Writer

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

TODAY'S STAFF

News	Scene
Colleen McCarthy	C. Spencer Beggs
Nicole Haddad	Graphics
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Sports	Lab Tech
Brian Kessler	Amanda Hughes
Viewpoint	
Pat McElwee	

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THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
◆ Lecture: "Human Rights Organizations and Ideology: A Gramscian Analysis," Neve Gordon, Department of Politics and Government, Ben Gurion University, Israel, Room C-103, Hesburgh Center, 12:30 p.m.	◆ Performance: Pacifica Quartet, resident ensemble, University of Chicago, Music Institute of Chicago, Little Theatre, Moreau Center, Saint Mary's College, 7:30 p.m.	◆ Conference: Opening address, "About the Greatness of the Great Books," Aa Brann, Saint John's College, Annapolis, Auditorium, McKenna Hall, Program of Liberal Studies 50th Anniversary, 5 p.m.	◆ Seminar: "Ethics, Psychoanalysis and Other Talking Cures," Jonathan Lear, University of Chicago, followed by commentary by Alasdair MacIntyre, Room 124, Center for Social Concerns, 4:30 p.m.

OUTSIDE THE DOME

Compiled from U-Wire reports

Virginia Tech drops charges against professor

BLACKSBURG, Va.

Virginia Tech President Charles Steger has requested the university's legal counsel drop charges against Paulo Polanah and ordered university officials to investigate the Tuesday arrest.

Polanah, black studies instructor, was arrested by Tech police and charged with disorderly conduct at about 6 p.m. Tuesday in Pamplin Hall. Police were called to solve a dispute over a room with Larry Killough, a professor of accounting and information systems, according to police reports.

Killough had reserved the room to prepare a test, but Polanah's Black Aesthetics class had been using the class without formal reservation for eight weeks, said Larry Hincker, asso-



ciate vice president for university relations.

"I am asking that the disorderly conduct charge against the instructor be dropped," Steger said in a statement read to students involved in the dispute Thursday. "I am also directing

the department heads to review the facts, meet with their faculty members and begin a dialogue that will come to an understanding of the cause of the event and prevent such incidents in the future."

Steger, in his statement, also apologized to all students involved in the incident.

"On behalf of the university community, we apologize to the students in the two classes who were inconvenienced and denied — even in a small way — the educational opportunities they deserve as Virginia Tech students," he said.

Polanah, who was released the same night as the arrest, said he was happy the misdemeanor charge was dropped but was angered at what the students from both classes were put through.

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

Search continues for missing student

PITTSBURGH

Close to 20 days after University of Pittsburgh freshman Justin Hayduk was last seen in Morgantown, W.Va., his father has decided to expand the search for his son to a wider area. "The Morgantown police have exhausted all their leads," Michael Hayduk said. "They have no place to go." Justin Hayduk was in Morgantown during Pitt's Spring Break. On March 10, he and a friend who had been drinking ran into a West Virginia University police officer. His friend was caught by officers, but Justin ran away. That was the last time he was seen. Morgantown police found what is believed to be Hayduk's hat by the Monongahela River, and dogs have picked up a scent there too, but after six days of searching the waters, police decided to move on. Cpl. Phil Scott of the Morgantown Police Department decided to halt search efforts on March 19 but spent most of last week interviewing people who might have information about the case.

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

Rape victims won't press charges

BOWLING GREEN, Ky.

Since last January, there have been five rapes reported on Western Kentucky University's campus and none of the women who filed those reports have decided to prosecute. According to experts, there are many reasons why women, college-age women in particular, decide not to prosecute their rapist, said Misty Johnson, outreach coordinator for Hope Harbor, a rape crisis center in Bowling Green. Media coverage and shame are at the top of the list, she said, adding that difficulty in prosecution can also be a deterrent. "A majority of prosecuted rapists never spend a day in jail," Johnson said. Travis Manley, commander of communications and information services for University of Kentucky's campus police, said that in the last year UK has only had two rapes reported on campus from their 35,000 students. Manley also said that it is not uncommon for the rape victims to prosecute. "The reason one of the victims prosecuted was because she didn't have a choice," Manley said.

LOCAL WEATHER

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

	H	L
Tuesday	55	38
Wednesday	55	39
Thursday	56	43
Friday	62	48
Saturday	60	39

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

NATIONAL WEATHER

The AccuWeather® forecast for noon, Monday, April 2.
Lines separate high temperature zones for the day.

© 2001 AccuWeather, Inc.

FRONTS: COLD WARM STATIONARY

Pressure: High Low

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

Via Associated Press

Atlanta	66	43	Las Vegas	77	55	Portland	47	39
Baltimore	51	36	Memphis	71	58	Sacramento	60	42
Boston	40	33	Milwaukee	49	34	St. Louis	62	52
Chicago	53	37	New York	46	36	Tampa	76	57
Houston	80	70	Philadelphia	52	35	Washington DC	54	40

Thousands welcome Irish back to campus

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Associate Sports Editor

Niele Ivey climbed off the bus, onto a platform and held the NCAA Championship trophy high in the air.

Everyone exploded into cheers. "This moment passes anything I've ever experienced in my entire life," said head coach Muffet McGraw.

More than 2,500 students and supporters lined Notre Dame Avenue to welcome the women's basketball team back to campus.

"You've been supportive all year," McGraw said as the crowd chanted, "We're No. 1! We're No. 1!" Pointing to the trophy, she shouted, "We brought it home!"

Due to a flight problem, the team bus didn't arrive to the Main Circle until 2:30 a.m., one hour later than estimated. However, despite the cold weather, nobody left the rally early.

"We won the national championship," said Mark Trandel. "They deserve to be supported."

As the team bus drove up Notre Dame Avenue, led by a police escort, students waved their hands in the air and chanted, "Here come the Irish." When the bus finally stopped and the Irish got off, they ran around the crowd giving supporters high-fives on their way to a platform erected by the Notre Dame Security Police.

"We've got nothing but love for you," said Ruth Riley.

Riley was clearly a crowd favorite at the gathering. When the band played the 1812 Overture, the students chanted "Ruth, Ruth" over and over. Riley just laughed.

At least three students held aloft signs asking the star center to marry them.

"[Riley's] pretty hot, and she will make a lot of money next year," said Jeff Raedy, who was carrying around a sign that read "Ruth, will you marry me?"

Many students realized how special it was to see a national championship team.

"This has gotta be a once in a lifetime opportunity," said Nick Setta. "There's no way I would miss it. It's great just to be a part of this."

For senior Jaime Glasser, it was just great to be able to witness a national championship team while she was a student.

"It's been the only national championship in our four years," she said. "It was a great game and a great season."

Her friend Katie Wood agreed. "They worked hard and they deserved it," she said.

The atmosphere at Notre Dame was much different than Purdue, where riot police had to use tear gas on out-of-control students. In South Bend, the only disturbance reported was a couch being burned on North Quad.

Instead, the festive, joyous atmosphere around the main circle was a fitting homecoming for the Irish.

"To see all these people out here, it's phenomenal," said Pete Monenaro.

"I've been coming to women's basketball games since I was in third grade" said Christa Gray. "There's more people here now than there were at some of those home games. This is awesome."

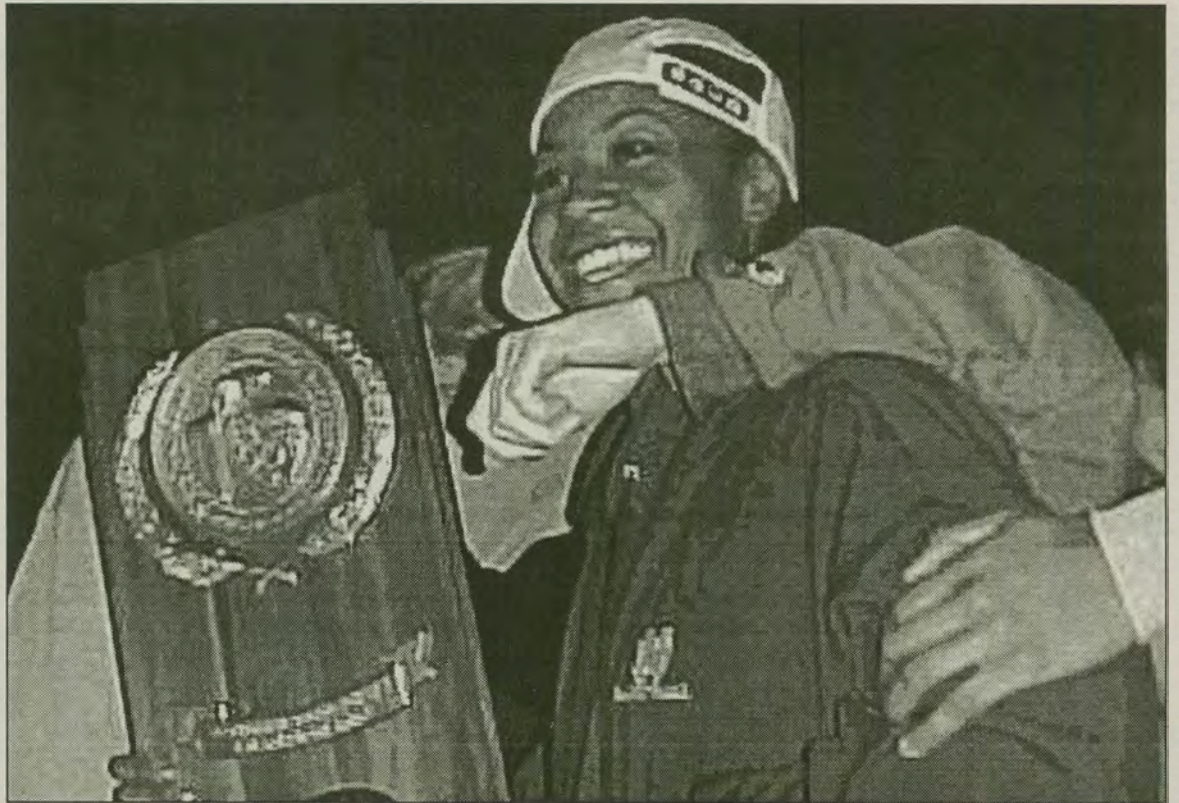
Local television crews walked around the crowd getting footage. Everytime a cameraman shined a light on a particular section of the crowd, students went crazy. Throughout the evening, many supporters did 68 pushups — one for every point the Irish scored in their victory over Purdue.

The players clearly had a good time in front of the students, although as Ericka Haney joked, "We don't know what to do, so do you have any questions?"

Ivey crowdsurfed for about 30 seconds, and Riley asked the Notre Dame band if they would play the Irish Jig.

And as they do before every game, the Irish huddled together and did the Irish Jig for one last time.

It was the perfect ending to a perfect season.



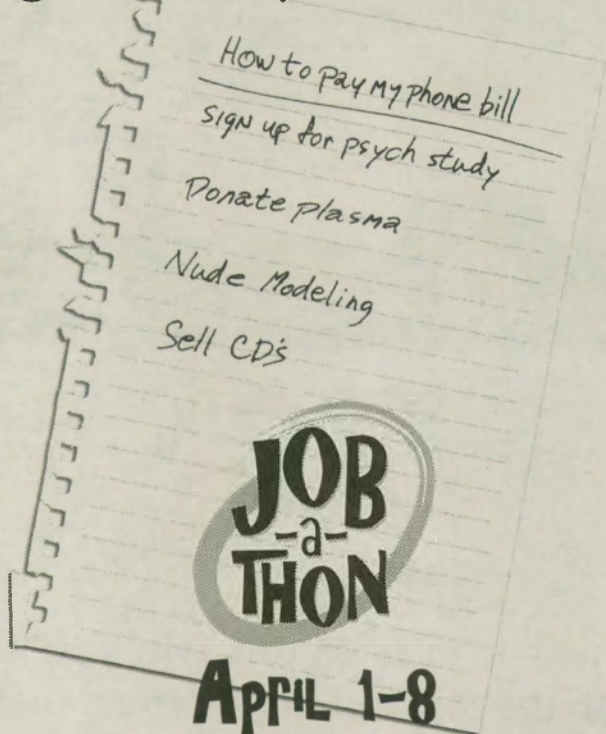
Senior Niele Ivey (above) smiles with the national championship trophy — the first for Notre Dame in basketball and the first in any sport since 1995.

