

THE OBSERVER

The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

VOL. XXXVII NO. 11

HTTP://OBSERVER.ND.EDU



Irish
take
on
Rutgers
Insider

Rector changes Morrissey parietals

◆ Vandalism prompts midnight parietals rule

By HELENA PAYNE
News Editor

Due to several incidents of vandalism in the past month, Morrissey Hall rector Father John Steele imposed new parietal hours on the dorm's male residents.

Parietal hours, when students of the opposite sex are

allowed in dorm rooms, normally run from 9 a.m. to midnight Sunday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday.

Under the new rule, Morrissey parietals will now be 9 a.m. to midnight every day for the rest of the semester except the day of Morrissey's Christmas dance.

In an e-mail sent early Thursday to dorm residents, Steele wrote that four broken windows and a busted bathroom stall door on the third floor show a lack of pride for

the dorm.

Steele also encouraged residents to come forward with information about the latest incident of vandalism, the smashed stall door, which occurred Sunday between 2 a.m. and 2:30 a.m.

"It is my experience that there is a code of silence that shrouds such happenings," he wrote. "No one wants to get anyone 'in trouble.' This inmate mentality sometimes known as the honor of thieves has no place among men who have come to know themselves

as a community, as brothers."

Steele went on to explain how to explain his reasons for eliminating social gatherings, which usually occur on weekends and last until 2 a.m. when parietal hours end.

"Since we are not in fact treating Morrissey Manor as a home by taking pride in it and taking care of it, it seems fitting that we have no further social gatherings in the dorm for the rest of the semester," he wrote.

Steele and the dorm's assistant rectors did not return

phone calls made Thursday.

Some residents said they did not see a connection between vandalism and parietals.

"Parietals should not be a punishment, but they should be for privacy and safety," said sophomore Mike Haggerty.

Junior Michael Miranda said he and students were annoyed by the new restrictions. "Out of a dorm of nearly 300 people, that's kind of a large amount of people to punish for a few incidents," he said.

see PARIETALS/page 9

Rathert issue not resolved

By SARAH NESTOR
Saint Mary's Editor

Saint Mary's suspension of security officer Belinda Rathert on Nov. 7 remains unresolved, Rathert said Thursday.

The officer is on an unpaid suspension from the College pending the provision of information to be given to Human Resources Director Debra Kelly.

"As far as I know, at this point I am on unpaid suspension but I expect the College to terminate me," Rathert said.

Rathert claims that Kelly suspended her because Rathert's college transcripts were missing from her personnel file and until there was verification of Rathert's degree from Indiana University Southeast, Rathert claims the College told her she would be suspended from her duties.

According to the disciplinary procedures in the College's employee handbook "predetermined standards of performance and conduct are established in all departments of the College" and "when an employee does not observe these standards, either through lack of knowledge or with intent, the supervisor will react to these situations by using a system of progressive discipline."

The handbook also further states that "the normal steps in this disciplinary system are: oral warning, written reprimand, disciplinary layoff and termination."

In Rathert's case, the College is investigating whether or not Rathert misrepresented herself to the

see SECURITY/page 3

Seniors say 'bye' to stadium

By JETAUN DAVIS
News Writer

As the Notre Dame football team prepares to play Rutgers in the final home football game of the season Saturday, Notre Dame seniors said they realize that the clock is ticking toward the end of their college years.

"I am going to be really sad on Saturday," said senior Kate Mosesso.

Though not every senior holds an emotional bond with Notre Dame football, many of them said they are having difficulty coming to grips with the fact that this game will be their final football game as Notre Dame undergraduate students. The aspect of Notre Dame football that they will miss the most, many said, is the unique atmosphere of the entire weekend.

"I am going to miss doing the Irish jig with my friends and throwing marshmallows during timeouts," said senior Meg Wallace said. "I will definitely miss laughing hysterically at that one usher that ducks with fear every time the marshmallows come out."

But senior traditions and friendly jokes are not the only aspects that will be missed, students said. Seniors said it will be particularly hard to bid farewell to this specific season, which has been marked with such increased enthusiasm and victory under new head coach Tyrone Willingham. Although seniors witnessed a successful season in 2000 when Notre Dame went to the Fiesta Bowl, students say this season stands far above that of two years ago.

"The new West Coast offense is what really makes the games crunk," said senior James Scarborough. "Over my past three years, everyone new what play



LISA VELTE/The Observer

Students cheer for the Irish at a home game against Michigan earlier in the season. Saturday's football game against Rutgers will be the last home game for seniors.

Davie would run — straight down the middle."

Many seniors said they are upset because they have only had one year with Notre Dame football while under the direction of Willingham and his staff.

"I'm glad that he was here for my last year," Mosesso said. "I wish I was going to be around to see more of him."

Though they appreciate being a part of this era, students said, they are sad that it is over so soon for them. This year's senior class will make up the first alumni members of the "return to glory" phenomenon, but students said this distinction does not ease the transition from student to graduate.

"Coming back for games still won't be the same not sitting in the student section," Mosesso said.

In fact, to extend their time with the "return to glory" era, many of the seniors are planning their trips to the bowl game that

is much anticipated.

Although other years were not marked by such excitement and change, students said they still have unforgettable memories from their first three undergraduate seasons.

"The Boston College game my freshman year where the squirrel running into the end zone was the highlight," said senior Kyla Davis.

Senior Dan Hoople also chose a freshman year game — the Nebraska game — as his favorite.

"Their fans redded out the Stadium, but the game was definitely one to remember as well," Hoople said.

Other seniors, however, could not pinpoint a specific game as their favorite.

"All of them" are Wallace's favorite, she said, "because I always have fun at the games with my friends."

Contact Jetaun Davis at
jdavis7@nd.edu

Lawsuit threatens ACE

By SHEILA FLYNN
News Writer

A current federal lawsuit charges that government funding for Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) program is unconstitutional, blurring the separation of church and state.

The suit was filed Oct. 3 on behalf of the American Jewish Congress (AJC) in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., against the Corporation for National and Community Service, which directs the AmeriCorps program that finances ACE. Because these programs receive federal money that extends to ACE and two other religiously affiliated organizations, AJC said, the government is paying for religious education, and it is this controversial allocation of funds which is spurring the protest.

The AJC case is being handled by Irvin B. Nathan, Daniel Pariser and Sarah Kotler of the Washington law firm Arnold & Porter.

"We have made it clear from the outset that we do not object to the program [ACE] as such, provided they're only teaching secular subjects," said Marc Stern, assistant executive director of the AJC in New York.

But the problem, Stern said, is that ACE volunteers teach religion. The lawsuit seeks an injunction against further use of federal funds to finance such religious instruction in sectarian schools.

ACE participants commit to a two-year service program, teaching in underprivileged Catholic schools across the southern United States.

see LAWSUIT/page 6

INSIDE COLUMN

Names in a mental Rolodex

"Er... hi. My name's Will, I'm from Siegfried, originally from Ohio, I like to read, I like to write and I'm crazy. In other words, I'm considering PLS."

I've lost track of how many times I've said that phrase, or some variant of it, over my admittedly short time here under the Dome. What I do know, though, is that each time I said that, I supposedly made a new acquaintance. The thing is, my brain has the memory retention capability of an amoeba or some other one-celled icky thing they yell at us about in biology.



Will Puckett

News Production

So if your name's Katie, not to pick on Katie Staden, but anyways, you're probably listed somewhere in my broken mental Rolodex as "that one girl whose name starts with a K." Obviously, this leads to problems when dealing with more than one person whose name begins with K, like Katie, Katie and Katie. (Are there other names that start with a K?) Since I don't think the University will limit enrollment to 26 people anytime soon, I guess I'm a lost cause on that front.

Maybe the key is trying to memorize AIM screen names. That'll work just great. I can go around calling everyone stuff like "fightingirish327283963434" and "sprklygurl823592" all the time. What are those people who make themselves "firstnamelastname" just because they can try to do, confuse me?

Then there's the people who apparently know me from somewhere or other, maybe from "that one class/meeting/dinner/party/other activity," assuming of course that I remember that exact same instant in time when we both regurgitated our "vital information" as if it were toxic and would devour our insides if we didn't spill it. I'm beginning to think that's the real reason behind acid reflux. At any rate, it's really pretty rare to remember all that stuff, let alone call it up on demand.

So if you're going to class, at a party, wherever — and the best friend of the roommate of the person who dated the person you sat next to in freshman year composition shows up, don't be astonished when they don't jump up and down screaming your name at first sight. Well, if they do, I would run. But otherwise, give 'em a break, and let them slide by with an "ah, uh, hey, howyadoing?" at first before breaking a chair over their head and reintroducing yourself. Maybe I'm just vainly hoping that by the time I'm a junior or something, people won't expect me to know the names of all 10,000 or so people here, but hey, a naive freshman can dream, right?

I hope so, because I need to get to study group with irish-leprechaun28395832.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Will Puckett at wpuckett@nd.edu.

CORRECTIONS

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

WHAT'S INSIDE

CAMPUS NEWS	WORLD & NATION	BUSINESS NEWS	VIEWPOINT	SCENE	SPORTS
Lecture and panel discuss the death penalty in America	United States announces capture of top al-Qaida terrorist	United Airlines campaigns for loan to avoid bankruptcy	Senate must enforce its rules to be taken seriously	Chicago offers an impressive artistic side to city visitors	Insider profiles senior football players
Judges and other experts examine the merits and problems of the death penalty, including moral issues for courts.	U.S. officials announce that Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, the al-Qaida chief of operations, is in U.S. custody.	United Airlines and its unions appeal to the government for monetary help to stem downward financial spiral.	The Observer editorial examines the failure of the Student Senate to abide by its own actions and consequences of this weakness.	Scene introduces readers to the exhibits, merits and unique features of the Art Institute of Chicago, especially Italian Renaissance pieces.	This week's Irish Insider highlights each senior member of the football team before they take the field for the last time Saturday.
page 11	page 5	page 7	page 12	page 15-16	Insider

WHAT'S HAPPENING @ ND

- ◆ Open panel discussion with Sheila Murphy and Darrin Belousek "The Death Penalty and the Work of the Sant'Egidio Community" Noon to 1:30 p.m. at Center for Social Concerns
- ◆ Philosophy Colloquia Series with Ernan McMullin, C.S.C. "van Fraassen's Unappreciated Realism" 3 p.m. in Room 220, Malloy Hall
- ◆ Lecture with Lillis O Laoire: "Warmth, Cold, Kinship and Friendship: Aspects of Irish Language Metaphorical Worldview" 3 p.m. in Room 424, Flanner Hall
- ◆ Lecture with Peter Eisenman: "Architecture Matters" 4 p.m. in Room 104, Bond Hall
- ◆ Saturday Scholar Series with Meredith Gill "Art and the Religious Imagination" 9:30 a.m. Saturday in Hesburgh Center Auditorium
- ◆ Theatre directed by Wendy Arons: "How I Learned to Drive" 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 2:30 p.m. Sunday in Washington Hall

WHAT'S HAPPENING @ SMC

- ◆ 18th Saint Mary's College High School Choir Festival 8:30 a.m to 4:30 p.m. in O'Laughlin Auditorium and Little Theatre
- ◆ Senior Recital with Cindy Miller 2:30 p.m. Sunday in Little Theatre

WHAT'S GOING DOWN

- Bus hits street sign**
NDSP received a report Wednesday of a bus backing into traffic sign on Notre Dame Avenue.
- Student vehicle towed**
A student's vehicle was towed Wednesday from the E03 Visitor Lot for a parking violation.
- Employee transported to hospital**
A University employee was transported by ambulance Wednesday from South Dining Hall to Memorial Hospital for treatment of an illness.
- Student bike stolen**
A student reported the theft of her bike Wednesday from outside Hayes-Healy Center between 9:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. There are no suspects.
- Two cars collide on Juniper Road**
NDSP responded to a two-car accident Wednesday on Juniper Road. There were no injuries reported.

Compiled by NDSP Crime Blotter.

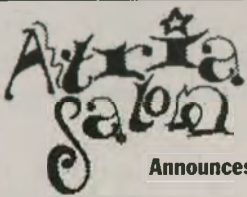
WHAT'S COOKING

North Dining Hall	South Dining Hall	Saint Mary's Dining Hall
Today Lunch: Buffalo chicken lasagna, meatball with sauce, Hawaiian pizza, pretzel sticks, roast top round, champagne rice pilaf, cherry crisp, baked Cajun pollock, cheese & vegetable pie, long grain & wild rice, winter-blend vegetables, oatmeal, bacon, sausage, gravy & biscuits, hash browns, grilled turkey on kaiser, snow peas & noodles, California Eldorado casserole	Today Lunch: Meatball, baked cheese ravioli, Mexican beef pizza, pretzel sticks, macaroni & cheese, cauliflower, BBQ chicken, grilled tuna with lemon, turkey breast, bread stuffing, long grain & wild rice, grilled chicken, reuben sandwich, seasoned fries, onion rings, BBQ Cantonese pork	No Menu Available
Today Dinner: Buffalo chicken lasagna, provencal sauce, Hawaiian pizza, roasted turkey breast, bread stuffing, peas, cherry crisp, tuna casserole, potato pancakes, hot chunky applesauce	Today Dinner: Meatball, baked cheese ravioli, Mexican beef pizza, pretzel sticks, spinach pie, green bean casserole, turkey noodle casserole, fried perch, roast top round, Cajun chicken breast sandwich, seasoned fries, onion rings, chicken Kung Pao, taco baskets	

LOCAL WEATHER	TODAY		TONIGHT		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
	HIGH	39	HIGH	39	HIGH	43	HIGH	40	HIGH	34	HIGH	31
	LOW	30	LOW	30	LOW	43	LOW	28	LOW	30	LOW	19

Atlanta 48 / 32 Boston 52 / 45 Chicago 39 / 31 Denver 69 / 39 Houston 67 / 42 Los Angeles 78 / 54 Minneapolis 37 / 29 New York 56 / 42 Philadelphia 57 / 39 Phoenix 85 / 56 Seattle 55 / 40 St. Louis 45 / 33 Tampa 70 / 45 Washington 55 / 40

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OFFER EXPIRES 11-30-02

Security

continued from page 1

College, which is subject to immediate dismissal, as it would be considered fraud in securing employment.

"It was unfortunate that this had to occur. It could have been handled in a more professional manner. It could have been as simple as a request for college transcripts but that is not how Debbie Kelly handled the situation," Rathert wrote in a statement.

Following Rathert's suspension, the security officer was also banned from campus. The security officer received a letter on Nov. 12 from Kelly confirming the College's "suspension and notice of absolute prohibition from campus."

"The decisions that [interim security director] Rosemarie Harris, human resources and administrators make are to benefit the students. They would not make

a decision that would negatively impact students," College spokeswoman Melanie Engler said. "They keep the campus' best interest in mind."

Rathert was originally given until Nov. 13 to provide the College with the missing information, but was granted an extension by Kelly. According to Rathert, she sought an extension so she could seek legal counsel and hired Shawn Freidman of the Freidman and Associates law firm based in LaPorte, Ind.

Rathert claims Freidman contacted College Counsel Kathy Brickley on Nov. 18, to turn over Rathert's transcripts.

But Engler said Rathert's transcript has still to be turned over to the human resources department.

"[Freidman] told them we have a degree but they told him they don't want me back. They told him they would negotiate a severance package but [accepting] a severance package keeps you from suing," Rathert said.

Rathert has filed a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and plans to file a lawsuit against the College based on claims that sexual harassment and discrimination, unequal wages and a hostile work environment exist at the College.

Kelly refused to comment on the situation.

Contact Sarah Nestor at
nest9877@saintmarys.edu



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Debaters place high in St. Louis

By MEGHAN MARTIN
News Writer

The Notre Dame Debate Team achieved unprecedented success last weekend at the Gateway Invitational debate tournament at Washington University in St. Louis.

The 12 members who participated in the event, led by second-year law student Kate Huetteman, the team's director, debated in two-person teams against pairings from other colleges and universities from the Midwest and the south in both varsity and novice divisions.

After nine rounds of 40-minute Parliamentary-style varsity debates, two of Notre Dame's five teams emerged victorious in the final championship round.

"It was basically complete domination," said Huetteman, who is in her second year of coaching Notre Dame's team. "We came home with two huge sweepstakes trophies."

In a typical final-round scenario, the two competing teams hail from opposing schools, and are therefore required to debate in front of three judges, who will then determine the winning pair, whose school team would be awarded a specific amount of points.

This time, there was no question which school would be awarded the points. "We didn't

have to debate the final round, because we really don't debate against our own team," Huetteman said.

The final round was called off, team points were tallied and the Irish debaters were declared victors.

"At this tournament, we got 26 points towards the National Parliamentary Debate Association's (NPDA) National Sweepstakes," Huetteman said, referring to the governing body of college-level debate. At each regional tournament, held variously throughout the academic year at schools across the country, teams compete in six preliminary rounds of debate before breaking into octafinal, quarter-final, semi-final, and final rounds, each of which they are allotted a set number of points for strong performances.

Senior political science major Maureen Gottlieb and her partner, fellow senior Victoria Fetterman, made up one of the two Notre Dame pairings that made it to the final round, meeting fellow Notre Dame students Meghan Callahan-Peters, a sophomore, and Chris Gallo, a senior and the team's president, in top standing. Both teams were declared unanimous victors by all three judges in their respective semifinal rounds.

Contact Meghan Martin at
mmartin@nd.edu

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR ARTHUR VELASQUEZ, MEMBER, NOTRE DAME BOARD OF TRUSTEES

As members of the Notre Dame community, we are concerned about the struggle between your company Azteca Foods and its workers. Your union workers went out on strike in Chicago on September 30th. They wanted to replace the previous union that did not represent their interests with a democratic union that they controlled. Your company refuses to allow a federal mediator to help resolve this dispute.

While we recognize the troubles one may have in running a highly profitable business, shouldn't workers be treated with dignity and respect? Shouldn't they be allowed to choose their own union which isn't controlled by leaders that could care less what they think?

The Catholic Church has a strong moral teaching on the rights of labor and the benefits of unions. The Church recognizes that unions are vital to the dignity of work and necessary for the appreciation of the value of each person. Pope John Paul II, in his encyclical Centesimus Annus (1992), stated that, "the freedom to join trade unions and the effective action of unions...are meant to deliver work from the mere condition of 'a commodity' and to guarantee its dignity."

Workers have the right to organize and to be at the bargaining table to negotiate their contracts without the threat of loss of wages, benefits, or their jobs. In *Pacem in Terris* (1963), Pope John XXIII wrote that,

It is clear that [the human person] has a right by the natural law not only to an opportunity to work, but also to go about [that] work without coercion. To these rights is certainly joined the right to demand working conditions in which physical health is not endangered, and young people's normal development is not impaired...Furthermore, and this must be especially emphasized, the worker has a right to a wage determined according to criteria of justice and sufficient therefore...to give [workers] and their families a standard of living in keeping with the dignity of the human person.

The value of unions is recognized in Notre Dame's code of conduct, which all licensees are required to follow, which has a clause stating that companies must allow its workers to organize. *Unions play an essential role in benefiting workers, raising their standards of living, and improving their working conditions, while strengthening the community.*

We are asking that you accept the requests made by your workers, recognize the union, UE Local 1159, and allow your workers to be at the bargaining table with Spanish language translation provided.

We are also asking that you allow the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to have access to your plant when a request is made.

We ask you to cease threatening your workers because of their legal picketing and strike. We ask you to stop photographing your workers while they pray at their picket line with a priest.

Please work promptly to develop a contract that benefits both Azteca and the workers who have made the company what it is today.

The Progressive Student Alliance

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Don't forget...the CSC, is sponsoring a dorm competition, giving a cash award of \$1,000 to the hall with the highest percent of participation and \$500 to the runner-up!

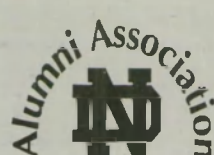


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WORLD & NATION

Friday, November 22, 2002

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER WIRE SERVICES

page 5

U.S. authorities capture al-Qaida's Gulf chief

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Al-Qaida leader Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, the network's chief of operations in the Persian Gulf, has been captured, senior U.S. government officials said Thursday.

Al-Nashiri, a suspected mastermind of the USS Cole bombing in October 2000, was taken in an undisclosed foreign country earlier this month and is now in U.S. custody, officials said, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

He is the highest-ranking al-Qaida operative captured since the CIA, FBI and Pakistani authorities captured Osama bin Laden's operations chief, Abu Zubaydah, in Faisalabad, Pakistan, in March.

U.S. officials had recently said a senior al-Qaida leader had been caught, but they had declined to identify him. On Sunday, Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge said the leader was providing information to his interrogators.

Al-Nashiri is suspected in a number of other al-Qaida terrorist plots, including the 1998 East Africa embassy bombings. He is believed to have recruited his cousin, Azzam, to train in Afghanistan and serve as one of the suicide bombers in the attack on the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi. Al-Nashiri, born in

Mecca, Saudi Arabia, is believed to be in his mid-30s and a longtime associate of bin Laden.

U.S. intelligence believes he was behind the Oct. 6 attack on the French tanker off the coast of Yemen that left one crewman dead, said a U.S. defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Al-Nashiri oversaw the purchase and transport of explosives, the leasing of safe houses and the planning and financing of attacks, the official said.

He has also traveled under a number of other names, including Umar Mohammed al-Harazi and Abu Bilal al-Makki. U.S. officials believe he was in Ghazni, Afghanistan, around the time the war began there in October 2001. He is thought to have moved to Pakistan when the Taliban fell, and he may have gone to Yemen in recent months. Some tribesmen in Yemen, however, said he had gone to Malaysia.

In the Cole attack, U.S. officials have said al-Nashiri gave telephone orders to the bombers from the United Arab Emirates. He then fled to Afghanistan.

In addition to the Cole attack, officials say he has been involved with a number of plots targeting the U.S. Navy in the past three years.

He is thought to be behind a nearly identical attempt to



Lorie Triplett, the wife of USS Cole sailor Andrew Triplett, and her 4-year-old daughter, Savannah, at the USS Cole Memorial at Norfolk Naval Base on Oct. 12, 2001, in Norfolk, Va. Seventeen USS Cole sailors were killed in a terrorist attack October 12, 2000 in Yemen. Two years later, U.S. authorities believe they might have captured the man who organized the operation.

bomb another destroyer, the USS The Sullivans, nine months before the Cole attack, at Aden. That attack failed when the suicide boat, overloaded with explosives, sank.

Most recently, he has been

tied to a failed al-Qaida plot to bomb U.S. and British warships crossing the Strait of Gibraltar, U.S. officials have said. In June, three Saudis were arrested in Morocco in connection with that plot.

He is also suspected of being behind plans to bomb the 5th Fleet Headquarters in Bahrain, a plot revealed in January by another top al-Qaida operative captured by Pakistan after fleeing Afghanistan.

NIGERIA

50 killed as angry mob protests Miss World article

Associated Press

LAGOS

Angry mobs stabbed and set fire to bystanders Thursday in rioting that erupted after a newspaper suggested Islam's founding prophet would have approved of the Miss World beauty pageant. At least 50 people were killed and 200 injured.

The violent demonstrators in the northern city of Kaduna burned churches and rampaged through the streets until hundreds of soldiers were deployed to restore calm and enforce a dusk-to-dawn curfew.

"A lot of people died. We don't know yet exactly how many, more than 50," said Emmanuel Ijewere, the president of the Nigerian Red Cross.

Street demonstrations began Wednesday with the burning of an office of ThisDay newspaper in Kaduna after it published an article questioning Muslim groups that have condemned the Miss World pageant, to be held Dec. 7 in the Nigerian capital, Abuja.

Muslim groups say the pageant promotes sexual promiscuity and indecency. "What would [the prophet] Muhammad think? In all honesty, he would probably have chosen a wife

from among them (the contestants)," Isioma Daniel wrote in Saturday's article.

The newspaper ran a brief front-page apology on Monday, followed by a more lengthy retraction on Thursday, saying the offending passage had run by mistake.

In Thursday's rioting, more than 50 people were stabbed, bludgeoned or burned to death and 200 were seriously injured, Ijewere told The Associated Press.

At least four churches were destroyed, he said.

Many of the bodies were taken by Red

Cross workers and other volunteers to local mortuaries. Many people remained inside homes that were set afire by the demonstrators, Ijewere said.

Shehu Sani of the Kaduna-based Civil Rights Congress said he watched a crowd stab one young man, then force a tire filled with gasoline around his neck and burn him alive. Sani said he saw three other bodies elsewhere in the city.

Alsa Hassan, founder of another human rights group, Alsa Care, said he saw a commuter being dragged out of his car and beaten to death by protesters.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Eleven Israelis killed in bus bomb buried

A 13-year-old Israeli girl who loved to draw was buried at sunset Thursday on a Jerusalem hilltop, one of 11 people killed when a Palestinian man blew himself up on a crowded bus. Four of the dead were children. It was the first attack in Jerusalem since August, and the bomber's hometown — Bethlehem — braced for retaliation. Late Thursday, the army ordered residents of about 30 homes in el-Khader, on the outskirts of Bethlehem, to leave their homes.

Things look dark as oil slick spreads

Waves of black sludge from a major oil spill washed ashore amid high winds and driving rain Thursday, tarring new stretches of northwest Spain's scenic coastline and further threatening the region's multimillion-dollar fishing industry. The regional government extended a ban on fishing and shellfish harvesting declared Saturday, when

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

One million to lose employment benefits

Jo-Anne Hurlston can't find a job after nearly six months of searching, even with her master's degree and experience in education, human resources and the hospitality industry. She's one of nearly 1 million unemployed workers across the country who will start losing jobless benefits three days after Christmas because Congress failed to grant an extension before leaving for the year.

Seattle gives thumbs up to monorail project

Seattle voters gave the go-ahead for a monorail that would streak quietly across the city's skyline. The \$1.7 billion, 14-mile expansion of Seattle's landmark monorail was approved by the city's residents by a mere 877 votes out of about 189,000 cast, according to Election Day totals made official on Wednesday. "I think it's going to put Seattle back on the map as the pioneer city that we are," said one of the chief supporters of the idea, Patrick Kylen.

DEA goes wild over ecstasy drug rings

Saying teenage use of Ecstasy is reaching "epidemic" levels, U.S. authorities planned to boost efforts to stamp out rings making and selling club drugs. The Drug Enforcement Administration expected to double such investigations as part of "Operation X-Out". Currently, about 5 percent of the DEA's major investigations involve club drugs such as Ecstasy and the so-called "date-rape" drugs Rohypnol and GHB, or gamma hydroxybutyrate.

Harvard mulls ban on offensive language

Harvard Law School is considering a ban on offensive speech after a series of racially charged incidents, raising fears that the rules will inhibit the kind of sharp-edged intellectual combat so famously depicted in the movie "The Paper Chase." In the meantime, the school is also offering first-year students a new course to help them "manage difficult conversations" and learn how to speak with sensitivity on touchy issues such as race and gender.

Lawsuit

continued from page 1

During the summers of these two years, the ACE workers study at Notre Dame in its Master of Education program. During the school years, they live together with small communities of other ACE participants, and the program encourages the fostering of spirituality in this living environment, advocating attendance at daily Mass and prayer services.

ACE volunteers teach secular subjects and religion, but the program maintains that teachers are not paid by AmeriCorps for time spent teaching theological subjects.

"Some ACE teachers do not teach religion, but some do and we firmly believe that they do that apart from any AmeriCorps support," said Matt Storin, associate vice president of news and information at the University.

In a statement, the University said, "This action rests on the separation of church and state; in fact, since the beginnings of ACE religious activities have been specifically, systematically and scrupulously separated from the AmeriCorps Education Award program for which some ACE participants are eligible."

Stern, however, said this strict separation is not the case.

"First of all, that's something that the corporation has claimed, but it surfaced for the first time after about a year of negotiations," Stern said.

"The time cards themselves make no such claim. The list of teacher assignments makes no notice of people assigned to teach reli-

gion. Some only teach religion, and there is no indication those hours are off the clock."

AmeriCorps has yet to respond to the suit.

"We filed the complaint, and they may have up to 60 days to file an answer from the time they were served," Stern said. He expected a response from AmeriCorps around Dec. 3.

Whenever the case goes to court, however, Storin said the ACE program is considerably optimistic.

"Notre Dame's ACE program consistently has been judged one of AmeriCorps, most successful programs, based on its significance and measurable

impact in disadvantaged schools throughout the nation and because it is providing the nation with a stream of highly educated and committed young teachers at a time of great demand for them," the University's statement said.

Storin said, "We feel we have a very strong argument to make in the court."

Recent legislation supports this confidence. Several cases barring federal funding for education in nonpublic schools were overturned within the past few years.

In 1997, the Supreme Court reversed two previous 1985 decisions in *Agostini v. Felton*.

The cases, filed in Michigan and New York, disputed the use of state money to pay teachers working in nonpublic schools, and the original decision deemed this financial situation unconstitutional.

The Supreme Court overturned the rulings in 1997, however, stating, "What has changed since we decided *Ball* and *Aguilar* is our understanding of the criteria used to assess whether aid to religion has an impermissible effect."

In 2000 and 2002, the trend continued toward allowing slight financial transgressions of the separation between church and state. Several

Supreme Court decisions ruled that state subsidizing of non-public education was constitutional, as long as aid was provided in an evenhanded manner.

Despite all this support for religious education funding, however, Stern said the AJC will still push to ensure that "teachers not be allowed to teach religion" in federally-funded programs.

"I think we have a good shot," Stern said. "But I've learned over the years not to get too confident."

Contact Sheila Flynn at sflynn2@nd.edu



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THE
OBSERVER

BUSINESS

Friday, November 22, 2002

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER WIRE SERVICES

page 7

MARKET RECAP

Market Watch November 21

Dow Jones	↑	
8,845.15		+222.14
NASDAQ	↑	
1,467.55		+48.20
S&P 500	↑	
933.76		+19.61
AMEX	↑	
826.21		+2.55
NYSE	↑	
493.12		+8.69

TOP 5 VOLUME LEADERS

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
CISCO SYSTEMS (CSCO)	+5.98	+0.86	15.24
NASDAQ-100 INDEX (QQQ)	+3.70	+0.99	27.73
INTEL CORP (INTC)	+5.54	+1.06	20.21
NORTEL NETWORKS (BTSC)	+8.16	+0.12	26.25
LUCENT TECH (NDRU)	+10.47	+0.47	31.10

IN BRIEF

U.S. economic stabilization predicted

A yardstick of U.S. economic activity was unchanged in October, halting a decline that began in June and suggesting the nation's poor financial health may be stabilizing.

Separately, the Labor Department said Thursday that weekly jobless claims fell to their lowest level in four months.

The news helped the Dow rise more than 222 points to close at its highest level in three months.

The Dow closed at 8,845.15, up 2.6 percent, after its biggest one-day gain since Oct. 11. The Nasdaq had an even bigger percentage gain, rising 3.4 percent to 1,467.55.

The nation's gradually improving employment outlook helped offset weaker consumer attitudes last month, leaving the Conference Board's Index of Leading Economic Indicators flat at 111.4. It fell a revised 0.4 percent in September.

Leading service provider to hike rates

MCI, the nation's second-largest long-distance company, will raise rates sharply on some calling plans beginning Dec. 1, a move that analysts said was an attempt to steer customers to its more lucrative packages of services.

WorldCom spokeswoman Claire Hassett said the price increase, which raises some per-minute rates to 9 cents from 5 cents, affects only a small percentage of MCI's 20 million customers and is designed to remain level with the rest of the industry.

The rate hike defies predictions by MCI's competitors that WorldCom, which filed for bankruptcy protection in July amid an accounting scandal, would slash prices in an already depressed telecommunications market if it's allowed to emerge from bankruptcy.

Still, rival AT&T Corp. had harsh comments for MCI.

"There certainly is room for rational pricing to find its way back into long distance, but these price hikes are extreme to say the least," AT&T spokesman Gary Morgenstern said.

UA needs loan to stay flying

◆ United Airlines plans to obtain a \$1.8 billion loan

Associated Press

CHICAGO

Cash-strapped United Airlines, running out of time to avoid taking its restructuring into bankruptcy court, stepped up its campaign Thursday for government help.

A day after a critical agreement with machinists in efforts to cut companywide labor costs by \$1.1 billion annually, United and its unions issued a new appeal to the federal panel considering its application for a \$1.8 billion loan guarantee.

The airline delivered more than 42,000 letters from United employees, suppliers and allies to the Air Transportation Stabilization Board's offices in Washington, urging that the cash guarantee be granted.

Representatives of the pilots, machinists, flight attendants, salaried employees and management groups all spoke briefly with staff members of the ATSB to reinforce the importance of the world's second-largest airline and the consequences a bankruptcy filing would have.

"We've had letter-writing campaigns before but we've never generated this kind of vibes, which shows the strong feelings the employees have," said spokesman Joe Hopkins of the Elk Grove Village, Ill.-based airline.

It's not known whether the three-man board can be swayed by lobbying, including pressure from congressional delegations in Illinois and several other large states where United is a major employer.

But the stakes are enormous for United, which is losing more than \$7 million a day and is thought to be on a pace



AFP

United Airlines flights arrive at Denver International Airport on Aug. 9, 2000. UAL Corp., parent of money-losing United Airlines, is in talks with the government to arrange a \$1.8 billion loan to avoid bankruptcy.

to run out of cash early next year.

The immediate urgency is a Dec. 2 debt payment of \$375 million, although that carries a grace period of 10 business days which expires Dec. 16.

In a separate effort to drum up financial aid, chief executive Glenn Tilton was in Rio de Janeiro on Thursday seeking help from United's partners in the Star Alliance, a cooperative worldwide network of 14 airlines that share passengers and revenue.

Investors remain hopeful, as evidenced by the latest spurt in United's stock. Shares in parent company UAL Corp. rose 22 cents, or 7 percent, to close at \$3.32 on the New

York Stock Exchange after opening more than 24 percent higher. They are still down three-fourths in value since the start of the year.

While awaiting the ATSB decision and hoping machinists ratify their tentative agreement next Wednesday, United is trying to obtain more financial help from its vendors and identifying additional cuts to round out its plan for \$5.8 billion in labor cuts over 5 1/2 years.

Even with the machinists' pact — entailing \$1.5 billion in wage reductions for 13,000 United mechanics and 24,500 baggage handlers, customer-service agents and reservations

workers — announced cuts are some \$400 million short of the targeted total.

Standard & Poor's airline analyst Philip Baggaley said it still appears "more likely than not" that the federal board will reject United's application, forcing the airline to file for bankruptcy protection. But he told investors in a research note that "there remains a significant minority chance that United will manage to avoid Chapter 11."

He said that if machinists approve the concessionary deal next Wednesday, political pressure on the ATSB to approve the loan guarantee will increase.

Vivendi rejects \$15 billion bid

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES

Billionaire Marvin Davis, who at one time has tried to buy CBS, NBC and MGM, has made an unsolicited \$15 billion bid for the entertainment assets of debt-burdened Vivendi Universal.

Vivendi, the French parent of Universal Studios and Universal Music Group, has been shedding assets but said Thursday that its movie studio, record label, theme parks and other entertainment units were not for sale. Davis, however, said he expected to keep talking with the company.

Under the proposal, Davis would also assume \$5 billion in debt. His rep-

resentatives met with Vivendi Universal executives in Paris on Nov. 5 and soon after, the company rejected the bid, Vivendi spokesman Alain Delrieu said.

In a statement issued in Los Angeles, Davis said he felt the offer was a "full and fair value for the assets and VU's response has been positive." He said additional meetings with Vivendi have been scheduled for early next year.

Sources familiar with the negotiations said Vivendi rejected the offer as too low and might be open to a higher bid or to selling some of the assets or spinning off the entertainment divisions and keeping a minority interest.

But any deal faces a huge obstacle in

the form of Barry Diller, who owns 1.5 percent of Vivendi Universal Entertainment, the company that was formed last year to run Vivendi's U.S.-based entertainment operations, excluding the music group and video game divisions.

VU Entertainment was formed after Vivendi bought the entertainment assets of USA Networks, which was owned by Diller.

Any sale to Davis could also founder because of restrictions Diller negotiated as part of that sale. If Vivendi sells any of the entertainment assets, it may have to pay Diller as much as \$2 billion to cover taxes that would become due on the original deal.

WEEKEND EVENTS

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

Author Events:

Khalil F. Matta Ph.D., ND College of Business Administration, will be signing copies of *Thou Shalt Not Invest Foolishly* on Friday, November 22nd from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Ted Mandell, ND professor of Film, Television, & Theatre, will be signing copies of *Heart Stoppers and Hail Marys*, on Football Friday Home Games from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

John Heisler, ND Director of Sports Information, will be signing copies of *Quotable Rockne* on Saturday, November 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Paul Hornung will be signing copies of the *Magnificent Seven: the Championship that Built the Lombardi Dynasty* on Saturday, November 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Patrick Monaghan will be signing copies of *Because They Never Do* on Saturday, November 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

August Jennewein, ND '80 will be signing copies of *Slow Down: A Journey in Words and Photography* on Saturday, November 23rd from 10:00 a.m. to Noon.