All-American Ruth Riley addresses the crowd after the Irish returned to campus at 2:30 a.m. Riley was clearly the crowd favorite as several males professed their love for her and the crowd honored her with a "Ruth" chant when the band played the 1812 Overture.

photos by:
MIKE CONNOLLY



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Chicago Tribune

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University Of Notre Dame Global Health Initiative Blood Drive

Dates: Monday, April 2, 2001
Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Time: 10:00 am - 4:30 pm

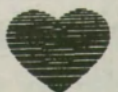
Location: LaFortune Student Center Ballroom

Appointments can be made by e-mailing Garrett Zoeller at zoeller.1@nd.edu.

Appointments are scheduled every 15 minutes and it takes about one hour for the entire process.



South Bend Medical
Foundation, Inc.
Central Blood Bank



Couch burns, but ND students celebrate title quietly

By LAURA ROMPF
Associate News Editor

Besides Billy Joel's "We Didn't Start the Fire" blasting out a third floor Keenan window, North Quad was silent Sunday night after the women's basketball team won the National Championship. There were no riots, but approximately 20 students set one couch on fire and a six-man in Keenan thought they'd celebrate.

Tom Perez and Mike Christel played Joel's hit song out their window to celebrate, but

affirmed they didn't light the fire.

"Of course [we're playing the song] in good humor," Christel said. "It's awesome we just won the National Championship. We watched this game and the last one [the semifinal win against Connecticut.] We're excited."

Notre Dame fire department captain Tim Hoepfner said once the department arrived on the scene the crowd of 20 students dispersed and the fire was quickly extinguished.

Although fans at Michigan State rioted after the Spartans 2000 men's championship,

Notre Dame security expected no problems out of students Sunday night.

"We certainly have more people out tonight, but we didn't expect any riots," said Rex Rakow, director of security and police. "We have better students than that."

Rakow said two shifts of officers were stationed at Alumni Circle when the team

returned from St. Louis.

"It will be a long night," Rakow said. "But it will be worth it in the end."

"We certainly have more people out tonight, but we didn't expect any riots."

Rex Rakow
director of security and police

Around 150 yards away from the burnt coach, nine screaming girls stood on Stonehenge doing homemade T-shirts supporting their sectionmate Erika Haney and fellow Lewis resident Alicia

Ratay. They were making noise to support the women's team they feel takes the back seat to football and men's basketball.

"The girls deserve so much more credit than they get," said Meghan Thomas.

"The student body is always out there supporting the men's teams, no matter how well they do," added Sarah Raehl.

Gail Thompson, Haney's roommate, said she was proud of Haney and the entire team.

"My roommate worked so hard," she said. "It's an injustice more students aren't out here to celebrate."

Purdue students riot, police deploy tear gas on students

Purdue Exponent Staff Reports

Purdue students lit fires, turned over a car and broke windows after Purdue lost to Notre Dame Sunday night in the women's basketball national championship game.

Students used a flaming Notre Dame shirt to start one fire. In the Northwestern Parking Garage, revelers turned over a Mercedes. They also broke windows in stores and campus buildings.

Capt. Ron Fosnaugh of the Purdue Police Department said about 2,000 students gathered in the Village, but students also gathered in large numbers throughout campus. Fosnaugh also said police made eight arrests, ranging from disorderly conduct to bomb making.

The revelry started at Cary Quadrangle and moved to the

west side of campus and Slayter Center, then back through various parts of campus. Many fires started in trash bins and on pieces of furniture that had been pulled into the street.

Police deployed tear gas when groups of students failed to disperse.

Students ran through campus, covering their eyes and mouths with paper towels, shirts, jackets and their hands to protect themselves from the tear gas.

They could be seen coughing, spitting, crying and cursing. They also clapped to the beat of the batons police

tapped against their boots.

Fosnaugh said the tear gas ran out and had to be restocked throughout the night.

Eric Fobes, a freshman in the School of Agriculture, was upset that police used tear gas.

"I'd like to throw tear gas at the cops; the tear gas burns your eyes and your throat. It really sucks."

Eric Fobes
Purdue student

"I'd like to throw tear gas at the cops; the tear gas burns your eyes and your throat," he said. "It really sucks."

Fosnaugh said that windows of Engineering Administration Building and Materials and Electrical Engineering Building were broken. Richard Byers, build-

ing services/grounds general manager general, said Social Services Annex and the American Railway Building also had broken windows. The windows of several businesses in the Village were also broken.

Students attempted to push over a white University van but were unsuccessful. They then moved to a University mail truck and a smaller black university van, but they were again unsuccessful.

Fosnaugh said there is no dollar amount on the damage yet.

Fosnaugh said the disturbances broke up at 1:15 on Monday morning.

Nathal Dusai, a freshman in the Schools of Engineering, said he joined the crowd because he wanted to participate.

"I'm not pissed that we lost; I'm just happy to riot," he

said. Brian Brown, a senior in School of Agriculture, said he expected the disturbance. "I was here last time this happened so I was pretty sure it was going to happen again."

Students used music to accentuate their mood. At one fraternity house, students played "Break Stuff" by Limp Bizkit.

And at Cary Quadrangle, "We Didn't Start the Fire" by Billy Joel entertained the crowd.

Jim Bartela, a freshman in the School of Technology, said he thought the fact that students gathered in the streets after the game was good.

"Even though there's destruction of the town, it's a great way to get people together, to help celebrate the basketball team."

CORRECTION

In the March 30 edition of The Observer, a photo of the Women's Center at Saint Mary's was credited to Mary Aimonovitch.

The credit should have been given to photographer Kristine Kaai. Also, in the same issue, student government chief of staff Jonathan Jorissen's name was misspelled.

The Observer regrets the errors.

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WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Vatican Radio protested: Several hundred people demonstrated Sunday outside Vatican Radio, accusing it of polluting the air with electromagnetic waves. At issue is the station's transmitter in the town of Santa Maria di Galeria near Rome. Residents fear leukemia cases in the area may be linked to radio station's electromagnetic emissions.

Sri Lanka explosion kills 11: A bomb exploded during a concert at a crowded stadium in Sri Lanka early Sunday, killing 11 people and prompting a stampede, authorities said. At least 150 were injured. At least 25,000 spectators were packed in the stadium in Kurunegala, about 60 miles northwest of Colombo, when the bomb exploded, a local police officer said in a telephone interview.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Texas plane crash injures seven: A plane loaded with skydivers was caught by a "dust devil" turbulence just after it took off and crashed from a low altitude, injuring seven people but killing no one. Most of the 21 skydivers on the plane with the pilot had already climbed out by the time Danny Timmons reached the scene by running three-quarters of a mile from the private airfield where the plane had taken off.

Survey shows easy access to guns: Nearly half of the nation's high school students have easy access to guns, and more than one in five high school boys have taken a weapon to school in the last year, according to a survey released Sunday. Forty-seven percent of high school students said they could obtain a gun if they wanted to, while 22 percent of middle school students said they could get a firearm.

INDIANA NEWS BRIEFS

Student shot at school in Gary: A teen-ager accused of fatally shooting a student outside a high school was expelled from the school nearly two years ago for a history of fighting and truancy. Donald Burt, 17, of Gary is scheduled to be formally charged Monday with murder in Friday's shooting death of 16-year-old Neal Boyd. Investigators said Burt walked across the Lew Wallace High School lawn to where students were getting off buses about 8:20 a.m. He allegedly approached Boyd, who had walked to school, exchanged a few words with him, then shot him once.

CHINA



AFP Photo

An EP-3 surveillance plane in flight, like the one shown here in a U.S. Navy file photo, collided with a Chinese fighter jet Sunday near Chinese airspace. The plane made an emergency landing in China with no injuries.

U.S. plane hits Chinese fighter

Associated Press

BEIJING
A U.S. Navy surveillance plane collided with a Chinese fighter jet that intercepted it over the South China Sea on Sunday and made an emergency landing in China, a U.S. military spokesman said.

The 24 American crew members were not injured, said Col. John Bratton, a spokesman for the U.S. Pacific Command in Hawaii. The Chinese government said the fighter crashed and its pilot was missing.

The EP-3 was on a routine surveillance flight in

international airspace when two Chinese fighters intercepted it, Bratton said. The EP-3 is an unarmed four-engine propeller plane equipped to listen in on radio signals and monitor radar sites.

The collision appeared to be an accident and the Chinese did not force the plane down, Bratton said.

"The planes actually bumped into each other," said another Pacific Command spokesman, Lt. Col. Dewey Ford.

The incident comes at a touchy time in the United States' relations with China. The Bush administration has taken a more wary atti-

tude toward Beijing, and China's recent detention of two scholars with links to the United States has further raised distrust.

A Chinese academic said encounters with Chinese fighters are frequent as U.S. planes fly along China's coast eavesdropping on military communications.

"It's very regular for the American Navy to have their planes intruding into Chinese airspace," said Yan Xuetong, an expert in international studies at Tsinghua University in Beijing. "The Chinese then send up fighters and chase them out."

The U.S. military would

not say how close Sunday's flight came to Chinese airspace.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said the collision occurred at 9:07 a.m. some 62 miles southeast of Hainan, a large island off the southern Chinese coast.

Two Chinese fighters were sent up to track the plane as it approached Chinese airspace, said the ministry statement.

"The U.S. plane abruptly diverted toward the Chinese planes, and its head and left wing collided with one of the Chinese planes, causing the Chinese plane to crash," the statement said.

FRANCE

Milosevic arrested, awaits trial

Associated Press

PARIS
World leaders welcomed the arrest of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic on Sunday, but the general rejoicing was tempered by concerns about whether the architect of a decade of Balkan wars would stand trial for crimes against humanity.

Milosevic, once described by the West as the "Butcher of the Balkans," was whisked away to prison early

Sunday after a 26-hour armed stand-off with police.

His arrest was welcomed in Bosnia, where Milosevic is largely blamed for starting the 1992 war that kept its capital besieged for three years.

Bosnian Foreign Minister Zlatko Lagumdžija said the former president's deeds had "shocked the region for a decade" and urged his extradition to the U.N. war crimes tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands.

"Anything falling short of that would be a historical mistake," Lagumdžija said.

In Banja Luka, administrative center of the Bosnian Serb republic that makes up half of the country, former Prime Minister Milorad Dodik, a Milosevic opponent, expressed satisfaction at Milosevic's arrest, saying his responsibility for a decade of suffering in the region "is unquestionable."

The sentiment was echoed across Europe.

"We have waited for this day for a long time. Justice must now be done," French President Jacques Chirac said Sunday, according to his spokeswoman Catherine Colonna.

Market Watch March 30

Dow Jones	9,878.78	+79.72
Up:	1,847	
Same:	236	
Down:	1,104	
Composite Volume:	N/A	
AMEX:	877.04	+15.59
NASDAQ:	1,840.26	+19.69
NYSE:	595.66	+6.98
S&P 500:	1,160.33	+12.38

TOP 5 VOLUME LEADERS

COMPANY/SECURITY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
CISCO SYSTEMS (CSCO)	+3.67	+0.56	15.81
NASDAQ 100 INDX (QQQ)	+0.51	+0.20	39.15
CIENA CORP (CIEN)	+1.37	+0.56	41.75
INTEL CORP (INTC)	-0.95	-0.25	26.31
MICROSOFT CORP (MSFT)	-1.24	-0.69	54.69

Nader: Students must take active role in democracy

By PAT McELWEE
News Writer

In a speech delivered to a packed house at Indiana University-South Bend (IUSB), consumer advocate and 2000 presidential candidate Ralph Nader called on students to take an active role in democracy.

He argued that the American people as a whole are losing power to large corporations due to a lack of public organization and the power of concentrated wealth in today's political process.

But there is hope, said Nader.

Citizens can turn the tide of rising corporate power by individual initiative. Through organized, grass roots efforts, the American people can restore and maintain a healthy democracy. They can fix the problem of "too much power and wealth in too few hands, leading the few to dominate the many."

Attention to one's duties as a citizen only takes a few hours every week, said Nader. And "it provides a sense of fulfillment and satisfaction."

Unfortunately, Americans often fall victim to what Nader calls "the rationalization of futility." They give reasons for not devoting energy to their civic duties. These include lack of time, ignorance of how to be an active citizen and fear of retaliation.