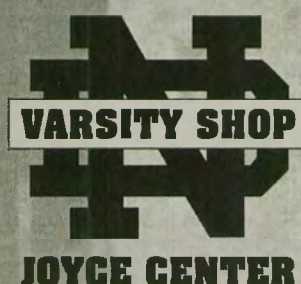
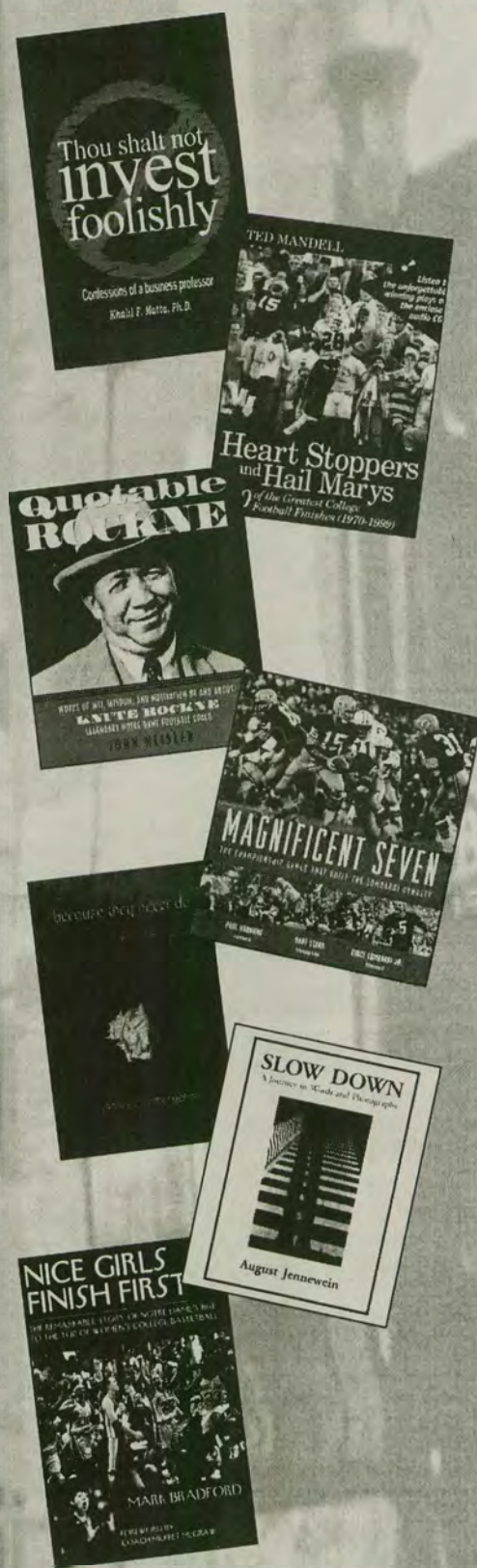
Mark Bradford will be signing copies of *Nice Girls Finish First: The Remarkable Story of Notre Dame's Rise to the Top of Women's College Basketball*, Saturday, November 23, 10:00 a.m. to Noon.

Musical Events:

The Undertones, Notre Dame acappella group, will perform on Saturday in the Bookstore one hour following the game.

Following the school pep rally, the **Liturgical Choir of the University of Notre Dame** will perform in the store's lobby on Friday, November 22nd at 7:30 p.m.

Enjoy the upbeat music of **Joe Probst** on Saturday, November 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to Noon.



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Saturday 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Sunday 9:00 am - 10:00 pm

Varsity Shop (in the Joyce Center)
Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday 8:00 am - 7:00 pm
Sunday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Oxford poet highlights influences of Blake

By JUSTIN KRIVICKAS
Assistant News Editor

Tom Paulin, a poet and Lecturer at Oxford University's Hertford College, spoke as a guest lecturer about the importance of William Blake's poetry to three influential men on Thursday.

Paulin, describing the genius of William Blake, said, "He was an aristocrat in the slum ... [Blake was] a hefty extrava-

gance of invention."

Ignored in his own time, it was not till after Blake's death that his work was appreciated, Paulin said.

The lecture, entitled "William Blake, Irish Visionary: His Influence on Yeats, Joyce and Van Morrison," explained the impact Blake has had on James Joyce, W.B. Yeats and Van Morrison.

Blake's poems bring to mind God, demons and the fatherland, Paulin said. He discussed how

Blake used poetry as a median to present the frustrations and tribulations he had with English rule.

"Blake was an inspiration to the Irish people," Paulin said. He said Blake attempted to present to the masses a complex collection of poetry with extensively detailed illustrations. Yeats greatly admired his work and was influenced by his style, Paulin said.

Paulin told the attentive crowd how musician Van Morrison was

heavily influenced by both Yeats and Blake. He said Van Morrison was so greatly inspired by Yeats that he recorded an entire album using a selection of Yeats' poems. Because of copyright restrictions and the lack of support from Yeats' surviving heirs, however, the album still has not been released to the public.

Like Blake, Paulin said, Morrison tries to express the concept of Eden and how it would appear to us. His music is the result of fussing Scotch, Irish and England fussing with the American vernacular.

But in addition to Van Morrison's influences, Paulin explained his faults.

"On paper, the lyrics don't work well," Paulin said. But with the wide range he employs to pronounce the words he sings, Paulin said, Van Morrison has the ability to create a great work of art. He said both faith

and vision are shown as forms of healing, and voice is a form of freedom. Like many of Blake's poems, Van Morrison music is always searching for something that's been lost, Paulin said. He said Van Morrison creates a Blakian vision with his music, and as such, one can argue that Blake is a folkloric artist.

Paulin has edited numerous award winning collections of poetry, including "The Faber Book of Political Verse" and "The Faber Book of Vernacular Verse." His first book of poetry, "A State of Justice," received the Somerset Maugham Prize in 1977. Paulin published a new book last year, "The Invasion Handbook."

His lecture was sponsored by the Keough Institute for Irish Studies.

Contact Justin Krivickas at
jkrivick@nd.edu

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Parietals

continued from page 1

Residents say they were under the impression that the new parietal hours could change if Steele gets a confession from the people responsible for the broken stall door.

However, sophomore Brian

Murphy was not convinced that the punishment would work.

"I don't think moving parietals back will deter vandalism," he said.

According to Steele's e-mail, the Office of Student Affairs is considering a dorm-wide fine.

Contact Helena Payne at
payne.30@nd.edu



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Judge shares anecdotes on capital punishment

By JIM GAFFEY
News Writer

Sheila Murphy, former presiding judge of Cook County, Ill., spoke Thursday in the Hesburgh Center Auditorium about her perspectives on capital punishment in America.

The lecture, "An American Paradox: A First Hand Account of Justice on Death Row," included Murphy's impressions of the death penalty and a retelling of her personal experiences related to capital punishment.

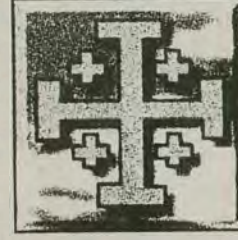
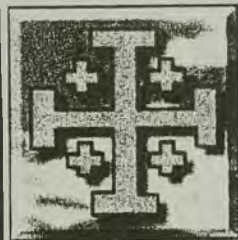
Murphy began her wide range of experience in the judicial system as a public defense lawyer when capital punishment was illegal in the United States. She represented several cases that called for capital punishment but never led to prosecution. She later became a Cook County judge and presided over many controversial cases involving capital punishment.

One of the most famous of these cases was that of Verneal Jimerson, an black man who faced the death penalty on charges of the rape and double murder of a young Chicago couple. Testimony against Jimerson was brought forth by a woman who, as it turns out, had been manipulated into presenting evidence to the court. Evidence against Jimerson mounted and, when the case was nearly closed, Murphy ordered a DNA test that eventually exonerated him.

Jimerson was a person of low income, low IQ and no prior criminal record — a racial and socio-economic profile suggestive, Murphy said, of the bias inherent to capital punishment cases. She said the majority of criminals on death row are either minorities or individuals from low-income backgrounds. Murphy said the unfairness of America's administration of the death penalty makes it "a fatal lottery," one that unjustly persecutes minorities and the poor.

"If you are poor, you will not be able, in most cases, to get a lawyer to represent your case well," she said.

Contact Jim Gaffey at jgaffey@nd.edu



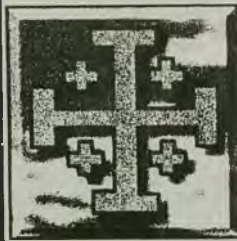
Come Meet

America's envoy to the Vatican, Ambassador Jim Nicholson

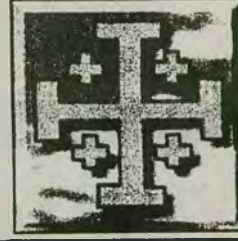
Ask Ambassador Nicholson your questions
about the job of representing the U.S. abroad

Friday, November 22, 2002, 2:30-4:00 pm
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Illinois judge, panel examine death penalty

By NATALIE BAILEY
News Writer

A forum Thursday night in the Hesburgh Center Auditorium investigated the humanity of the United States' justice system, featuring a lecture by Illinois district judge Sheila Murphy followed by a panel discussion with other experts.

"As Americans, we have to hang our heads in shame," said

Murphy, retired presiding judge of the 6th municipal district circuit court of Cook County. "The death penalty is such an embarrassment."

"The United States is really quite an outlier in how it uses and abuses the death penalty," Paolo Carozza, law professor at Notre Dame, said.

Twelve countries have outlawed the death penalty and few others actually execute their citizens, the panel said. In recent years, 90 percent of

death penalty executions occurred within Saudi Arabia and the United States. In addition, the United States stood alone in executing the mentally retarded until a Supreme Court ruling in June 2002.

"The basic question is whether the death penalty vio-

lates human dignity, not if it is imposed fairly, just, not if it is not if it makes the victim's family feel better and not if it is an effective punishment," Carozza said.

"It is an existential question just as much as any, who are we and who should we be? We need to look to the world arena to answer these questions."

"As Americans, we have to hang our heads in shame."

Sheila Murphy
Indiana district judge

active stance against the death penalty. In a conference in the 1980's the Bishops were split on the issue. The church found it justifiable to take a life to prevent further harm to others.

"The death penalty corrupts us because we get this sense of righteousness and justice out of it. Law and punishments are not meant to be based on emotions, it has to be based on justice," Frese said.

Charlotte D. Pfeiffer, director of Student and Community Relations at Indiana University, said South Bend was mainly concerned with people of color and mental retardation. She compared Hitler's final solution to exterminate unwanted people in the community with the implementation of the death penalty in the United States.

"Black people are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system. Black people continue to suffer from the remnants of slavery and white people continue to benefit from them," Pfeiffer said. "I am talking about institutional oppression. It is easier to try a person who is not seen as valuable to the community. The usage of the death penalty depends on who the victim is and it depends on who the perpetrator is."

John Maciejczyk, chief deputy prosecutor for

"I can't say the state doesn't have the right to take a life."

Jerome Frese
St. Joseph County Superior Court Judge

Frese said presiding in a district that supports the death penalty, particularly where a unanimous jury recommendation requires the judge to impose the punishment, creates a conflict of interest.

"I can't say the state doesn't have the right to take a life," Frese said. "I also took an oath to follow the law. I cannot prevent state's right to a fair trial."

A practicing Catholic, Frese said the Catholic Church only recently took an

St. Joseph County, seemingly the only proponent of the death penalty in the auditorium, agreed that the death penalty is not implemented uniformly.

Maciejczyk spoke from his experience with the families of the victim's that he has represented in murder trials. He said it was after dealing with murder cases that he found himself to be a strong supporter of capital punishment.

"There are certain crimes where the criminal deserves to die," he said.

Paolo Manicini of Sant'Egidio Community, an organization that works with death row inmates all over the country, said putting the offender to death is not an appropriate or helpful way to deal with the death of a loved one.

"The death penalty never gives the victims back their lives and it never pays back the victims families."

The majority of the panel agreed.

"The greatest love and solidarity calls us to oppose the death penalty," Carozza said.

The discussion will continue with Murphy in a panel discussion on "The Death Penalty and the Work of the Sant'Egidio Community" at noon today at Notre Dame's Center for Social Concerns. Other panelists will include Mancinelli and Darrin Belousek, assistant professor of philosophy at Goshen College.

The events are sponsored by the Sant'Egidio Community, Notre Dame's Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, the office of Campus Ministry, and several other campus and local organizations.

Latino Poets Conference

November 21-23, 2002
Hesburgh Center for International Studies
For further information, visit the website at www.nd.edu/~alcwp/latino or call 574-631-7526

Major contemporary Latino poets will read from their work, debate literary issues, and celebrate Hispanic culture and poetry during the Latino Poets Conference. This unprecedented gathering will take place at the University of Notre Dame November 21-23, 2002. The events include poetry readings, panels on contemporary poetry and translation, Q & A sessions, and an open-mic poetry night. Conferees include renowned award-winning writer Gary Soto as well as the following fine poets, critics, and translators: Francisco Alarcón, Raúl Barrientos, Lisa Chávez, Maurice Kilwein Guevara, and Aleida Rodriguez. The event is sponsored by Institute for Latino Studies, the Creative Writing Program, the Department of English, and the Kellogg Institute for International Studies.

Schedule of Events:

- Friday Nov. 22**
- 2:00 pm** Panel: Discussion of translation issues, moderated by Orlando Menes, with Francisco Alarcón/Francisco Aragón, Raúl Barrientos/Ben Heller, Hesburgh Center C-103
 - 3:15 pm** Reading: Reading of original poetry by Raúl Barrientos with translations by Ben Heller, Hesburgh C-103
 - 4:30 pm** Reading: Reading of original poetry by Francisco Alarcón with translations by Francisco Aragón, Hesburgh Center C-103
 - 8:00 pm** Reading: Lisa Chávez, followed by light reception, Hesburgh Center, Greenfield's Cafe
- Saturday Nov. 23**
- 10:30 am** Panel: Latino Poetry & spirituality, led by Orlando Menes, Hesburgh Center C-103
 - 11:30 am** Student Readings: undergraduate and graduate student poets, Hesburgh Center C-103

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Contact Natalie Bailey at
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VIEWPOINT

page 12

Friday, November 22, 2002

THE OBSERVER

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CONTACT US

OFFICE MANAGER/GENERAL INFO.....631-7471

FAX.....631-6927

ADVERTISING.....631-6900/8840

observad@nd.edu

EDITOR IN CHIEF.....631-4542

MANAGING EDITOR/ASST. ME.....631-4541

BUSINESS OFFICE.....631-5313

NEWS.....631-5323

observer.obsnews.1@nd.edu

VIEWPOINT.....631-5303

observer.viewpoint.1@nd.edu

SPORTS.....631-4543

observer.sports.1@nd.edu

SCENE.....631-4540

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Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief Jason McFarley.

POST OFFICE INFORMATION

The Observer (USPS 599 240) is published Monday through Friday except during exam and vacation periods. A subscription to The Observer is \$100 for one academic year; \$55 for one semester.

The Observer is published at:
024 South Dining Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556

Periodical postage paid at Notre Dame
and additional mailing offices.

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POSTMASTER

Send address corrections to:
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Senate must treat its mission seriously to gain student respect

The Student Senate strives to be taken seriously in its quest to represent the Notre Dame student body.

In its mission to represent students to administrators, Senate assumes both groups acknowledged its privileged role.

But it's evident that voters don't take Student Senate seriously when they elect representatives who cannot fully commit to their positions.

It's evident that some elected members don't view Senate as a serious organization when they are tardy to or absent from meetings while participating in alternative commitments.

And it's evident that Senate can't even take itself seriously when it fails to enforce its own policies.

Earlier this year, senators passed the Attendance Policy Amendment 25-0, requiring the Senate Ethics Committee to issue a warning to any senator who has missed four meetings. Five absences would result in a hearing that could possibly lead to expulsion.

Since then, at least two senators have violated the attendance rule. The Student Senate has taken no disciplinary action.

Attendance at Senate meetings and subcommittee meetings is obviously a crucial responsibility of senators. The organization's own amendment acknowledges the importance of regular attendance and timely arrival. Representatives from each dorm must be present so that they may inform their hall communities of new student government developments. Senators, therefore, should enforce the guidelines they themselves designed.

Student Senate cannot be an effective advocate for students

to change University policies if it does not consistently follow its own.

Students have a right to know how they are being represented in student government. The fact that voters are largely unconcerned about the attendance of student senators not only places the senators in a negative light, but it is also a sign that student government is not viewed as a serious organization that necessitates the attendance of its members.

Fingers can be pointed in many directions in this case: the voters for not caring about the participation of their representatives, the representatives for failing to comply with the rules of Student Senate, senators for not addressing the issue, and finally, Senate leaders for failing to enforce the organization's policy.

It is now imperative that the Student Senate enhances its credibility with the student body. Enforcing its own resolutions is one step toward earning respect from students. If Senate itself doesn't take its policies seriously, how can it begin to expect students and administrators to treat policies regarding pariets and alcohol policy?

The Senate has the power to act as a voice for the students and has done so in the past. In order to be an effective voice for students, members must attend meetings where ideas emerge and work begins. But internal flaws belie external productivity.

It is time for the Senate to iron out its many kinks. The student body deserves a productive Senate that can be taken seriously.

And if Senate doesn't take its own actions seriously, it certainly can't expect anyone else to.

The
Observer
Editorial

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Defending Irish dance

After reading Sheila Flynn's interpretation of Irish dancing as a "cutthroat subculture" in last Friday's Inside Column, we felt a response was needed. As she mentioned, she quit at age 13 and was only exposed to one teacher.

Many other Irish dancers share this campus. As members of the Notre Dame/Saint Mary's Irish Dance Club, we have been blessed to work with quite a few of them. Contrary to Flynn's assertion that her Irish dance instructor fostered an "elitist, condescending attitude" in dancers and that they were bred to hate rival schools, there are dancers from various dance schools in our club. They have competed against each other and yet are dedicated to working and having fun together. For many who have spent years in Irish dance, many strong friendships came from class and competition.

Flynn asserts that Irish dance "is a highly-structured realm." This is true, but why is that bad? The purpose of the accreditation system for Irish dance

teachers is to ensure that teachers have proper knowledge of the music and steps to pass on to their students. This is one of the most admirable aspects of Irish dance, and the fact that this structured

system exists is a testament to the commitment so many people have made to it.

Flynn also mentioned two dancers from her former school (one of the most respected schools in the East) who were "pushed so hard that one now has severe tendonitis and the other has broken or sprained every toe and both ankles at least once." Despite their injuries, both of these dancers happen to be very successful still today; one of them toured with Riverdance and one placed at the World's twice.

Besides, what competitive sport does not have its share of injuries? In fact, Irish dance is one of the best exercises. And it has been said that of all dance genres, Irish dance has the lowest incidence of eating disorders. It is an incredibly healthy activity which fosters

dedication and persistence and instills a great deal of confidence.

Sure, you have your fair share of extreme stage moms and teachers, but that does not mean all are like that. And it is the competitive nature which has created the dancers who are taking the world by storm with shows like Riverdance, now the best-selling video in the world. There are some horrible fathers and extreme coaches in Little League, but that doesn't mean all of Little League is bad.

While we respect Flynn's opinion and do not contest her personal experiences with Irish dance, we feel another opinion should be offered. For many of us, Irish dancing has been a defining and positive part of our lives and our time at Notre Dame. So we would suggest the next time you see Irish dancing, you think not of students embroiled in "countless petty rivalries" but of how amazing it is that a country barely the size of West Virginia has so successfully exported its music and dance to nearly every corner of the world, to accredited schools from Japan to Kenya, from the Czech Republic to Poland.

Kristy Hernandez

co-president

Notre Dame/Saint Mary's Irish Dance Club

Nov. 20



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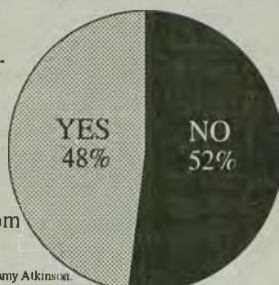
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NDToday/OBSERVER POLL QUESTION

Should Notre Dame reconsider the number of University requirements necessary to graduate?



*Poll appears courtesy of NDToday.com and is based on 155 responses.

Graphic by Jimmy Atkinson.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I won't take my religion from any man who never works except with his mouth."

Carl Sandberg
writer

VIEWPOINT

Friday, November 22, 2002

page 13

Parietals supporters need a taste of reality

So, several times over I've been told that if I don't like it here, I can leave. I've even been called a "bug-brain" by a senile old 1962 Notre Dame alumnus. Well, now it's my turn, but I think I'll pose the attack a little differently.

If you want, like, or support parietals, I don't care if you do like it here, you need to go home to your mother right now and give her a hug.

You need to stay there, nestled in her comforting bosom, until you are ready to come back out here with the rest of us big kids and start living in reality. I came here to interact and learn with a group of independent, intellectual, mature peers. Apparently you came here for kindergarten. This is a college, not pre-school. I don't want you here; you don't want to be here. In fact, chances are both you and your mother wish you were in your comforting, familiar hometown, under her loving wing. Make us all happy — go home.

This campus is enragingly conservative. You know, you can question authority — it is possible. Just because the rule has always been one way, doesn't mean it has to stay that way. What was once a smoothing policy to ease the introduction of the "wretched and to-be-avoided, yet money-wielding and thus acceptable" females to campus has become an embarrassing testimony to your complacency and social immaturity.

But what am I saying? You all agree with me, right? I mean, clearly no college age student would consider manda-

tory gender separation to be a reasonable policy in this age of equal sexes and respect for individuals, right? Oops, how wrong of me, in so many ways. First, equal sexes here at Notre Dame? Yeah right, ask a tenured female professor — if you can find one.

Next, respect for individuals? You needn't look further than our esteemed Office of Student Affairs to see precisely the importance of respect for individual students. But this is beside the point.

The real issue is that about half the students on campus don't agree with me at all. Half of the people you know actually want parietals. Worse than simply being denied an opportunity to grow as a person, they actually request the stagnation of their personal development. Staggering information to any liberated human being indeed.

Armed with excuses like, "It's so convenient that I don't have to worry about my roommate hooking up with his girlfriend every night," or "I like the feeling of privacy and gender community," these super-conservative sissies hold hostage what semblance of the real world can be generated on this campus. What in God's name are these people going to do when they graduate? (Please avoid the obvious conclusions: "Return home" and "Live off their parents' wealth.")

You know the truth. I don't like these people. I don't want to live next door to them when they graduate. I don't want to work at the same office as them. I don't want to have to do the job of raising them from their slightly post-pubescent maturity to that of a real, functioning adult, nor do I want to be nearby during their shock-initiation to adult life.

So my solution is that they leave, and

leave now. They can take a leave of absence — they're free to return when they are no longer sucklings. There will still be a place for them.

Most frustrating of all of this is that I honestly don't believe parietals supporters to be unintelligent. I think that just like most Notre Dame students, they're some of the brightest in the country. Their intrinsic judgment flaws come in a few standard forms, about which I will elaborate.

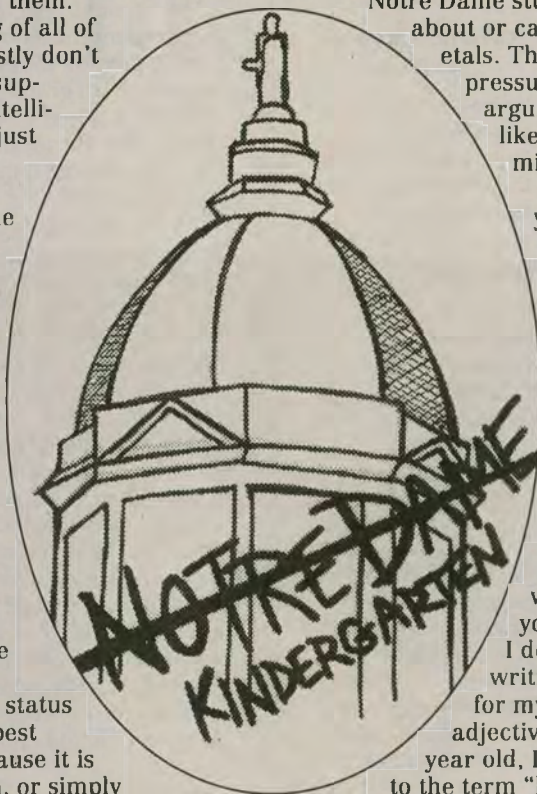
First of these is extreme conservatism, of which I'm sure we have more than a fair representation on campus. This leads the afflicted to nearly always accept the status quo as being the best option simply because it is the current option, or simply because "it's worked so far." This reasoning is flawed. Ask imperial England.

The other common ideological flaw is authoritarianism, my most hated political philosophy, the ethos of tyrants. These bastions of intelligence believe that simply because it is the rule of those in charge, the rule should stand. Included in this group are those who claim that the University will lose some

sort of "private-ness" or will be giving in to the outside influences if it changes its policy. Wake up people, no one but

Notre Dame students knows about or cares about parietals. There's no outside pressure. Find a real argument. Something like, oh, "I'm sad and I miss my mommy."

In closing, if you're extremely conservative, authoritarian, a senile old man, bitter or a parietals supporter catching yourself writing a response about how immature I myself am for writing this very column and the manner in which it was constructed, you can be assured, I don't care. If you're writing about ageism for my application of the adjective "senile" to a 62 year old, I call your attention to the term "bug-brain."



John Little is a senior MIS major who is hoping you're reading with enough of a light heart that you can see his humor and his point. If not, he's sure you're enraged, which is good. His column runs every other Friday. Contact him at jlittle@nd.edu.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Oil spill is a threat to a sustainable future

Tuesday's oil spill along the Spanish coastline, which was covered in the business section of The Observer, deserves much more attention than it was given.

I don't know about you, but "business" is not what comes to mind when I hear of an environmental catastrophe. Although the economic damage to the Spanish people will be immense, there is much more at stake than the fishing industry.

After a disaster such as this, the dynamics of the ecosystem will change dramatically. The spill caused immediate ecological damage and the long term effects, such as alterations to species composition and interaction, may exist for decades to come.

In 1989 an Exxon Valdez tanker dumped nearly 11 million gallons of oil off the coast of Alaska. As of this year, the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council reports that while much progress has been made, the harbor seal, 6

species of waterfowl and the Pacific herring have made no recovery since the spill. Sea otters, clams, intertidal communities and sediments have shown improvements but are still being affected by the remnants of the disaster.

Tuesday's spill dumped 20 million gallons of heavy crude fuel into the ocean, almost twice as much as Exxon Valdez. It is still early to measure the ecological impact, but scientists suspect it to be much worse than the 1989 spill. Neither the economic effects of this catastrophe nor the damage that we humans are inflicting on our planet can be ignored. It is time to start looking beyond our wallets and toward a sustainable future.

Angie Reist
junior
Lyons Hall
Nov. 20

Rape prevention program isn't broad enough

I am writing in regards to Jamie Belcher's news article on Nov. 21 pertaining to the new rape prevention program at Saint Mary's. Initially, I was very impressed that Saint Mary's was adding a new program to combat something that has been neglected for some time by the college. However, after reading the article, I was very alarmed by a very naïve and common misconception about sexual assault stated in the article.

Ms. Belcher describes "one Saint Mary's student who will never fall into that category [of assault victim]" because she already has "10 years experience of karate under her belt." Although the Rape Aggression Defense program and other self-defense programs may make you feel safer, these are not surefire ways to prevent sexual assault. To have the attitude that you are always protected because you know some defensive moves only makes you more vulnerable to the situation. Also, this attitude plays directly into the myth that most sexual assaults occur when some scary man in a ski mask jumps out of a dark alley or behind some bushes.

Unfortunately, in 85 percent of sexual assault situations, the victim knows her attacker. Your first reaction when a friend or boyfriend crosses the line is not to turn into Karate Kid, but to trust that when you say "stop," he will respect your wishes since he supposedly cares about you.

Also, your guard is already let down because you are with a trusted person and with 90 percent of cases involving alcohol, your motor skills are impaired. Therefore, while you're under the influence of alcohol and with a trusted friend, are your defensive moves going to guarantee you never fall into the category of not being able to protect yourself? No.

While it is great that Saint Mary's is working on trying to prevent a problem in only 15 percent of sexual assault scenarios, they need to consider the bigger problem and work on solutions that do not create a false sense of security.

Sarah Alter
class of 2002
New York City
Nov. 21

The art of late Ren

The Art Institute of Chicago features Itali



Judith with the Head of Holofernes by Cristofano Allori

Photo courtesy of Paolo Nannoni

By RANDY N. BELISOMO
Scene Writer

Now at the Art Institute of Chicago, *The Medici, Michelangelo, and the Art of Late Renaissance Florence* traces the historic and artistic legacy of the Medici family and its own dynasty of dominance throughout the sixteenth century. Under Medici reign, Florence blossomed as the epicenter of European art, gestating such masters as Agnolo Bronzino, Benvenuto Cellini, Giambologna and Michelangelo Buonarroti. The exhibition comes to the United States from a showing at the Palazzo Strozzi in Florence, and marks the first presentation of works by all of the pre-eminent Italian painters of the period. The extensiveness of this collection of painting, sculpture, drawing and decorative art from 1537 to 1631 stands as a reflection of the enormity in expanse of Medici rule.

The artists of the period have yet to receive the recognition they deserve from the world at large, especially in the United States, where relatively few of their works are exhibited. For the wider public, the treasures of the Medici dynasty remain something of a mystery.

On the compilation of this exhibition, curator Larry Feinberg said, "we wanted to do a show devoted to this period because many people in America are familiar with the Medici, like Lorenzo the Magnificent, and also early Renaissance painters, for example,

Botticelli, but few are familiar with late Renaissance Florence or as familiar as they should be." This show should change that situation completely.

While current trend in exhibitions dictates focus on a single work or artist, *The Medici, Michelangelo, and the Art of Late Renaissance Florence* is conceived with greater ambition, in which every piece vies for primary focus in this century-spanning collection.

Feinberg said, "I hope the public finds the art so beautiful and the Medici so intriguing that they will be interested in finding out more on these characters." The Art Institute's exhibition, with its 200 works, including eight by Michelangelo, is sure to establish the period and its dynasty once and for all in the public's mind as utterly distinctive.

With its preliminary piece, the exhibition successfully expresses the core of the age and its values. Giambologna's *Venus* statue symbolizes the city of Florence itself. Its fusion of classical ideals and seemingly modern sensuality encompasses the nature of the entire Medici house. The synthesis of the two figures, both *Venus* and *Florence*, parallels the merging dimensions of this developing city in the unmistakable language of the Renaissance.

Throughout the exhibition, portraiture provides the viewer with both historicity and psychological insight into the Medici family. The first Medici patriarch appears in Agnolo Bronzino's *Duke Cosimo I as Orpheus*. Having commissioned the portrait as a wedding gift for his wife, Cosimo is depicted here in nude starkness. His stately figure twists towards the viewer in *figura serpentina* posture, suggesting both political power and erotic eminence. In this posing of Cosimo as Orpheus, one finds the conjoining of ancient classical themes with the governing reality of sixteenth-century Florence.

Cosimo's wife also receives treatment in portraiture; she appears in Bronzino's 1545 *Eleonora of Toledo and Her Son Giovanni*. Bronzino showcases Eleonora's regal stature as an elegant suggestion of her role as the maternal source of future Florentine power. Her position as woman is lauded. Feinberg said, "although by and large women did not have status in society like men, there was a great respect on the part of the Medici for women of intellect and strength." Other such feminine works include Bronzino's 1561 *Laura Battiferra degli Ammanati*, in which the subject, holding a book of Petrarchan sonnets, sits as symbolic successor in talent of the fourteenth-century poet.

There are several drawings featured by Michelangelo, graceful illuminations of the artist's meticulous method of compositional planning. *Candelabrum* of 1537 exemplifies this exacting style; it is part of a recent discovery in a box of eighteenth and nineteenth century designs for lighting fixtures found in the Cooper-Hewitt Museum in New York. This marks the first exhibition of the newly treasured drawings, sources of great international intrigue. The *candelabrum* was probably a Medici commission for the altar of the New Sacristy in the church of San Lorenzo, planned to house the remains of two elder generations of Medici.



Oval plaque showing the Piazza Granucale, painted in 1599-1600 by Bernardino Gaffuri and Jacques Bylvert

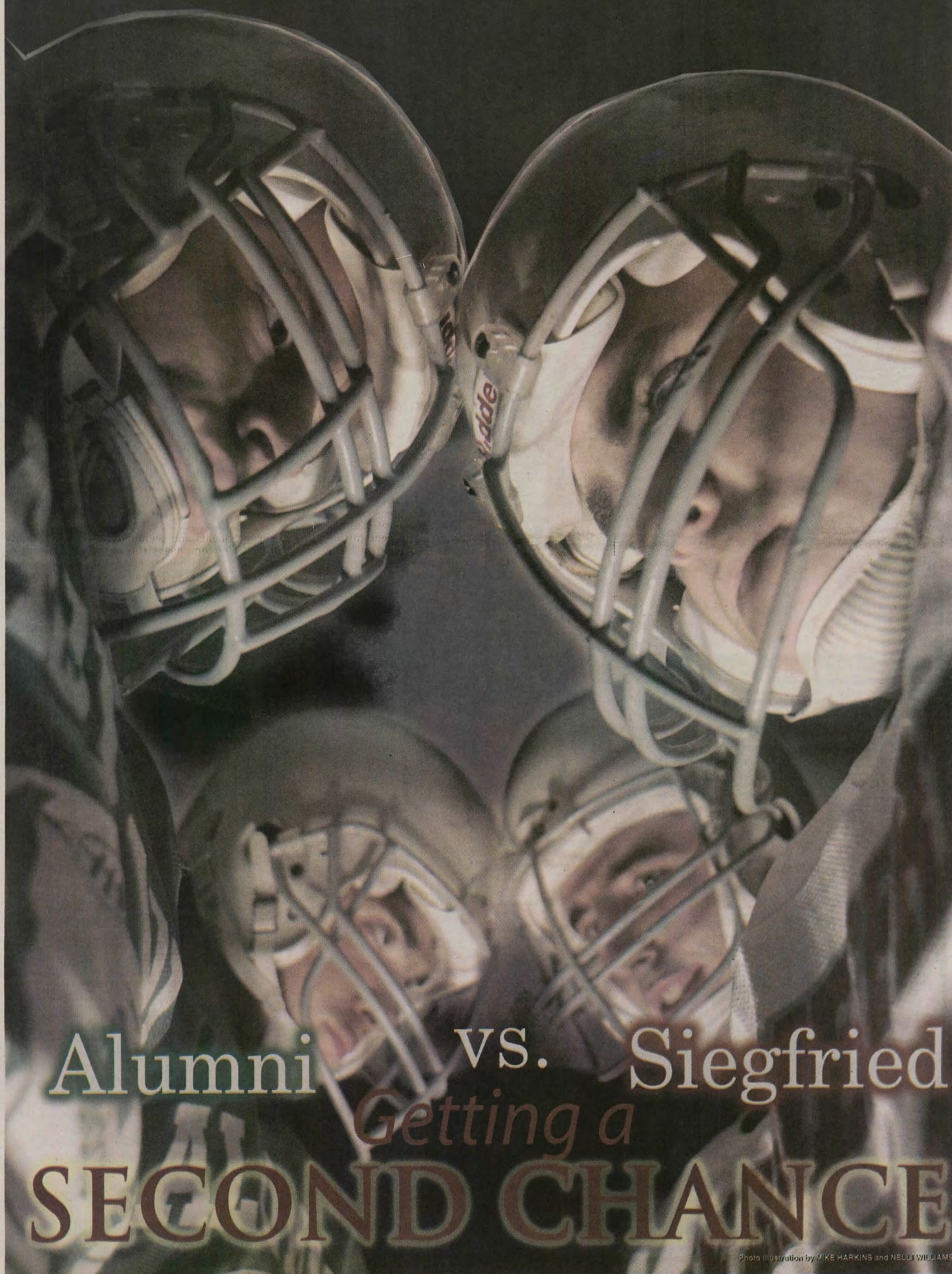
Photo courtesy of Paolo Nannoni

IRISH INSIDER

Friday, November 22, 2002

interhall

THE
OBSERVER



Alumni vs. Siegfried
Getting a
SECOND CHANCE

Photo illustration by MIKE HARKINS and NEILL WILLIAMS

MENS INTERHALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Siegfried gets another shot, Alumni seeks upset

♦ Ramblers return to Stadium for second chance

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

The Siegfried Ramblers and the Alumni Dawgs play for the men's interhall football championship Sunday at 1 p.m. at Notre Dame Stadium.

So who's the favorite? It's difficult to say for certain.