"These are not proper reasons in the land of the free and home of the brave," said Nader. America is a free country in which citizens have the right to organize and take political steps without fear of oppression. Failing to exercise that right could lead to its permanent loss. "Use it or lose it," Nader said.

Nader emphasized the need to become involved while still young because time slips by much faster than one expects. "Don't waste time," said Nader. "You'll lose your 20s, lots of young people do."

Nader suggested three ways students can become active citizens for democracy.

First, he called for the creation of a class on civic skills and democracy for university students. This class would teach students how to use the Freedom of Information Act, initiate referendums and lobby their government, among other things.

Second, he suggested students here form a chapter of the Indiana Public Interest Research Group, a group based

in Indiana University-Bloomington.

"There are 20 states that have student public interest research groups. Some of them are the most powerful citizen groups in the state, like in New York and Massachusetts," said Nader.

A third suggestion made by the former presidential candidate was the formation of "Campus Greens," student organizations supporting the Green party in local, state and federal elections.

These suggestions have already led to some local action. After the speech, fliers were handed out enjoining students to meet together today from 4 until 5:30 p.m. in Northside Hall at IUSB to organize ways to make a difference in the community.

Also, directly following the speech, student groups at IUSB met with students from Notre Dame, including members of the Progressive Student Alliance (PSA), to discuss activism on both campuses.

Tony Kingsolver, a student at IUSB, looked forward to participating in the meetings following Nader's speech.

"I think it's going to be very positive," Kingsolver said. Nader's talk provided the right context for such a meeting, Kingsolver said. "I don't think many people know what Nader's all about until they come hear him."

Aaron Kreider, president of the PSA at Notre Dame, said, "Most people in our group would agree with Ralph Nader. They love the guy."

Other students in attendance found Nader to be a motivating speaker.

"He gets people off the couches," said John Jalkanen, a student at Indiana University-Bloomington. "He helps me realize I do need to stop talking so much and actually start doing something."

On an issue of some interest to Catholic social justice, Nader voiced support for a living wage during a press conference just before his speech. He expressed concern that the current minimum wage is \$2.05 less in real purchasing power than the minimum wage in 1968, while per capita productive output has doubled since 1968.

"That's a pretty sad commentary on the nature of progress in a country with overall economic growth," he said.

Of all the solutions he's seen, Nader has found successful attempts by some cities to

require that "any company that does business within the city has to pay [workers] a living wage."

He touched on many other issues during his 2-hour speech, including alternative energy sources, excessive defense spending, child poverty, universal health care and trade unions.

In many cases, Nader portrayed these issues as a battle between corporate interests and the interests of the people. For example, he suggested that solar energy possibilities have not been explored because no powerful group can profit from controlling the sun the way some corporations control fossil fuels. "Not even Exxon can eclipse the sun," he said.

Elected officials should be fighting for the people against concentrated corporate wealth and power on these issues, Nader said.

He criticized both the Democrats and the Republicans for failing to truly represent the people. In his characteristically irreverent and humorous style, he even went so far as to call President Bush "a gigantic corporation running for president disguised as a human being" and Gore a "sooth-saying serpent."

The Democrats and the Republicans are both controlled by corporate interests, according to Nader. As a result they are "morphing into one another."

The parties combined forces with each other and their corporate sponsors, through the Commission on Presidential Debates, to keep third-party candidates Nader and Buchanan out of the debates and the corresponding publicity, he said.

As far as prospects for the



MEGAN ANDERSON/The Observer

Consumer advocate and 2000 presidential candidate Ralph Nader urged students to take an active role in democracy.

2004 presidential election, Nader said it is too early to know if he will run. But he has been involved in building up the Green party in anticipation of the 2002 local, state and Congressional elections.

"We're having fundraisers at which all PAC's [political action committees], corporations and soft money are excluded," said Nader. "So we're just individuals contributing a few bucks to make this a grass roots party."

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NOTRE DAME FOOD SERVICES

Supporters, students revel in Irish win

By ANNE MARIE
MATTINGLY
Senior Staff Writer

ST. LOUIS

Some considered themselves to be longstanding Notre Dame women's basketball fans, while others admitted getting caught up in the excitement of a potential national title. Some camped out in the Joyce Center to purchase the coveted Final Four tickets, while others made the journey to St. Louis not knowing whether they'd be able to get into the Savvis Center. They represented different classes, different residence halls and different degrees of sports knowledge.

But all came to be a part of the magic.

Standing Room Only

When an arena usher tried to calm the small Notre Dame student section and persuade the ticketholders to have a seat during Friday's Final Four game against Connecticut, one student asked her, "Where on my ticket does it say I have to sit?"

Though they represented only a fraction of the Notre Dame student body and an even smaller proportion of the 22,500 in attendance at the NCAA women's basketball Final Four, the Notre Dame students who made the 360 mile trek to St. Louis were impossible to ignore. Eighty minutes on the floor of St. Louis's Savvis Center stood between the Notre Dame women and the 2001 National Championship, and for 80 minutes the ticketholders of Section 106 stood with them.

"I didn't know they tried to get us to sit down, but there is no way that Notre Dame students would ever sit down during an athletic event, so I was just expecting that we were going to stand. It wasn't even something that crossed our mind," said sophomore Kristen Nonbello of Friday's game against Connecticut.

Even if it had crossed their minds, it's unlikely that these students would have been able to contain their enthusiasm enough to stay in their seats. After all, student Chris Wright — who has attended "every game [he] possibly could have" this year — couldn't even go to sleep after the team's Elite Eight victory over Vanderbilt in Denver. Instead, Wright found himself venturing to the Joyce Center in anticipation of purchasing Final Four tickets.

"As soon as we beat Vanderbilt we bundled up — I think I was wearing about five layers of clothing — and we took off to the JACC and when we got there, they told us that we weren't allowed to line up until 6 a.m.," he said. "We stood there even though they told us not to but after an hour we noticed that nobody else was going to come until 6 a.m. the next morning, so we took off. We woke up at 4 a.m. and decided to head out at 4 a.m."

Student Stephen Smith, who bought his tickets after arriving in St. Louis, decided that the section where those who purchased tickets in the student sale were sitting was the only place to be.

"We didn't have any tickets. We came right after class at 12 o'clock. We finally scalped a ticket," said Smith. "We got tickets all the way up in like, the 14,000th row in the middle of the UConn section. We were down by 17, so I told my friend that we had to move down to the



Notre Dame section, so we snuck down to the Notre Dame section and lo and behold, we started winning, and we won by 15 points."

Lewis Hall resident assistant Mari Pyle traveled to Missouri Sunday without tickets and not knowing if she'd be able to get them, but felt that just being in town to cheer for the Irish was important enough.

"We came down this morning and we were just excited to support the team. We have two [players] in our dorm, Ericka [Haney] and Alicia [Ratay], and we just wanted to support our team," she said. "We were just going to be here for the spirit and the team and then go out afterwards and celebrate."

That type of support was unwavering, even when the team was down by 17 points at the end of the first half against Connecticut.

"I came to the game not as the mascot but as a superfan of the Fighting Irish women's basketball team," said Michael Brown, the 2000-01 Varsity Leprechaun. "People doubted them, but guess what, I called home at halftime. I told my family, 'Don't worry. We're down by so many points. We're gonna come back.' And guess what. They did. Let's go Irish!"

Smith believes that it is in part the confidence of the fans that helped the team to pull off its record-breaking comeback.

"I think that our attitude carries onto the team, and therefore, that's why they won," he said.

Packing the House

But despite the turnout for this year's tournament, women's basketball hasn't always enjoyed this kind of support from students or from the South Bend community.

"We used to be able to have socials with 100 people, and now we don't even have room," said Kaye Kale, a South Bend resident who has been following the team since 1991. "Now we can't even do the tables. We have to just set up chairs. We've had, for the first, time, two full houses. People have realized that women's basketball is fun."

Phyllis Smallwood, who became a Notre Dame women's basketball fan six years ago, noted that support has contin-

More than 2,500 students and local supporters filled Main Circle early Monday morning to welcome the Irish back to campus.

Despite the cold, many fans painted their chest to show their support (above). Ericka Haney (right) received a warm welcome from her sectionmates in Lewis Hall when she arrived.

photos by:
MIKE CONNOLLY



ued to increase over the past several years.

"In the last six years, it's gone from probably 900 to 1,000 to 5,000, and it keeps going up every time," she said. "It's wonderful."

Kale attributes the growing number of fans in part to recruitment of new fans by current ones.

"That's how we've built a base. We've all gone out and told people, 'You know, you've got to come to games' Look how we've grown. I miss the camaraderie of the smaller groups and finding a seat real easily, but now we have season tickets and we've come a long way. It's great."

But attendance and student enthusiasm still isn't at the level that many of these die-hard fans would like to see.

"The students are not coming out, and that disgusts me because you get all these people from South Bend, La Porte, Rochester, all around coming to see the game and the student section is empty. That's not right," said Christine Frazier, who has attended women's basketball games since 1984 and who traveled to Cincinnati for the 1997 Final Four.

Kale said that student support seems to be very good for the most important games, but that attendance at lesser-publicized games is sparse.

"It was really good for Connecticut, and it was really good for the first two NCAA [games]," she said. "I think it

could be a lot better. I think they're missing a bit."

Wright agreed that his fellow students need to be at the Joyce Center for all the games, not just those that have been nationally advertised.

"We show up for the big games, but for the games — a lot of the Big East games especially — we need to show a little bit more support," he said.

Many fans attribute the lack of support to a lack of respect for women's teams, despite the more than 25 years that have passed since the implementation of measures designed to equalize women's sports with men's.

"We do have Title [IX] equality now and women are just as important as men," said Kale. Frazier noted that she preferred women's basketball to men's and that better coaching at the high school level has increased women's skills to be similar to those of men.

Looking Ahead

But the fans are hopeful that

this year's NCAA tournament success will win respect for women's basketball and draw more fans to the Joyce Center for women's games.

"I don't think there's enough students who come out and participate. They really don't," said Smallwood. "And I hope this will change their minds and more of them will come out."

Pyle agreed that this year's championship contest performance should cause an increased enthusiasm for the team on campus.

"I think because of us getting to the Final Four, there'll be more and more student support. I think there was when the JACC sold out for the UConn game. There was great spirit and we just need to continue it over the year," she said. "I think our dorm did a great job. We had a big sign in our lobby for Ericka and Alicia and we're just really proud of them."

Erin Piroutek contributed to this report.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Research better done in library than online

I am writing in response to Laura Kelly's article in the March 21 edition of *The Observer* entitled "Homework Got you Stumped? Help is just a Mouse Click Away."

Though I believe Laura was being facetious when she made claims like "everything you need can be found online," I think the article made me uneasy because it contributes to the growing misconception that the "dot-coms" of the web have the expertise, commitment and incentive to provide students with a comprehensive body of free scholarly materials.

I think the more publicity these type of Web sites receive, the more legitimate they seem. But rather than try to talk anyone out of using them, I would like to temper the hype by offering other issues to consider. For example, your tuition dollars have already contributed to the purchase of many online resources superior to the ones mentioned in the article.

SparkNotes.com was described by Laura as a site for students seeking easy answers to the most pressing academic problems. This may be true if your most pressing academic problem involves doing cursory research on the approximately 150 authors contained in the SparkNotes.com database or on literary titles that, for the most part, show up on reading lists in junior and

senior high school.

But a better choice for pressing academic research in literature would seem to be the Literature Resource Center, which contains biographical coverage of more than 109,000 writers and more than 10,000 "biocritical" essays on authors and their works. It also contains over 4,000 explications and overviews of prominent literary works and links to more than 5000 Web sites focusing on major authors and their works.

This gem is available online from the Library's Electronic Resources Gateway.

Laura also mentions reference works contained in SparkNotes.com's dictionary.com iTools.

While these sites do have some handy sources, they are already available to you from the Virtual Reference Desk and the Student Virtual Reference Desk. But more than these free web resources, you have access to important reference works you won't find free on the web such as the Oxford English Dictionary.

Britannica Online is going to go back to a being a paid subscription service so it will probably disappear from the free research Web sites. You will, however, still be able to access it from the Library's Electronic Resources Gateway along with the Literature

Resource Center.

There are many other reasons why reliance on Web sites such as those mentioned in Laura's article is unwise. Who is going to maintain, update and add to these sites? Since they are free to use, profitability for the site owners is uncertain. How long will they be able to last? Who is doing the contributing?

SparkNotes.com says Harvard students and graduates are their contributors. But when I looked at the actual SparkNotes.com, all I saw were names of contributors and no other background information. I e-mailed the folks at SparkNotes.com and asked if I could find out more about the contributors (I'm waiting to hear from them).

I wondered what their fields of expertise were. Was it appropriate to what they were writing about?

SparkNotes.com states that all authors "specialize in the subjects they cover." That's pretty broad. I wondered if the staff was full or part-time, paid or voluntary. This would have implications for the reliability of the site if contributors were constantly changing.

And yet, Laura's article suggests this authorship model is preferable to one composed of "ancient professors or academics."

Does it seem likely that Harvard stu-

dents have a keener interest in your academic achievement than professors?

I will close by saying the obvious. At this time doing Internet-only research defeats your academic aims. You are not involved in intellectual discovery but in churning out projects based on what you can access from your dorm room. It puts restrictions on your end product because you've restricted your input.

As renowned Web consultant Jakob Nielsen has said, "Anything that is great in print is likely to be lousy on the Web."

Consider also more things are being published now than ever before and only a fraction of them are available on the Internet.

You'll be paying a high price for chaining yourself to your dorm room. So, it's your call. You can spend a while surfing the Internet and find sources you can piece together for a paper. But, if you want more from your academic career than perfecting "McResearch," consider spending time on the Library Web site and discovering what's there.

Linda Sharp

reference librarian at Hesburgh Library
South Bend, Ind.
March 30, 2001

Benefits of cloning people

The recent debate on campus over cloning individuals reveals the narrow focus that bioethics is using to view human genome issues. The more critical question is how we will preserve the germplasm, not of a single person, but of whole races that are rapidly vanishing.

Imagine when the last population of full-blooded Kalahari Bushmen is gone. That rare and beautiful race will then be as unrecoverable as the dodo. We are being urged to save pandas and rhinos from extinction. Why not save the unique phenotypes of humankind?

Human races are cultural artifacts with aesthetic function. They also have value as components of the total biodiversity of the natural world. As reservoirs of distinct physical traits and genotypes, different races may have unexpected importance in the future survival of our species.

Genetic preservation is well-established for plants and animals, and an international effort is being made to preserve biodiversity in every crop plant and livestock species. Why not in humans?

Bioethicists need to broaden their vision and give guidance on how we should preserve the germplasm of whole races. Will it be by cloning, tissue banks, surrogate parenting or preferential gamete pairings? Time is running out, and the tough bioethical questions for *Homo sapiens* remain to be answered.

Susan L. Sprecher
South Bend, Ind.
March 30, 2001

GUEST COLUMN

The Terminator tackles politics

OXFORD, Miss.

I hope that each and every one of you are sitting down before you read what I have to say. Arnold Schwarzenegger (read: the muscular guy from Austria who blows up random buildings and manages to save the day) could be in charge of an entire state.

There are currently rumors, much to the delight of conservatives and fans of "The Last Action Hero," that Schwarzenegger will run for governor of California.

God, can you imagine someone running a political office that is best known for starring in bad action-adventure movies with no plot?

The fact that Schwarzenegger is even being considered for such a leadership role is terrifying to me. With all the things the people of California have been going through with things like plummeting tech stocks and power outages, they must be forgetting the important things in life, like taking their medication.

All of this must be a part of a giant evil plot by Paul Michael Glaser, the man who directed the 1987 movie "The Running Man." "Running Man" starred both Schwarzenegger and current Minnesota governor and soon to be ex-XFL announcer Jesse Ventura.

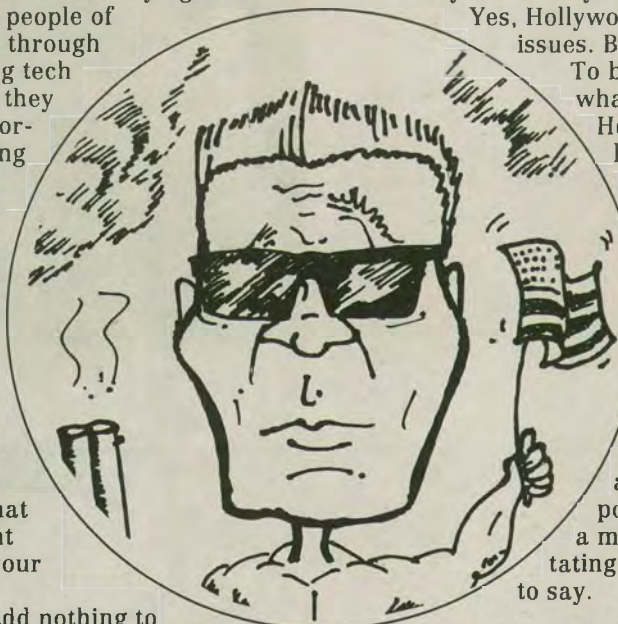
Why in the name of all that is held holy would you want Schwarzenegger running your state?

Schwarzenegger would add nothing to the political climate in that state except 300-plus pounds of steroid-built muscles.

At least political debates would be somewhat interesting. Imagine someone like Jim Lehrer telling the format of each debate.

Brandon
Niemeyer

Daily
Mississippian



"Tonight's debate will consist of a blind question session and followed a steel cage match. Each candidate will be able to enter the ring with the theme song of their choice."

And we thought Ventura would make Minnesota the laughing stock of the country when he won governor in that state. Hang on, it's Minnesota that is known only as the home of 10,000 lakes and the Mall of America, so there wasn't much respect for it to lose.

On the campaign trail, Schwarzenegger could be equally hysterical. At least he could stand up in front of women's and children's groups and profess his love for kids. "I was in Kindergarten Cop. Kids love that movie. Vote for me."

All of this really exposes a pathetic nature we Americans have: If you're famous, you can be anything, including governor of California.

Why can't Hollywood simply stay out of politics?

Yes, Hollywood actors are concerned with issues. But we all are.

To be honest, does anyone really care

what Alec Baldwin or Charlton Heston think about gun control? I know Heston is the president of the NRA and all, but the only reason he was even considered was because everyone knew he would bring in a lot of publicity.

We soon may be seeing Pee Wee Herman and Chewbacca run for state Senate seats in California if Schwarzenegger is elected.

Though, when you look at it in a deep way, running for a major political office is just like starring in a movie: Either way you're regurgitating what someone else has told you to say.

This article first appeared in the University of Mississippi newspaper, the *Daily Mississippian*, and is reprinted here courtesy of U-WIRE.

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

TENNESSEE ♦ AUSTIN PEAY ♦ TEXAS ♦ ST. MARY'S CA ♦ CLEMSON ♦ CHATTANOOGA ♦ XAVIER ♦ LOUISVILLE ♦ LSU ♦ ARIZONA ST. ♦ PURDUE

Last Team Standing

Moments make history. Sunday night against Purdue, the Notre Dame women's basketball team had a lot of moments — and made a lot of history.

"It's the greatest moment in our basketball history at Notre Dame," head coach Muffet McGraw gushed to reporters following the women's first-ever NCAA basketball title.

But while Sunday night's moments were undeniably history in the making, the win was just one in a series of moments that have constructed a dream March Madness run for the Fighting Irish.

At left, head coach Muffet McGraw and team throw their hands up to celebrate Notre Dame's 68-66 championship win over Purdue Sunday.

Clockwise from top, page 11:

Kelly Siemon scores over Alcorn State in Notre Dame's first round victory. From left to right, Siemon, Karen Swanson, Niele Ivey, and Imani Dunbar celebrate Notre Dame's Regional Final victory against Vanderbilt. Siemon battles for a rebound in the Sweet 16 against Utah.

photos by:
JOSE CUELLAR,
TIM KACMAR and
ALLSPORT

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NE ♦ IOWA STATE ♦ HOWARD ♦ CONNECTICUT ♦ LONG ISLAND ♦ MARYLAND ♦ COLORADO STATE ♦ VILLANOVA ♦ DRAKE ♦ NO. CAROLINA

Scene

Monday, April 2, 2001

page 11

SANTA BARBARA ♦ VIRGINIA TECH ♦ DENVER ♦ TEXAS TECH ♦ PENNSYLVANIA ♦ DUKE ♦ WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE ♦ BAYLOR ♦ ARKANSAS ♦



2001 NCAA NATIONAL CHAMPIONS



SEASON RECORD: 34-2



SW MISSOURI STATE ♦ TOLEDO ♦ RUTGERS ♦ SFA ♦ WASHINGTON ♦ OLD DOMINION ♦ FLORIDA ♦ HOLY CROSS ♦ GEORGE WASHINGTON ♦ STANFORD ♦ OKLAHOMA ♦ ORAL ROBERTS ♦ ALCORN STATE

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BASEBALL

Notre Dame sweeps 3-game series with Pirates

By JEFF BALTRUZAK
Assistant Sports Editor

It's easy to tell when Aaron Heilman is pitching just by glancing at the stands. Right behind home plate sits a contingent of major league scouts, each armed with a radar gun and a notebook, recording Heilman's every pitch and sizing up his potential.

And they would not be disappointed in the first game of a twin bill against Seton Hall Saturday at Frank Eck Stadium. Heilman turned in what has become a routine performance for him — a complete game shutout, allowing just four hits and striking out six in the seven-inning game. The Irish beat the Pirates 6-0 in the early game, and turned in a 6-1 victory in the nightcap.

Notre Dame backhanded the Pirates on Sunday afternoon by 15-3 margin to compete the Big East sweep and run their record to 20-4-1, 5-2 in conference action.

After a pre-game ceremony honoring head coach Paul Mainieri's 600th win on Mar. 17 and his 1,000th game coached Thursday against Hillsdale College, the Irish settled in at the plate early in the opener, erupting for all their six runs in the first two innings.

Leftfielder Kris Billmaier, who

has emerged as an RBI man for the Irish, plated two across in the first inning when his two-out single to left scored teammates Paul O'Toole and Brian Stavisky.

Alec Porzel sparked the Irish to four runs in the second, when he singled home Steve Sollmann. Porzel seemed to be shaking off the ill effects of a season-opening slump that saw him open this year's campaign. He had two hits in the first two innings, as well as three hits in second game on Saturday.

Being ahead in the first few innings of a contest had been fairly unknown territory for the Irish prior to Saturday, having scored 14 runs in the first two innings all season.

Heilman took over from that point, continuously working through minor jams to shut down the Pirates. In the next five innings, Seton Hall had runners on, but could never advance one farther than third base.

The freshman Sollmann made a stunning defensive play in the fourth, diving to snag a Kevin Leighton line drive, and completing the unassisted double play by tagging out Leighton's brother Brian.

The top of the seventh would feature an interesting battle between Heilman and Pirate pinch-hitter Garrett Weir. Taking a liberal lead from first considering his team was down by six in

the last inning, Weir drew multiple pickoff attempts from the righthander. The crowd murmured on several of the throws, believing Weir had actually been picked off.

Finally, on the fourth try, Heilman caught Weir leaning toward second, and fired the ball to first baseman Joe Thaman, who applied the tag to the diving Weir for the first out.

The win moved Heilman to 7-0 on the season, with 35 wins all-time, second in Notre Dame history.

Danny Tamayo would take the hill for the Irish on Saturday, and would run his record to 4-1 while allowing eight hits but striking out 10 and allowing just one earned run in 7.2 innings, leading the Irish to a 6-1 victory.

As far as offense was concerned, the Irish were consistent but not dominating. Innings two through five would see the Irish secure one run each inning, with two in the seventh to wrap up the ballgame.

Porzel had three doubles in the nightcap, sending his season total to a team leading 11. Stavisky had two doubles of his own, as Notre Dame seemed to awaken from their offensive slumber that characterized the beginning of the season.

If Notre Dame's offense woke up on Saturday, it jumped out of bed on Sunday.



ERNSESTO LACAYO/The Observer

A Notre Dame player checks his swing at a pitch in a game against Seton Hall this weekend.

The Irish bats would not be denied throughout the game, as Porzel continued his double stampede to break the Notre Dame career doubles mark of 61 previously held by Eric Danapilis (1993).