Siegfried is undefeated. Alumni is 5-1. Alumni lost to Morrissey in the regular season, 7-6. Siegfried beat Morrissey in the playoffs, 7-6.

In the end, the biggest advantage might be Siegfried's experience. The Ramblers lost to Dillon in the championship last season. While the Alumni defense has given up just 13 points all year, the Dawgs have not been to the Stadium since they won it all in 1989.

"Last year was an awe-inspiring experience, to be playing in the stadium," Siegfried captain Kyle Reis said. "It was the first time any of us had been there. We came out excited, but we weren't ready. The core nucleus of our team has been here before, so we are a lot better

prepared. The big game experience should help us out."

Big game experience and a rejuvenated offense. Siegfried averaged 23 points per game in the regular season, but scored just ten points in their two playoff wins.

The Ramblers need quarterback Bill Bingle wide receiver John Kaup and running back Tim Breitbach to have productive days if they want to win.

"Morrissey shut us down," said Siegfried coach John Torgenson. "I expect the offense to come out firing. To beat Alumni, we'll have to put up more points [than we have in previous games]."

Easier said than done. The Dawgs defense is rough.

"Our strength is our defensive line and our linebackers," said Alumni lineman Larry Rooney. "We're aggressive and we focus on stopping the run. We'll go

into Sunday's game with the same strategy. We'll attack them."

Center Chris Seponski, defensive tackles Ben O'Connor, Justin Stetz and John

Wahowski and linebacker Tommy Dempko put offenses on their heels.

Alumni coach Steve Keppel said the Dawgs' intensity and commitment grew after a loss to Morrissey in week three. Keppel

hopes the offense can complement the strength of the defense.

Second-year Alumni quarterback Chris Cottingham brings scrambling and passing options to the Alumni attack. He's led an Alumni's offense that averages close to 14 points per game.

But scoring will not be easy for Alumni. Siegfried's defense rivals that of the Dawgs.

"The whole year we've focused on getting all eleven guys to the ball and not stopping till the whistle is blown," said Reis. "We came up with big fourth down stands and goal line stands."

Reis and cornerbacks N a t e

Ratchke and John Lira are the standouts on the Siegfried defense.

"It's been nice to rely on our

defense," said Torgenson. "This week, we'll have to show it on both sides of the ball because Alumni is an excellent team."

Siegfried may have the game's only secret weapon, and after last week, he's not that secret. Kicker John Nowak (8-10 on extra points) kicked the Ramblers into the Stadium two weeks ago with a game-winning 23-yard overtime field goal.

Two teams who have dreamed of playing in the Stadium for months stop dreaming Sunday afternoon.

Contact Pat Leonard at
pleonard@nd.edu

"We're aggressive and we focus on stopping the run. We'll go into Sunday's game with the same strategy."

Larry Rooney
Alumni lineman



BRIAN PUCEVICH/The Observer

An Alumni running back tries to break a tackle in a playoff game earlier this season. Alumni makes its first appearance in the Stadium since 1989 Sunday, when they face Siegfried.

Bingle tries new position, becomes team's leader



BRIAN PUCEVICH/The Observer

Siegfried quarterback Bill Bingle throws a pass in a game this season. Bingle has been the leader of the Rambler offense.

♦ Rambler player switches from receiver to QB

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Sports Writer

Nearly every sport has one player on the team that receives the praise when a team does well and most of the blame when the team does poorly. In hockey and soccer, it's almost always the goalie. For baseball, it's usually the pitcher.

In football, it's the quarterback. One minute you're the hero, and the next minute you've let your team down.

For Siegfried quarterback Bill Bingle, it's important to have a short-term memory when it comes to mistakes.

"It's kind of hard to shake [mistakes] off," he said. "Your teammates try to help encourage you, but you really only forget about the mistake the next time you throw a touchdown."

In interhall football, Bingle has already had the opportunity to experience the thrill of playing in the stadium. The junior was a wide receiver on last year's runner-up Siegfried squad.

"It's a really neat experience," he said. "Last year it seemed like everyone from the dorm came out. It was weird because that stadium seems empty and

smaller without the big crowd."

Following the graduation of last year's Rambler quarterback, Bingle was thrust into the starting role. In addition to being a wide receiver last year, Bingle also served as the emergency backup, so he had at least some experience with the intricacies of the offense.

"I've actually always liked playing wide receiver like I did last year," Bingle said, "but our senior graduated and we didn't really have much of our offense in place. I still knew the stuff from last year, so it was easiest for me to step up."

In his junior year of high school, Bingle played wide receiver and helped his team

"It's a really neat experience. Last year it seemed like everyone from the dorm came out."

Bill Bingle
Siegfried quarterback

year.

He has finally gotten the chance to be under center, and the pressure couldn't be greater.

Bingle and the rest of the

Siegfried Ramblers have again attained the second-highest goal an interhall team can achieve, a trip to play in Notre Dame Stadium.

Sunday, they'll try to better that achievement with a victory against the Dawgs of Alumni. Bingle explained that he

thought the difference in this year's Ramblers is a simple difference in attitude.

"Last year, the seniors kind of ran the team," Bingle said. "This year, we have more fun and have a good time more

often. I think that helps us a lot, because we never get down and feel like we're out of a game."

Bingle said that he wasn't even aware of interhall football when he first applied to Notre Dame, but that it has been a great experience and he's glad he decided to play.

"[It's different from high school] because it's a lot more fun," Bingle said. "It's less pressure when you coach yourself. In high school, you'd always have coaches yell at you but here it's more relaxed."

Sunday, that pressure will be back. Bingle is ready. Since his senior year in high school, he's waited for this moment.

Contact Justin Schuver at
jschuver@nd.edu

WOMENS INTERHALL CHAMPIONSHIP



LISA VELTE/The Observer

Several captains and seniors from Cavanaugh and Pasquerilla East pose for a picture earlier this week. The two teams reached the championship game even though neither was supposed to this year. They met in the regular season with the Chaos winning 28-0.

Surprise teams run the table, reach Stadium

◆ Neither team was expected to be in final

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Writer

Going into this year's interhall football season, no one would have predicted that Cavanaugh would have an undefeated season, including a victory over Welsh Family, heading into Notre Dame Stadium and the interhall championship game Sunday.

However, defying the odds and doubters is what Cavanaugh has

done all year.

Pasquerilla East was not supposed to be playing in the Stadium this year, either. The Pyros struggled last year but enter the championship game after a complete turnaround from last season. They look to continue their trend of defying history Sunday against Cavanaugh, a team that beat Pasquerilla East 28-0 earlier this season.

Pasquerilla East is led by a group of talented players who work together, contributing to the team's success. Captain and offensive lineman Lindsay Terifay leads the way both on and off the field for the Pyros. Terifay doesn't believe history will repeat itself on

Sunday.

"I'm so excited to play Cavanaugh," Terifay said. "I just can't wait to avenge our loss earlier this season. We are a whole new team now; new quarterback, new defense, everything."

Among many changes, Terifay has been a steadying factor for the Pyros. She is joined on the line by center Allison Ferber. They provide protection for elusive quarterback Abbey Coons. Wide receivers Tricia David, Laura Tushaus and Kristin O'Brian remain Coons' favorite targets.

Regardless, according to Terifay, the Pyros are a well-balanced team. She credited their semifinal victory to their team concept.

"We were very happy with our last performance," Terifay said. "We marched up the field on offense and held them on defense. We can take this momentum into the championship game."

The defense is led by defensive end Brita McCullough, defensive back Erinn Rigney and safety Steph Yahn. This defense will be tested on Sunday because they face a Cavanaugh offense that features quarterback and captain Meg Meyers, running back Lisa Ruffer and wide receivers Jenny Nokes and Nancy Powaga. All were unstoppable in their semifinal victory.

"We just have to continue to play as a team, making as few mistakes

as possible, while capitalizing on their mistakes," Meyers said.

Meyers was confident about her team's capabilities.

"Offensively we will read the defense and adjust accordingly," Meyers said. "However, either way, we have a great shot. Regardless, the win against Welsh Family in the semifinal was one of the sweetest victories in the history of interhall football."

Cavanaugh looks to get what would be an even sweeter win Sunday at the Stadium.

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at
hvanhoeg@nd.edu

Myers gets job done on both sides of ball for Chaos

◆ Two-way standout leads Chaos into final

By LISA REIJULA
Sports Writer

Cavanaugh's interhall football team finds itself in uncharted territory this season, having knocked off powerhouse Welsh Family and making it to the championship game.

The reason for the success of the Chaos this year? Two-way standout Meg Myers, the only fourth-year senior on the roster and the undisputed team leader.

Myers was a major factor in Cavanaugh's 13-12 upset of Welsh Family. In addition to throwing two touchdown passes, Myers had an interception at cornerback late in the game to seal

the win.

Myers plays quarterback with great confidence, despite it being her first season at the position. In previous years, she played wide receiver, running back, and outside lineman.

At the beginning of the season try-outs were held to fill the vacancy at quarterback for the Chaos, and Myers decided to give it a shot. She won the job and has developed into one of the best quarterbacks in the women's league.

A native of Plano, Texas, Myers hadn't played football before coming to Notre Dame, although she was a member of her high school's basketball and soccer

teams.

A civil engineering major, Myers is an engineering dorm representative and also does research in the field for a professor.

She is a senior leader for Young Life, a Christian ministry group for high-schoolers in urban South Bend as well.

"Without Meg, we wouldn't have a chance of being where we are."

Bart Bruckert
Cavanaugh coach

"I spend about 15-20 hours a week at Young Life," Myers said. "It's been cool to see the kids progress."

With all her leadership experience, Myers has been the glue of the Cavanaugh team this season. The Chaos are undefeated and Myers attributes their success to team chemistry.

"In the past, we struggled with disunity and small groups not

coming together," Myers said. "The tone was set in the beginning to be encouraging to everyone. There are no fights or jealousy over playing time."

Myers also feels the team benefits from strong leadership from other seniors and the coaches, in particular third-year coach Bart Bruckert.

"Without Meg, we wouldn't have a chance of being where we are," Bruckert said. "I haven't met many people as impressive as her."

The Chaos are hoping to impress Pasquerilla East in the championship. After their upset of Welsh, Myers knows it's important for her team to regain focus.

"We know we can't underestimate them even though we've beaten them," she said. "If we stick to the fundamentals we should win. I'm confident in our abilities."

Myers leads the Chaos with a combination of discipline and humor. After a team meeting early in the season, she made a hat out of a deflated football. It is given to the most valuable player after each game as a silly reward.

"I feel I know how to motivate people and keep them focused on a common task," Myers said. "I am dedicated and easygoing, and when I commit to something I give it 110 percent."

On Sunday, Cavanaugh looks to continue their winning ways with Myers. The senior captain is ready to leave her mark.

"We're really mentally focused," she said. "After beating Welsh, we know nothing is going to stop us."

Contact Lisa Reijula at
lreijula@nd.edu

IRISH INSIDER

Friday, November 22, 2002

interhall

THE
OBSERVER

Coming Full Circle



Cavanaugh vs. Pasquerilla East

Photo illustration by MIKE HARKIN and LISA VELTE

SCENE
art

Friday, November 22, 2002

page 15

Renaissance Florence

Renaissance paintings and sculptures

Photo courtesy of Mrs. R.H. Booth

Portrait of Eleonora of Toledo with Her Son Giovanni by Agnolo Bronzino after 1545

Michelangelo's unfinished wooden Crucifix provides a view into the aging artist's psyche. Carved in Michelangelo's late eighties, the piece insinuates a personal religious reflection, an aura of intimacy not found in the artist's more monumental works.

However, the centerpiece of the collection is undoubtedly Michelangelo's David-Apollo, marking the second time a major sculpture by the artist has traveled to the United States. Its dual title stands in ambiguity as to the identity of the subject. Giorgio Vasari, painter and biographer of Renaissance artists, believed it to be an Apollo "extracting an arrow from his quiver;" however, the work was cited in an inventory of the Medici Palazzo Vecchio as an "unfinished David by Buonarroti."

If the work is indeed a David, it is a definite divergence from Michelangelo's famed earlier treatment of the same subject. Larry Feinberg said, "I think it started out as probably a David and was referred to as David by many people. But, David was a Republican, anti-Medici symbol, and at some point Michelangelo decided to change it to a subject the Medici would find more acceptable." This sculpture's twisted posture and obvious psychological agitation shape the work as a more inward examination of character. Being substantially smaller than the original David, the work's emphasis is transferred from the outer form towards a more centralized, deeper emotion.

Feinberg continued, "It is much more

in keeping with his slaves of the Louvre, those Louvre slaves that seem to be in the same way in a sort of fitful slumber. Like the earlier David, it depicts a psychological moment of contemplation before the physical action, that to many of us seems more interesting than the physical action itself."

The dramatic lighting on the part of the Art Institute endows the viewer with a sensation of quasi-voyeurism upon this intensely personal human moment. The exhibit's installation itself is a work of dramatic theater as Renaissance music pervades four of the galleries.

Another gem, Benvenuto Cellini's sculpture Perseus and Medusa of 1545-55 depicts the god triumphant while raising the head of the slain Medusa above his own. The victory of Perseus is a symbolic illustration of Cosimo de' Medici's own victory, the salvation of Florence. The fate of Medusa serves as a harbinger to those who ignore Medici rule. The omnipotence of the family dynasty was here hauntingly realized through artistic expression.

In Alessandro Allori's 1601 painting, Penitent Magdalene, Mary Magdalene kneels before a crucifix, emerging in brilliant illumination from the canvas as if in a spotlight of forgiveness and Christian re-entry. The work's message is delineated in the text that Mary holds, the first line of Psalm 31: "Blessed are those whose sins have been remitted." Notable however, is the monumental scale of Mary Magdalene juxtaposed with the humble crucifix. Allori did not

stray from the humanistic trend of the epoch, and perhaps it was this feature that rendered the work appealing to the Medici court. It entered the Grand Ducal collection almost immediately following its completion.

With this expansive art collection of interwoven themes and mediums, it proves a difficult task to untangle the characteristics of Medici taste. Despite the monumental works of the exhibition, Feinberg said, "the Medici did have a strong taste to smaller works and very highly finished, hyper-refined art." Perhaps the 1599-1600 Oval plaque of Piazza Granducale is the quintessence of such proclivity. The subject is also known as the Piazza della Signoria, the square in front of Cosimo's palace. The background of this plaque is a work of pietre dure, or hard-stone inlay. Intricate designs are formulated through the assembly of many semi-precious stones, such as jade and lapis lazuli.

The exhibition concludes with Cristofano Allori's Judith and Holofernes. The story comes from the Old Testament, in which Judith offers herself to the invading Assyrian general Holofernes. He is deceived, and Judith later decapitates Holofernes with his own sword. To Florentines, this tale surely suggested courage and triumph over foreign threats. Feinberg said, "in Italy, Judith was one of the great heroines, a patron of the city." Here Judith stands as like representative of Medici valor.

Possibly no other individual or family has ever been responsible for more artistic production than the Medici. Today, Florence still hails as very much a sixteenth-century city due to the indelible mark left during their reign. Feinberg said, "In addition to the art itself, the great legacy was intellectual tolerance. When it came to ideas, the Medici championed and protected philosophers, poets and artists that may have not been favored by the Church." The extraordinary opportunity the Medici extended to artists has been unequalled; it would be a shame

to miss this one here.

"The Medici, Michelangelo, and the Art of Late Renaissance Florence" is on exhibit at the Art Institute of Chicago, 111 S. Michigan Avenue, now through February 2, 2003, before it travels to the Detroit Institute of Arts. Entry is free with general admission into the museum, \$10 adults, \$6 students. Tuesdays are free to all. The catalogue is available through the museum in hardcover and paperback. For further information, call (312) 443-3600.

Contact Randi N. Belisomo at
Randi.N.Belisomo@nd.edu



Photo courtesy of Paolo Nannoni

David-Apollo by Michelangelo Buonarroti

NHL

Dupuis leads Minnesota in 4-3 victory over Washington

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Pascal Dupuis had a goal and two assists as the Minnesota Wild held off the Washington Capitals for a victory.

Dupuis scored the only goal in last Saturday's 1-0 victory over the Capitals in Minnesota. His third-period goal in this game gave the Wild a 4-2 lead at 9:52 of the third period.

Washington's power-play problems continued. The Capitals failed to score on their three extra-man chances.

The Capitals are now in a 9-for-78 power-play slump while the Wild have killed 21 straight penalties.

Minnesota took a 1-0 lead when Antti Laaksonen scored 53 seconds into the game. They stretched it to 2-0 when Stephane Veilleux put slick moves on both defenseman Brendan Witt and then goalie Olaf Kolzig to score at 6:30 of the second period.

Sergei Gonchar and Ken Klee tied it for the Capitals with second-period goals. Those were only the second and third goals from Washington defensemen this year.

However, the Wild took a 3-2 lead when former Capital Andrew Brunette's shot from a severe angle along the goal line hit Kolzig's right skate and trickled in with 3:31 left in the period.

Dupuis scored the insurance goal when his shot bounced off the stick of Washington's Rick Berry and in. Mike Grier scored for the Capitals with 5:33 left.

Islanders 7, Lightning 2

Jason Blake had two goals and two assists, and Jason Wiemer added a goal and three assists as the New York Islanders beat the Tampa Bay Lightning.

Blake doubled his season's goal production. Wiemer started the day with just two points overall, both coming on goals.

Garth Snow made 29 saves for New York. He got the start although Chris Osgood, who played in Wednesday's 3-3 tie at Florida, is 13-0 against Tampa Bay.

Snow is 2-3-3 against the Lightning. He received a five-minute match penalty for an attempt to injure with his goal-tending gear during a scrum near the Islanders net with 2:45 left to play and was ejected. Osgood finished the game.

Mark Parrish had two goals and snapped a 10-game goal-scoring slump. The Islanders are 2-1-1 through four games of a five-game road trip.

Ben Clymer put the Lightning up 1-0 just 49 seconds in.

The Islanders rebounded later in the period on goals by Blake, at 8:33, and Parrish on the power play, at 16:19, for a 2-1 lead.

New York put the game away with four unanswered goals in the second period.

Mattias Timander made it 3-1 at 5:14 of the second with his first goal in 38 games.

Parrish made it 4-1 at 13 minutes. He deked Lightning defenseman Dan Boyle to the ice and beat Nikolai Khabibulin from in-close.

Dave Scatchard (18:28) and Wiemer (18:47) scored 19 seconds apart late in the second to give New York a five-goal cushion.

Khabibulin, the NHL player of the week for the period ending Nov. 17, was pulled after two periods. He faced 32 shots.