Stavisky showed that he has fully recovered from a hamstring

injury earlier in the year, smacking the Pirate pitching staff for three hits and four RBIs. O'Toole went 3-for-3 batting out of the two hole.

The Irish return to action Tuesday against Ball State at home, with the first pitch scheduled for 5:05 p.m.

Irish earn respect, Blue Devils add to tradition

It's 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. The Notre Dame women's basketball team plays tonight at 7:30 in the first-ever national championship game for an Irish basketball squad.

Conventional wisdom would therefore have me writing this sometime after the game ends, hopefully something about people dancing on tables to celebrate a Notre Dame win.

However, no one has ever said what I write makes any sense, displays any sort of wisdom, or makes any claims to be conventional.

Fortunately for me, this team, which now sports a record of 33-2 after a 90-75 win over UConn on Friday night, has already given me plenty to write about.

Friday nights can be a rocky time for those of us whose most wild weekend consists of the time we watched the NCAA tournament for 31 straight hours, but this past Friday stood out.

Together with 11 of my best friends,

some more sober than others, I crammed into a room in Morrissey to watch the final act of the Irish/Husky Trilogy for 2001.

We cheered for Notre Dame baskets and steals, yelled at officials for their calls (apparently it's now illegal for a center to back someone down in the post) and cursed at the bad bounces.

And if we're all honest, we did that last thing at the refs, too (So when Ericka Haney bumps into a UConn player at the foul line, don't blow the whistle — but once the player scores, go ahead and blow it and give her a shot at a three-point play).

We saw the first half wind down, with Notre Dame's March to the Arch looking like it would end with the drum major dropping the baton. Down by as many as 16 in the first half, the Irish looked up from the bottom of a hole that no team in the Final Four had ever successfully climbed out of.

And at the top of that hole? The defending national champions, trying to bury the Irish and still get home in time for Sportscenter.

But then came the greatest 20 minutes in Notre Dame basketball history, a stretch where the Irish, after giving up the first three points of the half, went on a 53-23 romp that didn't end until the

final horn.

The attack came from all directions, from all five positions and players on the floor. Haney and Kelley Siemon slashed to the basket, Ruth Riley abused people in the post, and Alicia Ratay showed why she's the country's leading markswoman from 3-point range.

As for point guard Niele Ivey, even though she played the entire second half with three fouls and then later, a sprained ankle, the player who always seems two steps faster than everyone else was, and she did whatever needed to be done whenever it needed doing.

No longer did we see a Notre Dame team that appeared overmatched in the face of a national power.

The Irish are that national power now, not to be bullied or intimidated by the likes of a UConn.

And just when we thought we had seen it all for one weekend with big time comebacks, along came Duke and Maryland in the men's tournament.

In a game that bore somewhat of an eerie resemblance to that played on Friday night at the Savvis Center, these two teams from the ACC met for the fourth time this year at the Metrodome.

Maryland got out to a 22 point lead in the first half, only to see it cut to 49-38 at halftime. The Terps eventually lost by

11, 95-84, the Dukies completing a 33 point swing.

UConn's lead in the first half got as big as 47-31, and the Irish trailed 49-37 at the half. Notre Dame went on to flip that margin upside down, completing their own 31 point swing and winning by 15.

The biggest difference between these two games separated by about 24 hours and 550 miles? Going in, a lot of people felt Duke was the country's class act.

Notre Dame still had to fight for that respect.

After destroying the Huskies by 27 in the second half on a national stage, Sue Bird saying her team felt the antithesis of UConn basketball and panic, Notre Dame can now move to the head of the class.

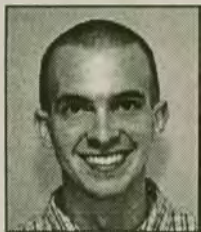
So thank you, ladies, for that moment on Friday night — the proudest I have ever been to be a sports-loving Notre Dame student.

I know anything less than a national title won't satisfy you.

But regardless of what happened against Purdue, I'll still only have one thing to say:

Long live the new queens of college basketball.

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



Ted Fox

*Fox Sports ...
Almost*

CLASSIFIEDS

LOST AND FOUND

LOST

A black carry-on bag at Main Circle on Thursday (3/22) between 8 pm and midnight. If found or have any info on its whereabouts, please contact Pablo at x1775

Set of keys at Lafayette
Please call
Joe at 219-243-1229

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PERSONAL

Thanks for the camera Gunville.

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.

NCAA BASKETBALL

Duke, Arizona meet in title game

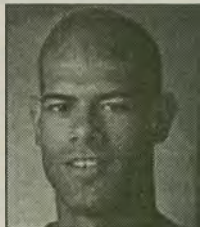
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS

Somebody asked Lute Olson what Arizona's biggest challenge would be against a Duke team few opponents have stopped this season.

Five minutes later, Olson wrapped up his reply.

Duke's Mike



Battier

Krzyzewski has a similar laundry list about Arizona's strong points.

Such is life when the two teams considered the best in the country in the preseason actually make it to the NCAA title game.

Sure, there have been good matchups in the past, but the Duke-Arizona final Monday night has been almost universally regarded as one of the most exquisitely balanced championship games anyone can remember.

"I'm sure it's going to be a very interesting 40 minutes for everyone," Olson said.

Arizona was ranked first and Duke second in the preseason poll. The Wildcats had some well-documented problems along the way, while Duke made it through with only four defeats despite the temporary loss of starting center Carlos Boozer to a foot injury.

In the end, however, college basketball will get a true champion — not just a good

team on a hot streak — a group good enough to cope with its opponents and great expectations.

"It's fitting that the two best teams are meeting to play for the national championship," Duke All-American Shane Battier said. "That's the way it should be. The true champions should have to beat the best teams."

Speaking of that, Arizona is trying to duplicate its 1997 achievement of beating three top-seeded teams on the way to its title. Those Wildcats are the only team to do that.

The differences between 1997 and this year's team are too numerous to list. Most notable among them are the difficulties this year's team has endured, especially the death of Olson's wife, Bobbi, like a mother to many of these players.

On the court, the 1997 team was a plucky underdog; this team has had visions of a title since the first practice.

"From the start of the year, their focus has been on getting to this game and having a chance to win the national championship," Olson said. "And there may have been some difficult times along the way."

Duke has taken the identical road to this point as it did in 1992 — Greensboro, N.C., Philadelphia, Minneapolis — when it won the second of its back-to-back titles.

Since the UCLA dynasty ended in the 1970s, Duke has established itself as one of the two or three most storied programs in the country. This is

its ninth trip to the Final Four since 1986. Two years ago, the Blue Devils were 36-1 and heavy favorites to win the championship, but came up one win short.

They overcame a 22-point deficit in the semifinal against Maryland on Saturday night, and Battier felt it was more than just Xs and Os that got them through.

"It was just a matter of relaxing, looking each other in the eye and saying, 'Hey, let's do the things we've done all year long and do it because we're Duke,'" Battier said. "We expect to do it at a high level."

When it comes to stopping Duke, Olson's many concerns are justified.

The Blue Devils made the most 3-pointers (398) in NCAA history and lead the nation by making 10.6 a game. They're more relentless rebounders than most teams give them credit for, and they might have the best point guard in the country in Jason Williams.

Arizona presents its own problems.

All five starters average double-digits in points, and the Wildcats are versatile, able to run with teams who play that style and pound with Big Ten teams like Illinois and Michigan State who try to out-muscle them.

Both teams agree that beating the best would be the most satisfying way to win a championship.

"They are the best team on the East Coast and we're one of the better ones in the West," Arizona guard Richard Jefferson said.

SOFTBALL

Belles split double-header with Adrian

By KATIE McVOY

Associate Sports Editor

Using a loss to claim victory, the Saint Mary's softball team a doubleheader with Adrian College Saturday.

After dropping the afternoon game to the Bulldogs 8-5, the Belles came back and claimed a decisive 10-2 victory.

"In the second game we realized that we were a much better opponent and started to play like it," senior Cindy Traub said.

The doubleheader marked the MIAA season opener for both teams who now stand 1-1 in the MIAA.

The Belles (9-8) took an early 1-0 lead in the first game. However, an error-filled third allowed Adrian (5-15) to claim a six-run third that put Saint Mary's back by five.

"They were hitting the ball and we were kicking it around," Traub said. "We struggled defensively and they took advantage of our mistakes and scored a lot of runs."

A fourth-inning run by Saint Mary's just wasn't enough to bring home a victory.

In the fourth, Saint Mary's answered with four runs, to bring the game within one, but the Belles fell short in the last innings of the game.

"If it wasn't for [the third inning] we would have won," Traub said. "We came out in the fourth inning and tore it

open, but it was a matter of too little too late."

Adrian added two more runs to its score before the game ended.

Junior Kristin Martin pitched seven innings during the game, giving up only three earned runs.

After the afternoon's loss, the Belles were hungry in the nightcap.

"It's always frustrating to lose the ones you know you could have won," Traub said. "We were all aware after the first game that we had not played to our potential. So it was a matter of coming out and playing how we knew in the second game."

Saint Mary's did just that.

Senior Anne Senger started the second game, giving up only one earned run for the evening.

The Belles took control offensively, scoring 10 runs to claim the 10-2 victory.

With a 2-1 lead going into the fifth inning, the Belles tore open their lead with six runs in the fifth. They tacked on two more runs during the last innings of the game.

Rachel Deer, Susan Kutz and Melissa Hayes each reached base three times during the weekend for the Belles. Deer claimed one double, while Kutz traveled to second twice. Martin claimed a homerun and a double on the weekend.

Saint Mary's will next face off against league competition Albion this Wednesday at 4 p.m. at home.



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Champs

continued from page 20

her to make, and she shot it with a lot of confidence," McGraw said of Ratay's basket, her only points of the night. "I was just so pleased that she had the courage to take that shot."

Purdue forward Shereka Wright was then fouled, hitting one of two free throws to put Purdue up 63-62.

A Niele Ivey field goal with 2:06 left put Notre Dame up 64-63. After Notre Dame got the ball back, Katie Douglas answered with a steal. Douglas was fouled driving the lane, but still managed to convert the lay-up. She hit her free throw to give Purdue a 66-64 lead with 1:22 left.

At the one minute mark, Ratay found Riley under the glass to tie the game at 66.

Following a Wright miss, Notre Dame got the ball back and called a timeout with 25.9 seconds remaining.

"I knew it was going to come down to the final seconds," Wright said. "Notre Dame is a great team. We weren't going to back down and we thought we had it."

The Irish let the clock wind down before Kelley Siemon threw a pass high into the air to Riley under the basket. Riley caught the ball and posted up.

The Naismith player of the year drew a foul from Wright with 5.8 seconds remaining, setting up the game-winning shots.

Douglas missed a jumper from the top of the key with the clock winding down and Ratay grabbed the rebound to give Notre Dame its first championship in any sport since the 1995 women's soccer team took home a title.

"We just wanted to keep them in front of us," Ivey said. "Katie Douglas took a critical shot and I was willing to do whatever I could for this team."

For Douglas, the game just wasn't meant to go into overtime.

"I had a good look at the basket, the ball just didn't go down for me," Douglas said. "You have to give Notre Dame credit, they made it difficult for us."

Riley was still stuck in her moment as the clock ticked off.

"I really wasn't playing defense on that last play," she said. "I was watching the free throw go in. I looked down the court and Camille Cooper was standing there wide open, and that was my man. I just got lucky that Katie missed a shot."

Riley's teammate on the AP All-American first team, Douglas, led the Boilermakers with 18 points. Freshman forwards Shalacia Hurns and Wright each added 17 points for Purdue. Ivey scored 12 points, grabbed five rebounds and nabbed six steals for the Irish despite playing on a sore ankle that kept her out of practice Saturday.

"This is my team, I'm the captain, I'm the leader," Ivey said. "This is my hometown and I was willing to do whatever I could for this team."

Hurns, Wright and Douglas joined Ivey and Riley on the All-Tournament team.

Forward Ericka Haney scored 13 crucial points for the Irish, putting the ball in from the top of the key as often as below the hoop. Siemon added 10 points for Notre Dame.

Just as Connecticut came out strong in the opening half of their semifinal game against Notre Dame, the Boilermakers opened up in force Sunday. Purdue grabbed 29 first-half rebounds to Notre Dame's 17, including a 13-5 advantage on the offensive glass.