Blake scored 25 seconds into the third off Lightning backup Evgeny Konstantinov.

Andre Roy scored for the Lightning with 3:1 seconds left.

Bruins 3, Hurricanes 1

Glen Murray scored his 200th and 201st career goals, and Brian Rolston added a short-handed tally as the Boston Bruins beat the Carolina Hurricanes in front of the second-smallest FleetCenter crowd ever.

Boston, which had its five-game unbeaten streak snapped in at Toronto on Tuesday, has won six of nine (6-1-1-1).

Murray scored off a faceoff, tying it 1-1 at 8:45 of the second period. Joe Thornton won the draw over to Murray, who fired a slap shot past Kevin Weekes.

Rolston put Boston ahead for



REUTERS

Minnesota goalie Dwayne Robinson makes a save in the third period of the Wild's 4-3 victory over the Washington Capitals Thursday night.

good late in the second period when he raced to his own rebound at the bottom of the right circle and flicked a shot inside the far post.

The Bruins haven't regained fan interest just yet, though, after losing high-scoring forward Bill Guerin via free agency and electing not to sign goalie Byron Daboe during a negative-publicity-filled offseason.

In the last three weeks, the Bruins have had their lowest and second-lowest crowds since their arena opened in 1995. They drew just 9,491 on Oct. 31 against Anaheim when the Bruins sustained their only home loss this season.

Boston is 6-1-1 at home.

Murray tipped Thornton's shot over Weekes to give Boston a 3-1 edge 9:27 into the final period.

Carolina took a 1-0 lead midway into the opening period when Kevyn Adams spun and fired shot from his knees.

The Hurricanes had a 5-on-3 power play for 1:24 late in the second period, but John Grahame made a couple of nice saves and the Bruins defense kept the chances to a minimum.

Senators 3, Canadiens 2

Chris Phillips scored his first goal of the season late in the second period to lift the Ottawa Senators to a victory over the Montreal Canadiens.

Phillips, a defenseman held to

two assists through 16 games, scored 18:33 into the second to break a 2-2 tie. He had gone 21 regular-season games without a goal, dating to last season.

Montreal's Jeff Hackett made 34 saves, including a remarkable pad stop on Marian Hossa with just over eight minutes left to keep the Canadiens within one.

Hackett lost for just the second time in 10 games (5-2-2) as he made his second start in as many nights in place of injured goalie Jose Theodore.

Theodore, last season's MVP, missed the two-game road trip because of a hip flexor injury sustained Monday in a win over Pittsburgh.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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HERE COME THE IRISH!

Happy 21st birthday, Megan. We love you!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! -Francine, Beth and Travis

I'm going to Pittspuke this weekend

Another unbeaten gets lucky tonight.

Can the Maize and Blue ruin another Buckeye November?

The stick rules all, I'm out.

AROUND THE NATION

Friday, November 22, 2002

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER WIRE SERVICES

page 17

NBA

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
New Jersey	8-4	.667	6-4	-
Philadelphia	8-4	.667	7-3	-
Boston	7-4	.636	7-3	.5
Washington	6-5	.545	6-4	1.5
Orlando	7-6	.538	5-5	1.5
Miami	2-8	.200	2-8	5
New York	2-8	.200	2-8	5

Eastern Conference, Central Division

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Indiana	9-1	.900	9-1	-
Detroit	9-3	.750	7-3	1
New Orleans	8-3	.727	7-3	1.5
Atlanta	6-5	.545	6-4	3.5
Milwaukee	5-5	.500	5-5	4
Toronto	4-7	.364	3-7	5.5
Chicago	4-8	.333	2-8	6
Cleveland	2-10	.167	1-9	8

Western Conference, Midwest Division

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Dallas	12-0	1.000	10-0	-
San Antonio	8-4	.667	7-3	4
Houston	6-4	.600	6-4	5
Minnesota	7-6	.538	5-5	5.5
Utah	6-7	.462	5-5	6.5
Denver	2-9	.182	2-8	9.5
Memphis	0-12	.000	0-10	12

Western Conference, Pacific Division

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Seattle	8-3	.727	7-3	-
Sacramento	9-4	.692	6-4	-
Phoenix	5-4	.556	5-4	2
Portland	5-6	.455	4-6	3
LA Clippers	4-8	.333	4-6	4.5
Golden State	4-9	.308	3-7	5
LA Lakers	3-9	.250	3-7	5.5

Eye on Irish Opponents

Thursday's Results

Miami 28, PITTSBURGH 21

Saturday

MARYLAND at Virginia
Indiana at PURDUE
MICHIGAN at Ohio State
MICHIGAN STATE at Penn State
STANFORD at California
San Diego State at AIR FORCE
FLORIDA STATE at NC State
BOSTON COLLEGE at Temple
NAVY at Wake Forest
USC at UCLA

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



Pittsburgh Panthers quarterback Rod Rutherford dashes past Miami defender Alfonso Marshall in front of a 64,897 sellout Orange Bowl crowd Thursday. Miami's 28-21 win marks the Hurricanes' 32nd consecutive victory.

Top-ranked Hurricanes escape Panthers

Associated Press

MIAMI

Pittsburgh threatened, and Miami held on.

Willis McGahee ran 19 times for 159 yards and scored two touchdowns as the top-ranked Hurricanes overcame another slow start and a frantic finish to earn a 28-21 win over the Panthers (No. 19 ESPN/USA Today, No. 17 AP) Thursday night at the Orange Bowl.

In a nationally televised game that gave Miami (10-0, 5-0 Big East) a chance to showcase Heisman Trophy teammates Ken Dorsey and McGahee, the sophomore running back

had the majority of the highlights. But Rod Rutherford had almost as many for Pitt.

McGahee had a 69-yard touchdown run that tied the game just before half-time and added a leaping 4-yard score in the fourth quarter. After his second TD run, McGahee placed his fingers in the shape of a diamond — a pop-culture symbol that represents a dynasty.

The gesture might have been appropriate for the Hurricanes, but a bit premature.

The defending national champions extended their nation-best winning streak to 32 games, their Big

East-record streak to 22 games and moved two victories away from a berth in the Jan. 3 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl. They finish the season at Syracuse and at home against struggling Virginia Tech. Miami also took over sole possession of first place in the Big East.

Pitt (8-3, 5-1) lost for just the third time in 17 games and had its conference winning streak snapped at nine games.

But after falling behind 28-14, the Panthers had a chance to tie in the final minutes. Rutherford scored on a 3-yard run with 4:37 to play, cutting it to 28-21. The Hurricanes

had to punt, giving the Panthers the ball with 2:12 left.

They drove to the Miami 25, and Rutherford misfired on two consecutive passes. Then he connected with Yogi Roth for a 5-yard gain to set up a fourth-and-5 from the 20. Roth was wide open again, this time on a slant pass at the goal line, but Rutherford's pass sailed past his outstretched arms and through the end zone.

Miami's defense gave up 341 yards but left Pitt battered — literally. Receiver Larry Fitzgerald left the game and receiver Roosevelt Byrd left the game after a crushing hit.

around the dial

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Preseason NIT second round 7 p.m., ESPN2

NBA BASKETBALL

Raptors at Sixers 8 p.m., ESPN
Clippers at Nuggets 10:30 p.m., ESPN
Bulls at Lakers 10:30 p.m., FOXCH

BOXING

Cotto vs. Hernandez 9 p.m., ESPN2

GOLF

Franklin Templeton Shootout 8 p.m., GOLF

IN BRIEF

Carter dances with Nelly while team loses in Atlanta

Toronto Raptors general manager Glen Grunwald said Wednesday that Vince Carter could be back practicing with the team as early as Thursday and might play next week.

Carter, who left the Raptors' Nov. 2 game at Houston with a quadriceps tendon strain in his left knee, caught flak after appearing in an alleged jig with rap star Nelly in a concert at the Air Canada Centre on Monday — the same night his teammates were outthrust and defeated in Atlanta.

There have been suggestions that the All-Star forward should not be cavorting on stage when he is injured and his teammates are playing elsewhere. Grunwald's response to the incident was typically low key. The GM said that if he had a choice he would have attended the concert, given how uninspired his troops looked against the Hawks.

Lindsey Hunter, who has a sore

right knee, and center Nate Huffman, who has not played this season after undergoing arthroscopic surgery on his right knee, also could be back practicing as early as Thursday.

Issue of sportsmanship in high school playoff game

Walkerville 115, Lakeshore 2.

And it could have been worse. A lot worse.

"What do you tell our girls? Not to play?" Walkerville High athletics director Ron Stoneman said Wednesday, a day after his state-ranked school stomped winless Hart Lakeshore Public Academy in a girls basketball playoff game.

The blowout left Lakeshore academics director Steve Hamilton seething about a lack of sportsmanship.

"To me, if you run up the score like that, you have to answer for yourself," Hamilton said. "I have my doubts about a school that would go

and run up a school by 100 points."

Walkerville coach Steve Kirwin said he doesn't schedule teams like Lakeshore, which has a student body of 50 in grades nine through 12, during the regular season. But during the playoffs, "You play who they tell you to play."

Kirwin said he promoted girls from the junior varsity and freshmen teams, and did not use his normal pressure defense against over-matched Lakeshore.

By halftime, Kirwin said, three girls hadn't scored. So he said only they could shoot. But after they scored, then what?

"I'm not going to tell my kids to not continue to play," Kirwin said. "It's not that we wanted to score a ton of points."

The Michigan High School Athletic Association did away with a differential rule during the offseason. Under the old rule, the clock ran continuously if a team built a 40-point lead in the second half.

NFL

Faulk status for Sunday is game-time decision

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS

It's still a waiting game with the St. Louis Rams and Marshall Faulk.

Faulk missed Monday night's victory over the Bears with a high sprain in his right ankle and a strained tendon in his left foot. His status for Sunday's game at Washington won't be determined until game time, coach Mike Martz said.

Faulk didn't practice, instead visiting with team doctors about the ankle, by far the more serious of the injuries. Martz said Faulk won't practice the rest of the week; he didn't practice all last week, either.

"I think we'll just keep him out until they make a decision," Martz said. "What's helped him is staying off this thing and letting it heal. I don't know if we'll have him for Sunday or not."

"I'm more optimistic, certainly, than last week," Martz added. "I think there's a chance we'll have him."

If Faulk can't play, rookie Lamar

Gordon again would start. Gordon had 97 yards rushing and receiving, including a 22-yard touchdown reception, against the Bears.

Martz said Faulk, who has missed only eight games in eight-plus seasons, has been frustrated by the injury. Faulk, who rarely speaks to the media, declined comment before practice.

"He's such a quick healer, he's used to just fighting through it," Martz said. "Now they know exactly what it is; it's just a strain in the membrane, and I think that's a relief to him."

Kurt Warner, the other half of the Rams' MVP backfield, was a bit shaky on some of his throws as he practiced for the first time since reclaiming the No. 1 quarterback job from Marc Bulger. Martz said it might take a little while for Warner, who hasn't played since Sept. 29, to get his timing back.

"Shoot, he's fine," Martz said. "Another good day of practice tomorrow and I think he'll be ready."

Martz said Bulger would definitely be the backup at Washington on Sunday.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Glavine visits Phillies, Mets

Associated Press

NEW YORK

Next year's competition in the NL East got off to an early start.

Tom Glavine, one of the most coveted free-agent pitchers on the market, visited New York and Philadelphia as the Mets and Phillies tried to persuade him to leave Atlanta, his team of 16 years.

"We got the sense that he is seriously considering the Mets, and I'm sure he's seriously considering Philadelphia as well," Mets general manager Steve Phillips said after spending about six hours with Glavine, his wife, Christine, and agent Gregg Clifton. "It seemed like a very, very sincere visit."

The Glavines flew into White Plains, N.Y., and were given a tour of Westchester County and Greenwich, Conn., an area where many Mets and Yankees live.

They then came into the city and had lunch at the Four Seasons restaurant with Phillips, Mets owner Fred Wilpon, chief operating officer Jeff Wilpon, manager Art Howe, and pitchers John Franco and Al Leiter.

Even Mayor Michael Bloomberg

stopped by to help recruit Glavine, as did New York Rangers goaltender Mike Richter and hockey Hall of Famer Rod Gilbert.

Wilpon, who took over sole ownership of the team in the summer, has made signing Glavine his top offseason priority as the Mets try to rebound from a last-place finish.

"We had a super day," Phillips said. "It was a very worthwhile meeting and a day I hope left him with a good taste about New York and the Mets and what the future could hold here for him."

Glavine then went to Philadelphia, where he took in an NHL game between the Flyers and the San Jose Sharks. Glavine is a big hockey fan and was drafted by the Los Angeles Kings out of high school.

Glavine planned to meet with Phillies officials on Friday and take a tour of the site of the team's new ballpark, scheduled to open in 2004.

The Mets and Phillies have made three-year offers to the two-time NL Cy Young Award winner worth about \$9 million to \$10 million annually.

The 36-year-old Glavine was 18-11 with a 2.96 ERA this year.

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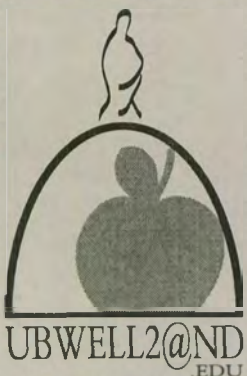
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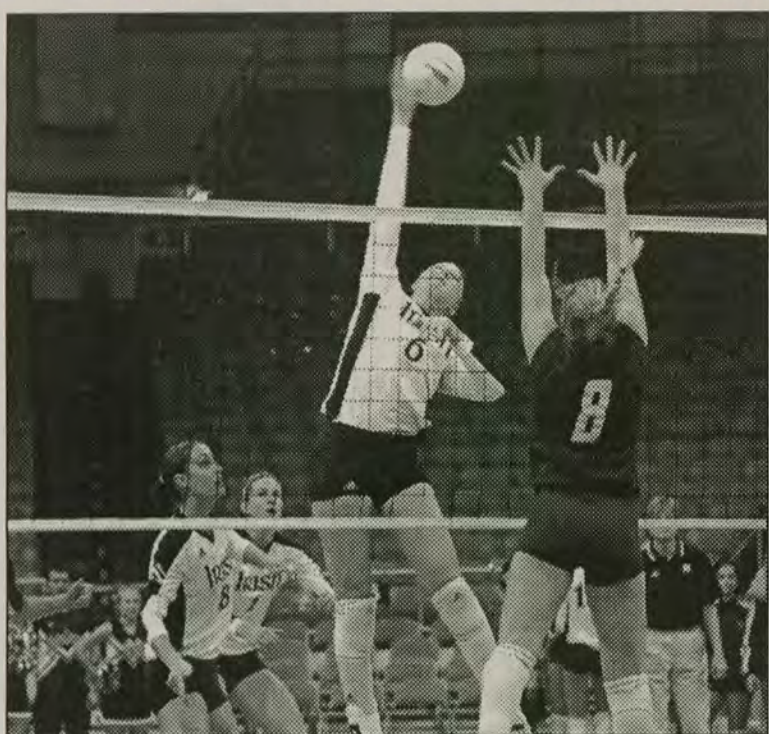
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ND VOLLEYBALL

Irish look to rebound in Big East Tourney



Irish middle blocker Lauren Kelbley spikes the ball against Boston College Nov. 3. The Irish look to defend their title in the Big East Tournament this weekend.

By MATT LOZAR
Sports Writer

The Irish don't look so invincible anymore.

After losing its first conference matches since a loss at West Virginia on Nov. 15, 1998, the Notre Dame volleyball team goes into this weekend's Big East Championship at the University of Pittsburgh looking a little more human.

On Saturday, the Irish (21-5, 11-2 in the Big East) face Connecticut (14-14, 9-4) in a semifinal matchup. With a win, the Irish will have a rematch with either Virginia Tech (20-10, 10-3) or Miami (24-4, 10-3). The winner of that match receives an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

Looking to qualify for their 11th consecutive NCAA Tournament, the Irish haven't changed their attitude, but are focused on fine-tuning their game.

"I think we had a good atti-

tude going into the matches last week. We had good preparation but just didn't play well over the weekend," Irish coach Debbie Brown said. "I don't know if [our attitude] has drastically changed. It was good

and healthy and still is healthy. I can see that we have a stronger commitment to make our game a little sharper."

Entering last weekend's final regular season conference matches, the Irish were 11-0 in the Big East and had already wrapped up their regular season title. With the goal of a fourth straight undefeated conference regular season in their sights, the Irish just fell apart.

"It wasn't just one area like it usually is, but several things went wrong for us. It was rare

that we have had combinations of things go wrong," Brown said. "It wasn't just passing, serving or hitting. We had a variety of problems. Too many people did not play well and the mistakes accumulated.

Obviously Miami and Virginia Tech were inspired and took advantage."

Against the Hurricanes, the Irish committed 12 service errors, had 10 service

receiving errors and recorded a .000 hitting percentage in the match's fifth and deciding game.

Two days later at Virginia Tech, the Irish continued to struggle with nine service errors and five service receiving errors. As a team, the Irish hit .154 for the match.

One bright spot for the Irish in their losses was Lauren Kelbley. The freshman middle blocker continued her strong second half of the season hitting .481 against the Hurricanes and .609 against the Hokies. Kelbley leads the Irish on the season with a .349 hitting percentage.

In Notre Dame's 3-1 defeat of Connecticut on Sept. 27, Brown went to her bench in the come-from-behind victory. The Huskies won Game 1 and held leads of 20-10 and 29-24 in Game 2 before the Irish rallied to win that game 33-31.

Freshman setter Kelly Burrell saw her first significant action of the season and recorded 35 assists. Middle blocker Kim Fletcher had 11 kills, and freshman outside hitter Meg Henican led the Irish with 14 digs.

"I think we have looked at that tape a lot and we had several extenuating situations in that match," Brown said. "[Setter] Kristen Kinder was out from practice all week with a knee injury and was off her game. [Outside hitter] Jessica Kinder didn't play well against them, but has played well in the matches after that one.

"Lauren Kelbley, another of our starters, didn't play a lot and has been so steady, especially in the second half of the year when she has been unstoppable."

Notre Dame and Connecticut have one win against the teams in the field this weekend while Miami and Virginia Tech each have two. Combining those mixed regular season results with Connecticut and Virginia Tech's lack of postseason experience, the title is up for grabs.

"I love the fact that we have played [Connecticut], seen them, been able to study the film and see our mistakes," Brown said. "We are in a great position to correct the errors that we have had. I don't see either team having more of an advantage.

"With Virginia Tech and Miami, they just beat us and have confidence right now. We know we didn't play our best match and we know what we have to do to be better."

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HOCKEY

Irish look to declaw 5th-ranked Wolverines

By CHRIS FEDERICO
Sports Editor

After having last weekend off, it's back to the grindstone for the Irish this week, as they head to Michigan for a pair of CCHA contests with the Wolverines.

The games will be the first of four away from the Joyce Center for the Irish, as 11 of their next 13 contests will come on the road. Notre Dame played its last five games at home, going 1-3-1

against three ranked opponents — No. 12 Ferris State, No. 1 Boston College and No. 11 Miami of Ohio.

It doesn't get any easier for Notre Dame tonight, as Michigan enters the contest 8-1-1, undefeated in conference play and currently ranked fifth and sixth by the USCHO.com Poll and the USA Today/American Hockey Magazine Poll, respectively.

The Wolverines average 4.1 goals and just over 33 shots a game this season, while holding

opponents under two goals per contest.

Sophomore forward David Moss has been the points leader for Michigan so far this season, with 10 points on three goals and seven assists. Freshman forward Jeff Tambellini paces the Wolverines in goals scored, with 6.

Though it didn't show in their record, the Irish played extremely well during their most recent homestand, topped off by Notre Dame's 2-1 victory over Miami

its last time on the ice as Irish goaltender Morgan Cey made a career-high 44 saves.

The Irish have scored 3.1 goals per game this season, averaging 30.6 shots a contest. Junior Rob Globke leads the Irish in scoring with 11 points on seven goals and four assists, including the eventual game-winning goal in Notre Dame's victory over Miami.

If history is any indicator, the pair of games against the Wolverines this weekend will be

a tough test for the Irish. Notre Dame has not won a regular season game in Michigan's Yost Arena since Oct. 22 1982 — a 9-5 victory. In their last 19 games at Yost, the Irish are just 1-17-1. The last meeting between the two teams, however, turned out more productive for the Irish — a 3-3 tie in the Joyce Center Jan. 4 of this year.

The teams face off tonight and Saturday, with starting time scheduled for 7:35 both nights.

Note:

The Irish announced the signing of five players to letters of intent Wednesday for the 2003-2004 season. The group includes goaltender David Brown of Stoney Creek, Ont., defenseman Noah Babin of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., defenseman Wes O'Neill of Essex, Ont., forward Jason Paige of Saginaw, Mich. and forward Josh Sciba of Westland, Mich.

"I'm very excited about this incoming group of players," Poulin said. "All five are highly skilled players who should be able to contribute as freshmen next season. They give us a good mix of size and speed and will add to our talent level and depth next season. With the loss of six players to graduation these five will have an excellent opportunity to step in and make immediate contributions as freshmen."

The six players who graduate at the end of this season are goaltender Tony Zasowski, defenseman Evan Nielsen and forwards Michael Chin, Connor Dunlop, Jake Wiegand and John Wroblewski.

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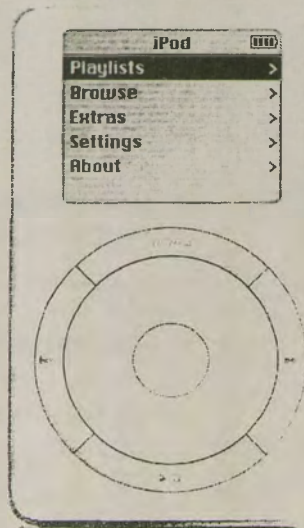
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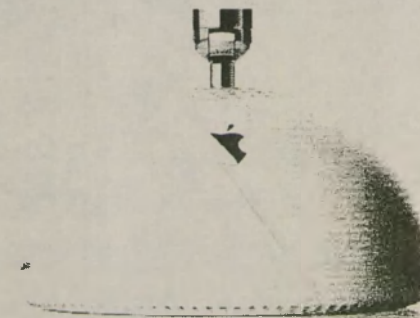
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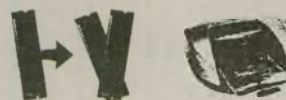
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MENS SWIMMING

Swimmers look to build on pair of victories

By LISA REIJULA
Sports Writer

Notre Dame's mens swimming team has regained momentum after winning two

of three meets at Texas Christian University last week. Now the Irish look to continue their winning streak against Purdue Friday night.

The Irish showed perseverance against TCU, rebounding

after a narrow defeat last Friday that was decided by the last relay to win twice on the meet's second day.

A strong performance by the 400-meter medley relay team of Doug Bauman, Jason

Fitzpatrick, Frank Krakowski and Tim Randolph got the Irish off to a good start. The 400-meter freestyle relay team of Randolph, Fitzpatrick, J.R. Teddy and Matt Obringer sealed the victory with a first

place finish in the meet's last event.

Other individual winners included freshman Jamie Lutkus in the 400 individual medley race, Fitzpatrick in the 100 breaststroke, Patrick Davis in the 1,650 freestyle and Obringer in the 100 and 200 freestyle.

After the win in Texas, Obringer is pleased with the team's improvement.

"It gave us confidence and we'll use this win as a springboard for the meet with Purdue," the junior said. "We're looking forward to it."

The Irish showed their depth at TCU. In addition to the many event winners, Notre Dame had swimmers placing in the top four in most events. In the 200 breaststroke, Tyler Grenda, Lutkus and David Moisan finished one-two-three.

Friday's meet against Purdue will be the second time the Irish face a Big Ten opponent at home this season. Notre Dame defeated Michigan State Nov. 8.

The Irish face the Boilermakers at Rolfs Aquatic Center at 6 p.m.

Contact Lisa Reijula at
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Soccer

continued from page 28

days prior to eke out a 1-0 victory at Akron. Jack Stewart's goal midway through the second half proved to be the deciding goal.

Before the Irish victory this season, the Zips had dominated the series between the two teams, having won six of the first eight games of the nine game series. Before 2002, the Irish and Zips had not played each other since 1989.

The Zips enter the tournament having won the Mid-American Conference with a 4-1 conference record.

Meanwhile, the Irish have had nearly two weeks of rest since

their last game, a gut-wrenching 2-1 overtime loss to Georgetown on Nov. 9.

"We're taking it back to fundamentals," Martin said. "We've treated this two-week period as a kind of preseason for the [NCAA] Tournament."

The Irish are returning to the NCAA Tournament for the second consecutive year, after being eliminated in the first round of last year's tournament at Maryland.

This marks the second time in the history of the mens soccer program the team has received NCAA Tournament bids in two consecutive years. The Irish also achieved that feat in 1993 and 1994.

However, the Irish feel that this year, unlike any other before

in the history of the mens soccer program, the team can build on its experiences from last year's postseason and string together some wins to make its second season last longer than just one game.

"We feel that we can string

four wins together against anybody we play," Martin said. "And to do so would put us in the Final Four."

This year marks the eighth time in Clark's 16-year collegiate coaching career that he has led his team to the NCAA

Tournament.

In addition, the Irish, under the guidance of Clark, have a 14-3-1 record (.806) at Alumni Field.

Contact Bryan Kronk at Kronk.3@nd.edu



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MENS BASKETBALL

Surly Miller all business on court for Irish

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Sports Writer

They want to make the NCAA Tournament, win the Big East Championship, finish with over 20 wins and make a statement on the national college basketball scene.

But senior Matt Carroll has another, more personal goal he wants to achieve come season's end.

Make Dan Miller smile on the court.

"He's so tough and so serious

when he's on the court," Carroll smiled. "When he's out there, he goes to battle."

All one needs to do to understand Miller's toughness is look at his body after a game, which is typically covered with bruises, cuts and other abrasions showing Miller's physical style of defense.

And Miller's defensive presence has been instrumental in Notre Dame's first two games where the Irish held both opponents under 50 points and kept them shooting less than 30 percent from the field, a trend the

Irish hope to continue tonight against Bucknell at 9 p.m.

Irish coach Mike Brey has already noticed how Miller's presence affects the Irish and how he helps to fill the absence of Ryan Humphrey's athletic defense with a grinding, physical style of play.

After Tuesday's game, Brey said, "He's got a little bit of a surliness about him."

"I don't even know what surly means," Miller said. "I just go out there and play, and I try to be tough."

Miller saying he just goes out

and plays isn't an empty cliché, it's a comment coming from a player frustrated from sitting out last season after transferring from Maryland.

He's already gotten off to a fast start with the Irish, recording two double-doubles in his first two games after failing to record one in three seasons with Maryland.

While Miller downplays the statistical significance of his first two games, Brey said he's glad to see his veteran gain some confidence early in the season.

"It was important for him to

come out like that, and I'm glad to see that happened," the Irish coach said. "He plays better when he's confident, and he's a better leader when he's confident."

Part of Miller's defensive prowess with the Irish springs from his role at Maryland, where he was inserted primarily as a defensive stopper and often guarded players such as former Duke All-American Shane Battier in key ACC games.

When Miller came to the Irish, Brey had one request for the 6-foot-8 veteran.

"He's one of the better defensive wings we've had," he said. "We didn't want him to lose that."

So far, his defense has been infectious, spreading to the rest of the Irish and giving them a defensive identity Brey said his team danced close to but never found in his first two years.

Forward Jordan Cornette's presence down low also is a huge reason for the Irish defensive dominance. The sophomore has 19 blocks in his first two games.

The newfound defensive identity Brey talks about has the Irish smiling, for they know if they have trouble scoring — a problem that has plagued them early in their first two games — their defense will give them the edge.

"Our defense is going to just make our offense that much better," Carroll said. "If our defense is on, our shots are going to fall."

Note:

Irish center Tom Timmermans, who sat out Notre Dame's first two games with back spasms, will be able to play for the Irish tonight, Brey said.

Contact Andrew Soukup at
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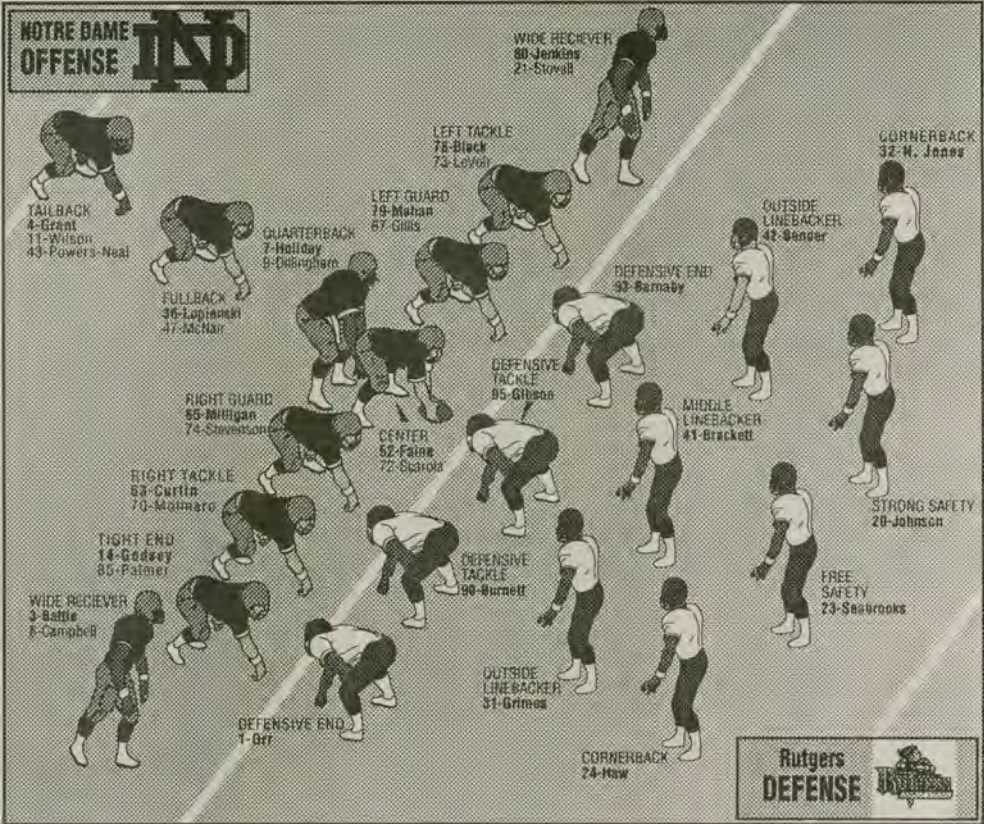
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2	Dan Novakov	QB	6-1	218	SR
3	Arnaz Battle	WR	6-1	213	SR
4	Ryan Grant	RB	6-1	211	SO
5	Rhema McKnight	WR	6-2	190	FR
6	Carlos Campbell	WR	5-11	194	SO
7	Carlyle Holiday	QB	6-3	214	JR
8	Matt Krueger	QB	5-10	180	JR
9	Jason Beckstrom	CB	5-10	188	SR
9	Pat Dillingham	QB	6-1	209	SO
11	Marcus Wilson	RB	5-11	199	SO
12	Chris Olsen	QB	6-4	220	FR
13	Nick Setta	K/P	5-11	177	SR
14	Gary Godsey	TE	6-6	259	SR
15	Preston Jackson	CB	5-9	176	JR
16	Stan Revelle	QB	5-11	182	SO
17	Joey Hildbold	P	5-10	191	SR
18	Ronnie Rodamer	WR	6-4	206	JR
19	Glenn Earl	FS	6-1	205	SR
19	D.J. Fitzpatrick	K/P	6-1	192	SO
20	Gerome Sapp	SS	6-0	218	SR
21	Maurice Stovall	WR	6-3	205	FR
23	Chris Yura	FB	6-0	220	SR
25	Nate Schuicatano	RB	6-3	220	FR
26	Garron Bible	FS	5-10	197	JR
26	Josh Schmidt	FB	6-1	207	SO
27	Lionel Bolen	SS	6-0	195	SO
27	Mike Profeta	TB	5-11	208	SO
28	Cole Laux	FB	5-10	236	JR
29	Quentin Burrell	CB	6-0	178	SO
30	Mike Richardson	DB	6-1	180	FR
31	Jake Carney	DB	6-0	180	FR
32	Jeff Jenkins	RB	6-0	195	FR
33	Courtney Watson	ILB	6-1	232	SR
34	Vontez Duff	CB	5-11	194	JR
35	David Miller	K	5-11	210	SR
35	Tim O'Neill	TB	5-5	172	SR
36	Tom Lopienski	FB	6-1	245	SR
37	Dwight Ellick	CB	5-10	179	SO
38	Preston Jackson	CB	5-9	176	SO
39	Brandon Hoyte	ILB	6-0	226	SO
39	David Bemenderfer	SS	5-11	195	JR
40	Nate Schomas	WR	5-10	160	FR
41	Mike Goolsby	LB	6-3	243	JR
42	Shane Walton	CB	5-11	185	SR
43	Rashon Powers-Neal	TB	6-2	224	SO
44	Justin Tuck	DE	6-5	238	SO
46	Corey Mays	ILB	6-1	235	SO
47	Mike McNair	FB	6-0	230	SR
48	Jerome Collins	OLB	6-4	256	JR
49	Derek Curry	ILB	6-3	233	JR
50	Cedric Hilliard	NG	6-2	290	SR
51	Jamie Ryan	OT	6-5	285	FR
52	Jeff Faine	C	6-3	298	SR
53	John Crowther	C	6-2	239	SR
54	Jason Halverson	DL	6-1	246	SR
55	Zachary Giles	C	6-3	281	SO
56	Pat Ryan	ILB	6-3	231	SR
57	Justin Thomas	OLB	6-1	243	SR
58	Chad DeBolt	ILB	6-0	202	SR
60	Darrell Campbell	DT	6-4	288	SR
61	Charles Hedman	LB	6-1	215	SR
62	Scott Raridon	OT	6-7	285	FR
63	Brennan Curtin	OT	6-8	305	SR
64	Casey Dunn	OT/OG	6-4	255	SO
65	Sean Milligan	OG	6-4	300	SR
66	Derek Landri	NG	6-2	275	FR
67	Ryan Gillis	OG	6-3	305	SR
68	Ed O'Connell	LB	6-3	212	JR
69	Darin Mitchell	OL	6-4	280	SO
70	Jim Molinaro	OT	6-6	297	SR
71	David Kowalski	OG	6-2	249	JR
71	James Bonelli	OG/OT	6-6	285	FR
72	Ryan Scarola	C/OG	6-5	310	SR
73	Mark LeVoi	TE	6-7	309	SO
74	Dan Stevenson	OG	6-5	292	SO
75	Chris Frome	DE	6-5	240	FR
76	Bob Morton	C	6-4	305	FR
77	Greg Pauly	DT	6-6	280	JR
78	Jordan Black	OT	6-6	305	SR
79	Sean Mahan	OT	6-3	285	SR
80	Omar Jenkins	WR	6-2	204	SO
82	Bernard Akatu	WR	5-10	193	SR
82	Matt Shelton	WR	6-1	172	SO
83	Matt Root	TE	6-6	258	SO
85	Billy Palmer	TE	6-3	251	JR
86	Brendan Hart	TE	6-2	240	JR
87	Marcus Freeman	TE	6-4	240	FR
87	Patrick Nally	TE	6-3	246	SO
88	Anthony Fasano	TE	6-4	237	FR
90	Brian Beidatsch	DL	6-4	269	SO
91	Jeff Thompson	NG/DT	6-4	273	SO
92	Kyle Budinscak	DE	6-4	269	JR
93	Dan Santucci	DE	6-5	250	FR
94	Brian Mattes	DE	6-6	250	FR
95	Ryan Roberts	DE	6-2	258	SR
97	Travis Leitko	DE	6-6	250	FR
99	Jason Sapp	DE	6-3	249	JR

NOTRE DAME 2002 Schedule	
Aug. 31	Maryland - W
Sept. 7	PURDUE - W
Sept. 14	MICHIGAN - W
Sept. 21	at MSU - W
Oct. 5	STANFORD - W
Oct. 12	PITTSBURGH - W
Oct. 19	at Air Force - W
Oct. 26	at Florida State - W
Nov. 2	BOSTON COLLEGE - L
Nov. 9	at Navy - W
Nov. 23	RUTGERS
Nov. 30	at USC



COACHING

QUARTERBACKS

IRISH RUSHING

IRISH PASSING

NOTRE DAME

This weekend will prove whether or not Willingham and his staff can get their team back to solid football. After a loss, a near loss and a bye week, Willingham will have to get his team focused on playing an unranked foe, playing Irish football and bringing home a big victory.

Holiday has shown that he can pass and he can rush, although he has spent a lot of time in the pocket making his reads and finding his receivers. He is still struggling to consistently lead his offense on a long drive down the field that results in a touchdown.