Six minutes into the first half, Douglas hit a 3-pointer to give Purdue their largest lead of the game — 16-5.

Then Riley took over.

Notre Dame's All-American center scored 13 of her team's next 17 points, pulling the Irish within 25-22 with 6:15 left in the half.


Then, with 4:14 remaining before the half, Riley committed her second foul of the game when she tagged Hurns on a drive to the basket. McGraw kept her star senior on the bench for the remainder of the half.

Without Riley on the floor, Notre Dame managed to keep the gap at six points. Two Ivey lay-ins provided Notre Dame's four points, while Douglas and Wright each hit one field goal for Purdue to close the half with a 32-26 lead.




JOSE CUELLAR/The Observer

Junior Ericka Haney drives to the basket in Notre Dame's 68-66 win over Purdue. Haney scored 13 points to help the Irish to victory.



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JOSE CUELLAR/The Observer

Senior forward Kelley Siemon looks to dish the ball off to a teammate. Siemon scored 10 points and had a team-high six assists.

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Irish

continued from page 20

We know the rest. Our parents know the rest. Heck, Sporting America knows the rest.

Who would have thought it?

At a school where the two biggest sports are unquestionably football and spring football, the 2001 women's basketball team made LoVecchio, Arnaz and GI seem insignificant.

At a school where females weren't admitted until 1972, the 2001 women's basketball team even garnered support from "old-school" Notre Dame men.

At a school where myth and folklore reign supreme, the 2001 women's basketball team actually achieved a significant on-field moment.

Where have you gone Tony Rice? Where have you gone Lou Holtz? Where have you gone Frank Stams?

(I know. The women's soccer squad won the national title in 1995. But this is by far the biggest win since Holtz's 1988 team won the 11th football national championship.)

Prior to the season, only the most diehard of Irish lovers would have predicted a national title.

At least one prominent coach thought your humble servant believed this was the year.

"I know you're writing for Notre Dame and you want to write, you know, that I spent all summer worrying about Notre Dame," Connecticut coach Geno Auriemma said on Friday night. "The only thing I spent all summer worrying about was where my next beer and my next tan was coming from."

Thanks for the quote, Geno.

I knew you thought you would win the title. And why not? Connecticut returned its top eight scorers from the Huskies' 2000 national championship team and added the nation's top high school senior. Last season, Connecticut had a 36-1 record, with the only blemish being a 72-71 loss on Feb. 2. Only three of the 36 victories were decided by less than 10 points.

So it was a safe bet that the Storrs would celebrate once again on April Fools Day 2001.

As the season went on, Geno's preseason arrogance shrunk.

And Notre Dame's new darlings believed they could actu-

ally compete with the mighty Huskies.

"I know we talked about it (winning a national title) last year," McGraw said. "But it was sort of a hollow goal. I don't think the team was ready to achieve that. I don't think they were mature enough, I don't think they worked hard enough."

After the Jan. 15 victory over Connecticut, Muffet and Her Miracles spoke a lot about how this was "a year of destiny." After every ensuing game, someone would refer to 2001 as the "perfect season."

Then came this weekend.

Down 12 at the half against Connecticut? If it was last year, forget about it. It was safer to bet that Jim Sanson would actually connect on an over 40-yard field goal than to put your money on a Notre Dame comeback.

A tight game against Purdue? If it was last year, Riley would have fouled out and the Irish would have been wound tighter than a Britney Spears top.

But instead, there was Riley at the free throw line with 5.8 seconds remaining, with the game tied.

The first shot grazed the front rim and fell through the hoop, giving the Irish only their third lead of the night.

Moments later, a Purdue-based reporter sitting beside me almost fell out of his chair.

"It pays to have the Big Guy on your side sometimes," he said.

It also pays to have the Big Girl. And when Purdue's Katie Douglas decided she would not perform a Sue Bird impersonation, it was time for the cameras to capture the scene.

The hugs. The kisses. The tears.

Niele Ivey also wanted to relive the moments. So the senior point guard, who ended her five-year career just minutes away from her home, grabbed a Sony camcorder from her boyfriend, Irish receiver Javin Hunter.

Around 9:55 p.m., after the awards ceremony, after the final strand of net had been cut, Ivey finally headed towards the locker room.

She was the last player to leave the court.

"I can't wait to watch it again," Ivey said "It seems like it all happened so fast."

Now it's over, this wacky season is over.

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Irish draw comparisons to Husky championship team

By TIM CASEY
Assistant Sports Editor

ST. LOUIS

Is this the beginning of a dynasty in women's basketball?

It's still too early to tell. Notre Dame loses five seniors, including three starters, but has one of the nation's top five recruiting classes heading to South Bend in the fall.

But look at the following comparisons between the 1994-95 Connecticut team and this year's Notre Dame squad. The Huskies won their first national title in 94-95 and went on to become the nation's premier program.

In 1991, Connecticut appeared in the Final Four for the first time. Five seasons later, the Huskies were national champions.

In 1997, Notre Dame was in its first Final Four. Five seasons later, the Irish were national champions.

On Jan. 16, 1995, No. 2 appeared Connecticut beat No. 1 Tennessee 77-66 before a sold-out Gampel Pavilion. In the Huskies previous contest, against Seton Hall, star center Rebecca Lobo dislocated her finger. In the game against Tennessee, on Martin Luther King Day, Lobo had 13 points, eight rebounds and five blocked shots.

On Jan. 15, 2001, No. 3 Notre Dame beat No. 1 Connecticut 92-76 before a sold-out Joyce Center. In the Irish's previous contest, against Virginia Tech, star center Ruth Riley injured her right ankle. In the game against Connecticut, on Martin Luther King Day, Riley had 29 points, 12 rebounds and five blocked shots.

Following the victories, both Connecticut and Notre Dame were ranked No. 1 in the nation for the first time in school history.

In the 1995 Elite Eight, Connecticut beat Virginia 67-63. Geno Auriemma, the Huskies coach, served as an assistant under Virginia's Debbie Ryan for several years in the early 1980's.

In the 2001 Elite Eight, Notre Dame beat Vanderbilt 72-64.

Muffet McGraw, the Irish's coach, served as an assistant under Vanderbilt's Jim Foster for two years in the early 1980's when both were at St. Joseph's.

In the 1995 Final Four, Connecticut defeated Stanford 87-60. The Huskies limited Stanford's star guard Kate Starbird to two points in 26 minutes. Starbird shot 1-for-9 from the field, including 0-for-3 on three-pointers.

In the 2001 Final Four, Notre Dame defeated Connecticut 90-75. The Irish limited Connecticut's star guard Diana Taurasi to four points in 31 minutes. Taurasi shot 1-for-15 from the field, including 0-for-11 on 3-pointers.

In the 1995 championship game, Connecticut trailed Tennessee by six at halftime and rebounded for a 70-64 win.

In the 2001 championship game, Notre Dame trailed Purdue by six at halftime and rebounded for a 68-66 win.

Add the two teams' scores in the championship games of 1995 and 2001. During both years, the total was 134 points.

Komara and Saint Mary's shorts

Purdue guard Kelly Komara wears Saint Mary's shorts underneath game shorts — gray with blue writing.

"I've been there a few times," Komara said. "Anytime I go up there I get the whole Irish fever going up there."

The reason Komara wears the shorts is that she is Belles' coach Suzanne Smith's cousin. Smith was in St. Louis this weekend.

"I'm sure she'll give me some advice," Komara said. "She's watched Notre Dame practice and play throughout the year so she's real familiar with Notre Dame. Hopefully she'll give me a few tips on how to guard them."

No excuses

Connecticut head coach Geno Auriemma had no excuses after Notre Dame's 90-75 win on Friday night.

The Huskies entered the game without two All-American players. On Feb. 1, forward Svetlana Abrosimova tore ligaments in her left knee. On March 6, in the Big East tournament final against the Irish, Shea Ralph tore the ACL in her left knee.

Both players missed the rest of the season after their injuries.

"If Shea and Svet were as big a reason as you'd want to make it, we wouldn't have got here and we would have got blown out from the beginning," Auriemma said. "We had it in us to win this game."

Since Abrosimova went down, Connecticut had a 15-0 record and entered the NCAA tournament as the nation's top ranked team. Even without Ralph, the Huskies beat their first four NCAA opponents by an average of 40 points per game.

On Friday night, Connecticut led Notre Dame 49-37 at halftime and was up by 15 points early in the second half.

"All year long we struggled with putting people away, just burying them like we used to in the old days," Auriemma said. "This team has such a laid-back personality trait. Every one of them. There's not one type A personality left after you take away those two (Ralph

and Abrosimova). There's not one person out there who just wants to rip your throat out. They're all like 'Hey, isn't life great. We're up, shots go in, they don't go in. Life's a beach.'"

Shereka Wright and Vontez Duff

The two best athletes in the Copperas Cove (Texas) High School Class of 2000 may turn out to be two of the best collegiate athletes in Indiana in the next couple years.

Purdue freshman forward Shereka Wright has known current Notre Dame defensive back Vontez Duff since the seventh grade. When the duo left Copperas Cove, they were local legends.

As a senior, Wright led Copperas Cove to a No. 7 national ranking and was named the USA Today Player of the Year. Duff played running back in high school. He rushed for 3,401 yards and 38 touchdowns during his last two seasons.

Both players made immediate impacts in college. Wright, who started in last night's national championship game, averaged 9.7 points and 4.5 rebounds this season. She was named to the Big Ten All-Freshman Team.

Duff made 77 special teams appearances in 2000 and was one of three freshman to earn a monogram. He is expected to compete for a starting cornerback slot this spring.

"(Duff) was the stud in high school," Wright recalled. "Everybody was like 'Vontez this and Vontez that.' But he was a great person."

Shutting down Taurasi

She had been Connecticut's go-to player since late February. She was named the Big East Tournament Most Outstanding Player after a 14-point performance in the championship game. She was the Eastern Regional's Most Outstanding Player and had been dubbed as one of the nation's top guards.

But on Friday, Connecticut's Diana Taurasi had a dismal shooting night. She scored just four points in 31 minutes and shot 1-for-15 from the field, including 0-for-11 on three-pointers.

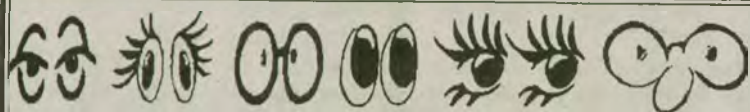
"No matter how carefree and how fearless she thinks she is, there still comes a point in time when you start to understand in your mind that you're letting the rest of the team down," Auriemma said. "We all thought we were invincible when we were her age, some more invincible than others. Nobody is."

Taurasi missed all seven of her attempts in the first half but Connecticut still led by 12 points. In the second half, she continued to shoot, a strategy that baffled Auriemma.

"The best way to get out of the slump was to pass the ball to (Connecticut center Kelly Schumacher)," Auriemma said. "It was killing them in the first half."

Although Taurasi struggled, guard Sue Bird was not placing the blame on her back court mate.

"Diana has played so well in this Tournament," Bird said. "It's not all on her. We're a team. It's not her fault. Not by any means."



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Journalist and senior editor for Essence Magazine, Joan Morgan is a feminist writer who writes about race and gender. She is the author of "When Chickenheads Come Home to Roost--My Life as a Hip-Hop Feminist." She will plunge into heated issues such as sexism in hip-hop and the crippling myth of the "endangered black man" and its equally destructive counterpart, the myth of the "strong black woman."

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Irish defeat Huskies to advance to championship game



JOSE CUELLAR/The Observer

Connecticut senior center Kelly Schumacher boxes out Notre Dame's Kelley Siemon in Friday night's national semifinal game.

By NOAH AMSTADTER
Sports Editor

ST. LOUIS

Niele Ivey gave new meaning to the phrase "Home is where the heart is" Friday.

With the Irish trailing the Huskies by 12 heading into the locker room, St. Louis native Ivey refused to let the Irish go quietly into the night.

The 5-foot-7 guard led the Irish with 21 points as Notre Dame doubled up Connecticut 53-26 in the second half to top the Huskies 90-75. The Irish, who were down by 16 points at various points in the opening half, set a record for the best comeback ever in a Final Four game.

"I think there was a lot of praying going on in the stands at halftime," said Irish coach Muffet McGraw, who may have noticed Notre Dame President Father Edward Malloy in the bleachers. "We showed tremendous character that second half."

Ivey would not allow her hometown fans see her team fall. She finished with three assists and five steals to go along with her team-high 21, marking only the second time this season Ivey surpassed the 20-point mark.

Ivey suffered a sprained ankle with 5:47 remaining, but returned triumphantly with just over three minutes remaining.

"My heart was in my throat, I had knots in my stomach," McGraw said. "I didn't want to move. I was sort of paralyzed on the sideline wanting to run out to comfort her but not wanting to, hoping she would get up and play. And when I saw it wasn't her knee it was definitely a sigh of relief."

Alicia Ratay added 20 for the Irish, while Ericka Haney finished with 15 and a team-high 10 rebounds.

The Irish hit a NCAA semifinal record eight of 11 attempts from the 3-point line. Ratay hit four treys, while Ivey converted on three.

"To Notre Dame's credit, they made every big shot they had to make," said Connecticut head coach Geno Auriemma. "I don't think we can play any better than we did that first half. It kind of all fell apart for us in the second half."

While things were falling apart for the Huskies, everything came together for the Irish. Notre Dame scored on 15 of their first 20 possessions to turn a 49-37 halftime deficit into a 72-65 lead with 8:59 remaining.

"There was a lot said by the seniors," Riley said of the locker room during halftime. "We knew this could have been our last

game and we wanted to make sure it wasn't."

Connecticut freshman Diana Taurasi, the Huskies' leading scorer through most of the post-season, scored only four points on 1-of-15 shooting from the field.

"Diana has played so well this tournament that when you have a night when you don't shoot well it's tough," said Connecticut point guard Sue Bird. "But it's not all on her. When she's not hitting her shots, someone else has to step up and make theirs."

Bird, whose buzzer-beater gave Connecticut a 78-76 win over the Irish in the Big East Championship game, led Connecticut with 17 points. Center Kelly Schumacher added 12 points and a game-high 17 rebounds for the Huskies.

While the fans from South Bend chanted "We are ND" and sang the fight song after the victory, things hardly looked so good early.

Notre Dame entered the locker room trailing the defending national champion Huskies 49-37. Riley walked back out carrying two fouls. Ivey had three.

A swarming Connecticut defense shut down Riley almost completely in the first half, limiting the National Player of the Year to only three points on two field goal attempts in just 12 minutes.

"I really didn't feel like I played very well that first half," Riley said. "I put up a couple of bad shots. I needed to post up bigger."

Riley came back with a vengeance in the second. She scored 15 points in the final 20 minutes to lead the Irish romp. Riley's line at games end: 18 points, 10 rebounds and five blocked shots.

The Irish hung in with the Huskies until late in the opening half. Ivey took the ball cross-court to close the Connecticut lead at 28-22.

After the a media timeout, the Irish returned to the floor with backup center Mandy Barksdale rather than Riley, who had two fouls. She would not return until after halftime.

Even without Riley, the Irish stayed close. Two Alicia Ratay free-throws with 4:17 remaining closed the gap to 35-28.

Then the Huskies went on a 15-5 run, leading by as many as 16 points with a minute remaining in the half.

An Alicia Ratay 3-pointer with seven seconds remaining closed the gap to 49-37 at the half.

The victory gave the Irish a 2-1 edge in the season series with the Huskies. Notre Dame topped Connecticut 92-76 on Jan. 15 in South Bend before Connecticut took the Big East Championship on March 6.

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Happy 22nd, Brian!-Jill and Colleen

Students ride emotional rollercoaster watching Irish play

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Associate Sports Editor

It was a half hour before game time, and something unusual was happening.

In dorms across the campus, students were already securing their seats on the couches, a spectacle usually reserved for away football games.

One by one, televisions were switched over to ESPN for the women's basketball national championship game.

In small groups of three to five, people slowly trickled into LaFortune and gathered around one of four televisions. By the time the game started, about 800 students were packed into the student center to watch Notre Dame take on Purdue.

Student Activities set up a 12-by-14 foot screen in the LaFortune Ballroom, where most of the students watched the game. But directly underneath the Ballroom, students pulled couches and chairs around the two big screen televisions and piled as close to the television as possible. Further down the hallway, some students had homework spread out over the tables as they watched the game.

"It's fun to watch it in an environment like this," said freshman Brendan O'Connor. "It's almost like being at the game."

Many students wore shirts with "Beat Purdue" written across their chests. The shirts, originally distributed for the regular season game against Purdue before winter break, found a second life Sunday night.

Pre-game

The ESPN telecast began, and fans in the upstairs LaFortune Ballroom cheered when the women's basketball team huddled around the free throw line to perform the Irish Jig. When the starting lineups were announced, the loudest cheers were for Irish head coach Muffet McGraw.

"This is going to be a great game," said one student.

But as the Irish fell behind by 12 points, everyone grew a little anxious.

7:53 left in the first half

Ruth Riley was fouled as she drove to the basket. The ball bounced on the rim and finally fell through, pulling the Irish to within three points. The crowd immediately shouted the loudest of the night so far.

By now, the few students who had brought homework had put it away in their backpacks.

"I can't get anything done, it's just too loud," one student told

her friend.

Halftime

"We're not playing too well, but I'm not discouraged yet," O'Connor said. After all, the Irish were only down six points — they had trailed by 16 against Connecticut and still rallied to win by 15.

Some students stood up to head to Burger King or Tomassito's to grab some food before the second half started. But most stayed where they were, apparently afraid of losing their seat to someone standing in the back.

17:01 left in the second half

Kelley Siemon hit a short five-foot jumper to give the Irish their first lead of the evening, and Notre Dame fans stood up and celebrated.

But the lead was short lived as Purdue rattled off eight unanswered points to retake the lead. Purdue's surge didn't shake the faith of the Irish faithful.

"I know we're going to win, I just know it," one particular student said.

8:49 left in the second half

Riley hit a jumper, was fouled, and sunk the ensuing free throw — to the delight of those watching in South Bend.

"You can't handle the Ruth!" one student sitting near the television shouted.

4:00 left in the second half

Alicia Ratay drilled Notre Dame's first — and only — 3-pointer of the night to tie the game at 62. As she shot the ball, students stood up, raised their hands, and exploded when the ball sailed through the net. It prompted foot-stomping in the Ballroom that could be heard down below on the first floor.

"This is the most nerve-racking experience of my life," said Brianne McNicholas.

"It's so exciting," added Tara Dane. "Words can't describe it."

5.8 seconds left in the second half

The Player of the Year stood on the free-throw line with the score tied at 66. She calmly shot the ball into the air, and as it swished through the net, the LaFortune Ballroom broke out into cheers.

"I've never cared about women's basketball before in my life, and I have goose bumps," said freshman Adam Miglore.

"This is as close to being religious as I get," freshman Dan Brunner said.

When the Purdue timeout was over, Riley stepped back up to the free throw line and scored



JOSE CUELLAR/The Observer

Senior point guard Niele Ivey runs Notre Dame's half-court offense against the Boilermakers. Ivey, who suffered a sprained ankle against UConn, played all 40 minutes.

her 28th point of the night.

Across LaFortune, those gathered in attendance stood on their feet or climbed on top of chairs to get a clear glimpse of the television as Purdue drove down the court with one final chance to tie the game.

The Boilermakers passed the ball around to their All-American, Kelly Douglas, who took an off-balance jumper from 15 feet away.

The shot came up short.

LaFortune exploded into cheers.

Notre Dame had won the national championship.

Post-game

As Niele Ivey raced over to her teammates, arms in the air, students in Notre Dame high-fived each other and shouted hysterically.

"We're national champs! We're national champs!" several students shouted.

The cheering continued for several minutes, and didn't subside until television cameras showed McGraw hugging University President Edward Malloy.

As ESPN showed replays of Purdue's final possession, a few students began to sing the Fight Song. Soon, everyone in LaFortune ballroom was singing as loud as they could.

Fittingly, the final words to the song were "Onward to victory."

Attention Transfer Students

INTERESTED IN BEING A PART OF
TRANSFER ORIENTATION 2001?

Applications for Transfer O Executive Staff
are Available in the Admissions Office

Or by E-mail

at

Julianna.M.Baron.6@nd.edu

Andrew.C.Hess.16@nd.edu

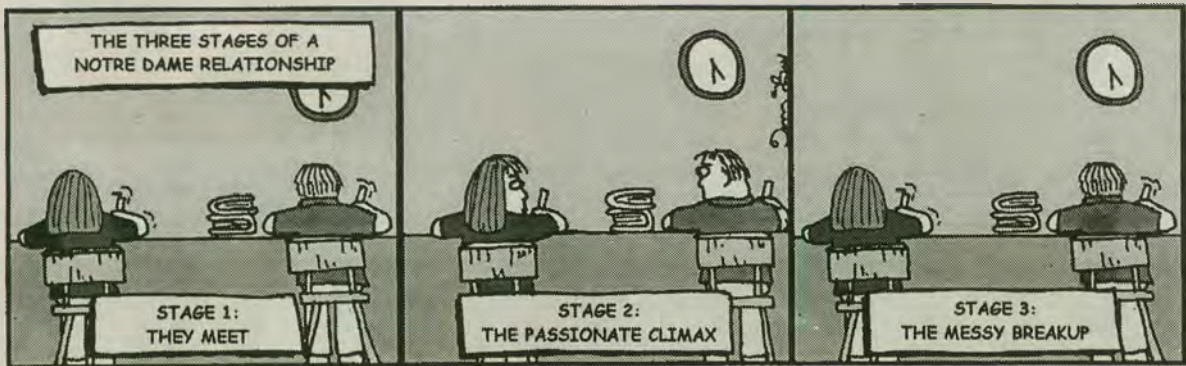
DEADLINE: Sun. April 8th



Happy 21st
Birthday
Sean Conley
You made
it...barely!
-The Carroll
Guys

FOURTH AND INCHES

TOM KEELEY



FOX TROT

BILL AMEND



THINGS COULD BE WORSE

TYLER WHATELY

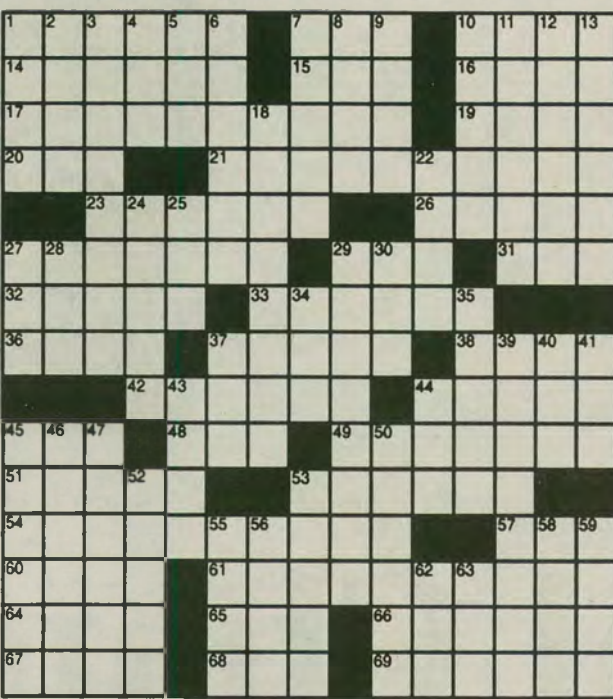


CROSSWORD

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

- ACROSS**
- 1 Affixed in a scrapbook, say
 - 7 Julius Erving's nickname
 - 10 Barbershop quartet part
 - 14 _____ Shriver, sister of J.F.K.
 - 15 Fish eggs
 - 16 Navel buildup?
 - 17 Announce officially
 - 19 Nabisco cookie
 - 20 Toothed tool
 - 21 Grass cutter with zip
 - 23 Sympathetic pity
 - 26 Astound
 - 27 Shoulder muscle
 - 29 Garage contents
 - 31 "You betcha!"
 - 32 Souped-up engine sound
 - 33 April 1 prankster
 - 36 Sunup
 - 37 Wanders
 - 38 Capital on a fjord
 - 42 Winnie-the-Pooh's donkey friend
 - 44 Run, as colors
 - 45 Opposite ENE
 - 48 Club _____ resort
 - 49 Nation famous for tulips
 - 51 Video game company
 - 53 Letterman's nightly list
 - 54 What the answer to each italicized clue is
 - 57 Sheep's cry
 - 60 Florence's river
 - 61 "The Battleship Potemkin" director
- DOWN**
- 1 Livens (up)
 - 2 Atmosphere
 - 3 Post-blizzard vehicle
 - 4 Dickens's Tiny
 - 5 Old French coin
 - 6 Noted oracle site
 - 7 Doesn't stand pat
 - 8 Memorization method
 - 9 Raspberry
 - 10 Flower
 - 11 Vent
 - 12 Blessed event?
 - 13 Mall units
 - 18 What a gourmet enjoys
 - 22 Mature filly
 - 24 Make amends (for)
 - 25 Male turkey
 - 27 Home movie format
 - 28 Pitcher's stat
 - 29 "Lassie _____" (1943 film)
 - 30 Gore and Roker
 - 34 Rowing need
 - 35 Actress Esther
 - 37 Deli loaf



- Puzzle by Peter Gordon
- 39 Actor in "Patriot Games" and "GoldenEye"
 - 40 Spy novelist Deighton
 - 41 Peculiar
 - 43 Give off
 - 44 Lunch sandwich, for short
 - 45 Sushi condiment
 - 46 Recipe direction
 - 47 Ring cycle composer
 - 50 Cry of the police while pounding a door
 - 52 River of Lyon
 - 53 1980's-90's boxing champ
 - 55 Use a book
 - 56 Seek's opposite
 - 58 "____ Too Proud to Beg" (1966 hit)
 - 59 Poker stake
 - 62 R-V link
 - 63 "____ end"
- 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

DUKEITOUT SPECS
EVILTWINS NIXON
RUSSIANROULETTE
ALMAS KENT TETE
TAE ICEAGES ROZ
ESTE ERDA PENNE
CPAS STOMATA
SOPORS OCELOT
SPANIEL BAKE
MELON ODAS RVER
INO TRUANTS ITE
NCOS DICK TIDED
NAKEDASAJAYBIRD
OSAGE APOLLOONE
WESAY SOBSISTER

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Liza Minnelli, James Taylor, Darryl Strawberry, Andrew Young, Courtney B. Vance

Happy Birthday: If you plan your actions wisely this year, the rest will be history. Personal relationships may suffer if you spend too much time chasing after the all-mighty dollar. You should try to find a balance and protect what you already have. Push the envelop, and you may lose out where you least expect. Your numbers: 5, 19, 22, 25, 34, 37

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Romantic encounters will be stressful, especially if you have more than one on the go. Mixing business with pleasure might be fun, but highly dangerous as well. You must make some serious choices before you ruin your reputation. ☹☹☹

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your hard work will pay off. You should feel satisfied and confident about your professional direction. Don't let negative friends or relatives cause you to question yourself or your goals. ☹☹☹

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can get into those hobbies you've been thinking about. One of them may turn into a lucrative proposition. You can make personal changes that will enhance your appearance. ☹☹☹☹☹

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Deception is apparent when dealing with family or children. You may want to put some energy into beautifying your living quarters. Make everyone pitch in. ☹☹☹

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Travel and romance will go hand in hand. Your warm heart will attract many new acquaintances. Get involved in competitive sports. You need a challenge. ☹☹☹☹

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't take chances while operating machinery or equipment. You will be misunderstood if you aren't precise in your explanations to others. ☹☹☹

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Love can be hot as long as you avoid getting trapped in a one-sided relationship. You will be lazy and lack discipline when it comes to your fitness program. Push yourself a little harder if you don't want to gain back those extra pounds. ☹☹☹

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Concentrate on your domestic chores before your family complains about your lack of helpfulness. You may feel a little under the weather. An early evening should help rejuvenate you. ☹☹☹

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can meet people with clout if you attend intellectual events. Don't exaggerate about your talents. You may find yourself embarrassed. ☹☹☹☹

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Erratic behavior by you or your partner will lead to sudden changes in your living arrangements. Consider going for professional help if you wish to improve this union. ☹☹

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Opportunities for financial gains are prominent. Lady Luck is with you, and your insight in making the right choices will be advantageous. ☹☹☹☹☹

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't put off a doctor's appointment just because you are feeling a little better. Stress is probably at the root of your problem. Rest will be necessary. ☹☹☹

Birthday Baby: You've got a smart way of doing things and will amaze onlookers with your intuition and inventive imagination. Once you prove yourself to others, you will have loyal and long-lasting relationships. (Need advice? Check out Eugenia's Web sites at astroadvice.com, eugenialast.com, astromate.com.)

Visit The Observer on the web at <http://observer.nd.edu/>

notre dame baseball

Tue April 3 5pm

Notre Dame

VS

Ball State

FRANK ECK STADIUM

wed April 4 5pm

Notre Dame

VS

Dayton

SPORTS

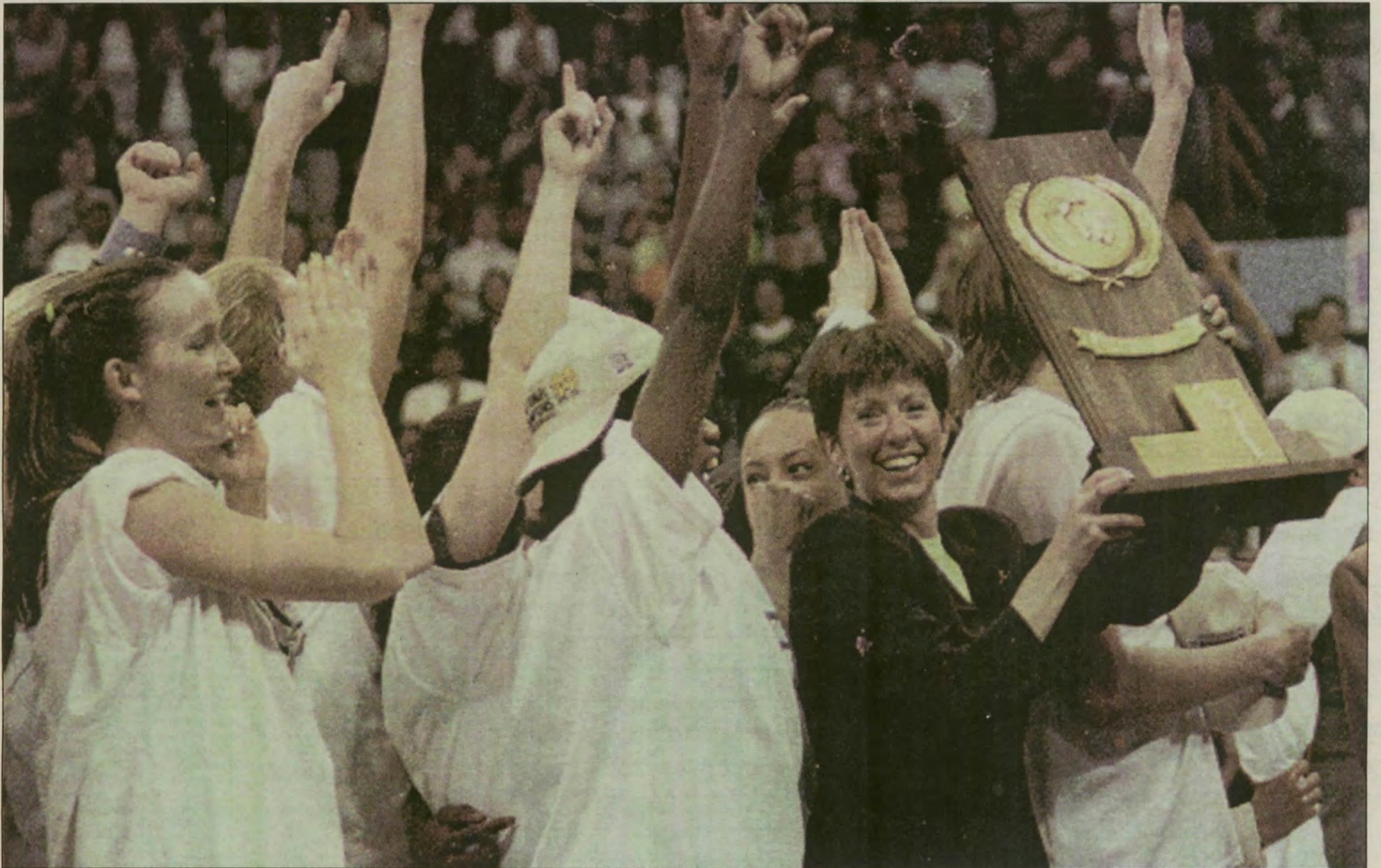
Get the broom out
The Notre Dame baseball team completed a three-game sweep of the Seton Hall Pirates this weekend at Frank Eck Stadium.
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page 20

THE
OBSERVER

Monday, April 2, 2001



JOSE CUELLAR/The Observer

Notre Dame head coach Muffet McGraw hoists the National Championship trophy at the Savvis Center in St. Louis following Notre Dame's 68-66 victory over Purdue. McGraw, the AP coach of year, led the Irish to their first-ever national title.

National Champions

◆ Riley's two free throws with 5.8 seconds seals win

By NOAH AMSTADTER
Sports Editor

ST. LOUIS

Ruth Riley hit the two most important free throws of her life to give Notre Dame a 68-66 victory over state rival Purdue and its first ever women's basketball national championship.

"I can't describe it," said Irish coach Muffet McGraw. "I don't think I've ever been this excited in my life."

Riley reflected on her magical moment like the quintessential Indiana girl. She led the Irish with 28 points and 14 rebounds in the game to go along with a 10-of-14 performance from the free throw line

and seven blocked shots.

"I talked all the time about the movie Hoosiers and that was my inspiration," Riley said. "All those free throws you practice for this moment."

Her coach was equally impressed.

"We have been a second half team all tournament long," McGraw said. "For Ruth to make those two free throws for us to come back from halftime deficits two times in the Final Four — I can't say enough about this team."

The Irish overcame a 12-point deficit in their semifinal win against Connecticut.

With four minutes remaining, Irish 3-point specialist Alicia Ratay nailed Notre Dame's first trey of the night to tie the game at 62.

"It was such a big shot for

see CHAMPS/page 14

◆ Muffet and Her Miracles earn first-ever national title

ST. LOUIS

She should retire.

Right here, atop the podium near the middle of the Savvis Center court, Muffet McGraw should grab the ESPN microphone from Michele Tafoya, wave at the Notre Dame cheering section and proclaim, "I quit. It



Tim Casey

Senior Staff
Writer

can't get any better than this. The basketball portion of my life has reached its peak."

An absurd suggestion? Without a doubt.

But wouldn't that be an appropriate climax to this wacky season — a five and a half month odyssey from a lonely Oct. 15 practice to a net-cutting ceremony in front of thousands?

Move over Gip. Move over Rock. Move over Moose.

Make room for Muffet and Her Miracles.

(Notice the capital H. Appropriate for this Catholic school. Fathers Hesburgh, Joyce, Cavanaugh and Sorin would be proud.)

Think Bob Davie and Mike Brey, who were both in attendance, are a little jealous?

"Career-wise, I think it [a national title] is a nice thing to

have on your resume," McGraw said.

It's not a bad thing to have in your memories, either.

Whoever scheduled "Hoosiers" on ESPN Classic right before Notre Dame-Purdue on the mother station should be given a raise this morning.

An Indiana farm girl knocking down two game-winning free throws for a title?

Only thing missing was Gene Hackman and Dennis Hopper.

And Ruth Riley was more Jimmy Chitwood than Ollie McClellan.

"Somebody asked me what my favorite part of that movie was and I said, 'when Ollie hit those two free throws,'" Riley said. "I didn't have to under hand them but ..."

see IRISH/page 15

SPORTS AT A GLANCE



Softball
at Purdue
Tuesday, 2 p.m.



at Indiana
Wednesday, 3 p.m.



at Baylor
Friday, 9 p.m.



Baseball
vs. Ball State
Tuesday, 5:05 p.m.



Softball
vs. Albion
Wednesday, 3:30 p.m.



Men's Lacrosse
vs. Denver
Saturday 4:30 p.m.



Women's Lacrosse
vs. Connecticut
Sunday, 1 p.m.