The Irish rushing game has been inconsistent lately. Grant has been unable to hold the ball, but Powers-Neal has stepped up to make big carries for the Irish, often taking defenders with him across the first-down marker.

The pass game has stepped up, averaging 170 yards a game. The Irish receivers do a good job running their routes and getting open. However, Holiday still has trouble finding them, and they have been unable to make a reception and then take off.

RUTGERS

Schiano is only in his second year at Rutgers. He has led the Scarlet Knights to just three wins in the last two years while compiling 18 losses. He is young and inexperienced, but has the respect of his team.

Hart, the true freshman, will most likely get the start for the Scarlet Knights. Schiano is hoping that the signal caller, who has played in three games this season, will be able to improve on Trump and Cubit's performance.

Rutgers rushing defense is its weak link. The Scarlet Knights have allowed their opponents to gain an average of nearly 200 yards a game, although they do force fumbles and have recovered half of those they force.

The Knights pass defense is also giving up nearly 200 yards a game. However, Rutgers has managed to play close to some very good passing teams and could surprise the Irish. They record less than two sacks a game, but have eight interceptions.

ANALYSIS

Willingham and his coaching staff are far more experienced than Schiano and his staff. The Irish coaching staff has coached its team in several close victories and, if they can get the Irish focused, should be able to outcoach Schiano and his team.

Notre Dame has the edge here. Although Holiday has been inconsistent for the Irish, he still has more experience than Hart. Holiday knows how to make decisions and has spent all season developing with his teammates.

The Notre Dame rushing game should have no problem against a weak Scarlet Knight defense, as long as the Irish can hold on to the ball. With Powers-Neal back in the line-up, Notre Dame should be able to drive right past the Rutgers line and into the end zone.

Although Notre Dame has shown improvement in its pass game, the Irish have to follow through. Holiday still isn't throwing for many touchdowns and his protection isn't quite enough for the time he needs in the pocket.

Irish
experts



Andrew Soukup
assistant managing editor

After a pair of lackluster performances against Boston College and Navy, the Irish are back into a position where people are questioning their No. 8 ranking. That's good news for the Irish, who played their best when they're disrespected. Notre Dame has no problem dismantling Rutgers in the seniors' home finale.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 31
Rutgers 10



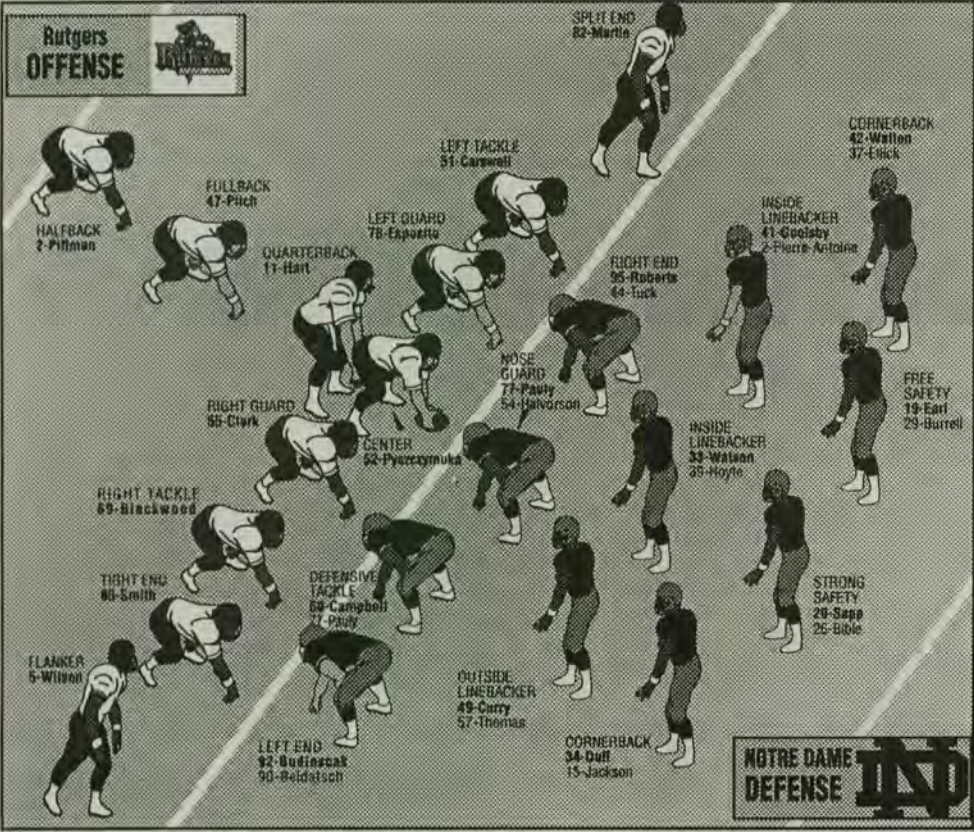
Chris Federico
sports editor

Rutgers again finds itself in the basement of the Big East at 1-9. The Scarlet Knights have been outscored this year by an average of nearly 16 points a game. Their lone highlight was carrying a 17-14 lead into the fourth quarter against No. 1 Miami before yielding 28 unanswered points. This should provide a good warm up for Notre Dame before the USC game next week.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 34
Rutgers 7

RUTGERS

Rutgers
Scarlet Knights
Record 1-9
AP: unranked
Coaches: unranked



RUTGERS 2002 Schedule	
Aug. 31	VILLANOVA - L
Sept. 7	BUFFALO - L
Sept. 14	ARMY - W
Sept. 21	at Pittsburgh - L
Sept. 28	at Tennessee - L
Oct. 12	WEST VIRGINIA - L
Oct. 19	at Virginia Tech - L
Oct. 26	at Syracuse - L
Nov. 2	MIAMI - L
Nov. 16	TEMPLE - L
Nov. 23	at Notre Dame
Nov. 30	BOSTON COLLEGE

Greg Schiano
second season at
Rutgers
career record:
3-18
at Rutgers:
3-18
against Notre
Dame: 0-0



Schiano
head coach

Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	YR
1	Raeem Orr	DE	6-4	260	SR
2	Clarence Pittman	RB	5-10	200	SO
3	Terry Byrnes	LB	6-2	210	FR
4	Nate Colon	DB	5-11	190	SR
5	Chris Baker	WR	6-5	200	SO
6	Corey Barnes	WR	5-8	165	FR
7	Anthony Cali	QB	6-5	215	FR
8	Tres Moses	WR	5-10	190	SO
9	Sean Carly	WR	6-0	185	SR
10	Berkley Hutchinson	LB	6-3	245	FR
10	Bryan Wilson	WR	5-9	190	SO
11	Ryan Hart	QB	6-2	195	FR
12	Ryan Cubit	QB	6-3	215	SO
13	Mike Barr	P	6-3	220	SR
14	Michael Cortese	K	6-3	205	FR
15	Brain Leonard	FB	6-2	220	FR
16	Ted Trump	QB	6-2	215	SR
17	Justin Musiek	K	5-11	175	FR
17	Brian Bolland	QB	6-2	210	FR
18	Darren Haliburton	WR	6-3	200	FR
19	Vaughn Calhoun	DB	6-0	190	SR
20	Jarvis Johnson	DB	5-11	190	SO
21	DeWayne Thompson	DB	5-9	185	SR
22	Markis Facyson	RB	5-10	195	FR
23	Shawn Seabrooks	DB	5-10	190	SR
24	Brandon Haw	DB	6-0	185	SR
25	Anthony Frazier	DB	5-11	205	JR
26	Aaron Krause	DB	5-10	185	JR
27	Jason Grant	DB	6-1	195	JR
28	Bryan Durango	DB	5-10	180	FR
29	Dondre Asberry	DB	5-11	175	FR
30	Joe Radigan	P	6-5	215	FR
30	Ryan Sands	K	6-0	225	JR
31	Eddie Grimes	DB	6-0	180	SO
32	Nathan Jones	DB	5-10	175	JR
33	Nathan Nugent	RB	6-1	190	FR
34	Leslie Collins	DB	5-10	175	FR
35	William Beckford	LB	6-1	220	FR
36	Joe Stelke	FB	6-1	220	JR
37	Brandon Wood	DB	6-1	185	FR
38	William Gilkison	LB	6-2	230	FR
39	Piana Lukabu	DE	6-3	235	SO
40	Cedric Brown	RB	5-10	180	SO
40	Cabral Edley	RB	5-10	180	JR
41	Gary Brackett	LB	5-11	235	SR
42	Brian Bender	LB	6-3	235	SR
43	Mitchell Davis	FB	6-2	230	SR
44	Jeremy Campbell	LB	6-2	235	JR
45	Marcus Jones	RB	5-10	195	SO
46	Jerome Baker	WR	5-11	185	JR
46	Antonio Valverde	DB	6-2	200	FR
47	Ray Pilch	FB	6-3	230	JR
48	Sal Fama	LB	6-0	225	FR
49	Brian hohmann	LB	6-3	242	JR
51	Trohn Carswell	OL	6-5	300	SR
52	Marty Pyszczymska	OL	6-2	275	SR
53	Ishmael Medley	LB	5-11	230	SO
55	Davon Clark	DL	6-4	285	SO
56	Ron Jenerette	DL	6-4	285	JR
57	Steve Berson	LB	5-11	220	SR
58	Joe Henley	DL	6-3	220	FR
60	Justin Peyton	OL	6-4	240	FR
61	Mike Clancy	OL	6-4	290	SO
62	Mike Williamson	OL	6-5	289	JR
63	William Vogt	OL	6-3	292	FR
64	Rob Dinsmore	OL	6-5	290	JR
67	Jeremiah Barrett	OL	6-3	250	JR
69	Howard Blackwood	OL	6-4	301	SR
71	Dan Biemacki	OL	6-4	310	SO
73	Brian Duffy	OL	6-5	300	SR
74	Randy Boxill	OL	6-5	313	FR
75	Mark Segaloff	OL	6-5	295	SO
76	John Glass	OL	6-5	320	SO
77	Rich McManis	OL	6-5	310	JR
78	Mike Esposito	OL	6-4	295	SR
79	Sameeh McDonald	OL	6-5	300	SO
80	Jerry Andre	WR	6-1	185	SO
81	Clark Harris	TE	6-6	225	FR
82	Aaron Martin	WR	6-4	205	SR
83	Ed Jordan	TE	6-3	230	JR
84	Jeff Ternyla	WR	6-2	175	SO
85	L.J. Smith	TE	6-4	252	SR
86	Bryan Boehrer	TE	6-3	260	SR
87	Chris Loomis	TE	6-4	230	SO
88	Keith Landi	TE	6-4	240	JR
89	Shawn Tucker	WR	6-2	180	FR
90	William Burnett	DE	6-4	280	SR
91	Ryan Neill	DL	6-3	245	SO
92	Alfred Peterson	DE	6-3	270	SO
94	Val Barnaby	DE	6-5	255	FR
95	Gary Gibson	DL	6-4	280	JR
96	Joe Giacobbe	DL	6-0	260	FR
97	Vincent Iachetta	DL	6-5	220	FR
98	Luis Rivas	DL	6-4	263	FR
98	Syheem Farrar	DL	6-2	223	JR
99	Greg Pyszczymska	DL	6-2	280	SR
99	J'Vonne Parker	DL	6-6	325	JR

KNIGHT RUSHING

Aside from a major lapse against Navy in their last outing, the Irish defense has controlled opponents' rushing game. Although they allowed more than 200 yards against the option, they are keeping opponents to an average of less than 100 yards per game.

The Rutgers running game is mediocre, at best. The Scarlet Knights rely mostly on their passing, only gaining somewhere near 50 rushing yards per game. In addition, the Knights have fumbled 24 times this season and lost 11 of those.

Rutgers does not present any serious threat in the form of its rush game. Notre Dame is bigger and stronger, and the Irish defense should have no problem shutting down the Knights and taking their run game completely out of the picture.

KNIGHT PASSING

The Irish secondary and linebackers are still going after the big, game-defining plays. The Irish have averaged more than one interception per game and returned several of those picks for touchdowns.

The Knights' offensive strength has been their pass game, but it hasn't been overly productive. Smith and Martin will provide the biggest threat to the Irish defense — both have three touchdown receptions on the season.

Notre Dame's secondary should be looking forward to taking out the Knight's passing game. Although Rutgers uses its pass game more often than its run game, it is still not a very effective offense, and Walton and Co. will be looking for some more picks.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Irish special teams remain inconsistent at best. Setta has connected on some field goals, but several opponents have blocked kicks. Hildbold continues to help the Irish win the field position battle, and Vontez Duff ran a kickoff back against Navy.

Sands is 5-9 for the Scarlet Knights in field goals. However, the Knights do have a weapons in special teams in kick returner Jones, who has two touchdowns, one of which came on a 100-yard runback.

Neither team has particularly stellar special teams. The Irish and the Scarlet Knights have struggled in their kicking games while excelling on kick returns. Hildbold will win the field position battle, but the rest is up for grabs.

INTANGIBLES

Notre Dame has the homefield advantage for the seniors last game in Notre Dame Stadium. They are coming off of two mediocre performances that have made them hungry for a solid win against a weaker opponent.

Rutgers will be up for playing Notre Dame. The Scarlet Knights have had a less-than-spectacular season and will be looking to prove themselves and hopefully ruin Notre Dame's chances of going to a BCS bowl. They will look to capitalize on Notre Dame mistakes.

The Irish have the edge here. The home-field advantage and emotion of the seniors' last game at Notre Dame Stadium should give the Irish the needed motivation to take home a big victory against the Scarlet Knights.



Katie McVoy
associate sports editor

The Irish have been less than stellar in their last two games, but with the home-field advantage they should run over the less talented Scarlet Knights team. Look for Notre Dame to rely on its run game to pick up big yards.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 27
Rutgers 10



Joe Hettler
associate sports editor

After a week off, Notre Dame will bounce back in impressive fashion against a stingy Rutgers team. Look for the Irish to be focused in the seniors' last home game at Notre Dame Stadium. Notre Dame clicks on both sides of the ball and wins easily.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 31
Rutgers 7

Sweet

continued from page 28

their way to a 20-1 record. The Pac-10 champion's sole loss came Oct. 4 against perennial national power North Carolina.

In last weekend's opening rounds of the tournament, the Cardinal crushed Cal Poly 5-0 and then squeaked by California in a 1-0 overtime victory.

Notre Dame forward Amanda Guertin made a statement in last weekend's victories. The junior scored four goals and registered an assist on her way to an impressive nine-point weekend.

Guertin and fellow forwards Amy Warner and Katie Thorlakson will have their work cut out for them against The Cardinal's top-ranked defense in the country.

Stanford's back line, led by senior Katherine Harrington, gives up an average of just five shots a game. The Cardinal also possesses one of the premier goalkeepers in the country. Nicole Barnhart leads the nation with 0.19 goals against average. Despite all of these imposing statistics, Notre Dame coach Randy Waldrum believes his offense can create scoring opportunities.

"They've got a good defense and a good goalie," Waldrum said. "They've kept their goals against average really low. But with what we have up front, I think we can cause them some problems. I don't know if they've gone up against three forwards like Amanda Guertin, Amy Warner and Katie Thorlakson.

"Our forwards need to be mobile for us to win the game. If we get caught just waiting around for the ball to come to

us, then we'll be in a lot of trouble."

Even though the Cardinal boasts the best defense in the country, Waldrum is more worried about Stanford's high-powered offense and its big midfield. The Cardinal's starting midfielders are all taller than any of Notre Dame's starters Randi Scheller, Ashley Dryer and Mary Boland.

Pac-10 player of the year Marcia Wallis leads the Cardinal with 12 goals on the season, while midfielder Marcie Ward

leads the team with 33 points overall. While these players may end up in the box score, Waldrum is most concerned with the playmaking ability of midfielder Callie Withers.

"Callie Withers is their best player. She just makes huge plays for them offensive and defense," Waldrum said.

After struggling during the early part of the season with an assortment of injuries, the Notre Dame defense has finally solidified itself with the addition of converted forward Melissa

Tancredi. Last week, the junior shut down Purdue's top scorer Annette Kent, while also contributing the decisive goal with eight minutes left in the contest. Tancredi along with Chapman, Catherine Sigler and Kim Carpenter must continue their strong play this weekend.

"Our backs really need to be consistent," Waldrum said. "I think we'll be alright back there."

As Waldrum can attest when his undefeated Notre Dame team from two years ago lost in the

semifinals of the NCAA Tournament, being the heavy favorite can be a real burden.

"Two years ago, we were undefeated and ranked number one going into the tournament. If you don't win, then you feel like you've really blown the season," Waldrum said. "The pressure is on them. If they lose to us, then they've blown their ranking and their entire season."

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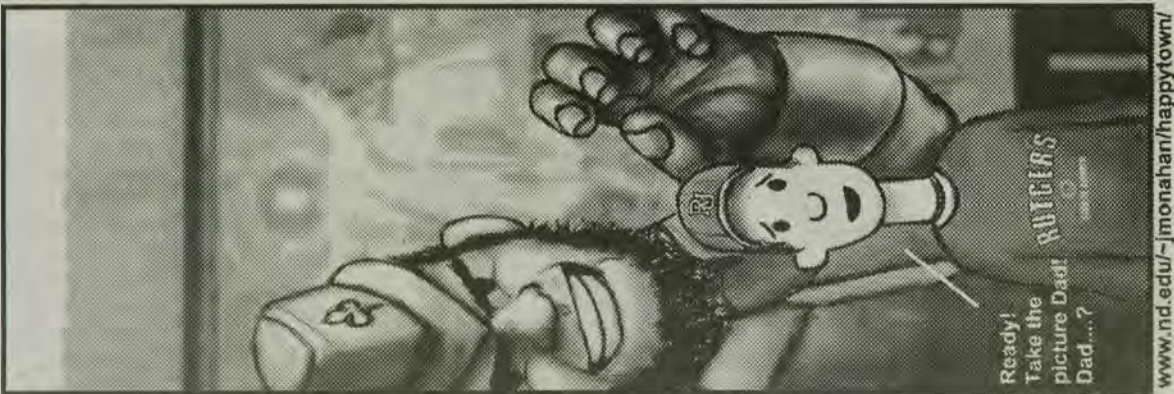
SCHOOL DAZE

CLARE O'BRIEN



HAPPY TOWN

JACK MONAHAN



JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

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

SIDAY
□ □ □ □ □

BOYHB
□ □ □ □ □

FREDOK
□ □ □ □ □

NEEWAK
□ □ □ □ □

www.jumble.com

Answer: HE
□ □ □ □ □



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

(Answers tomorrow)

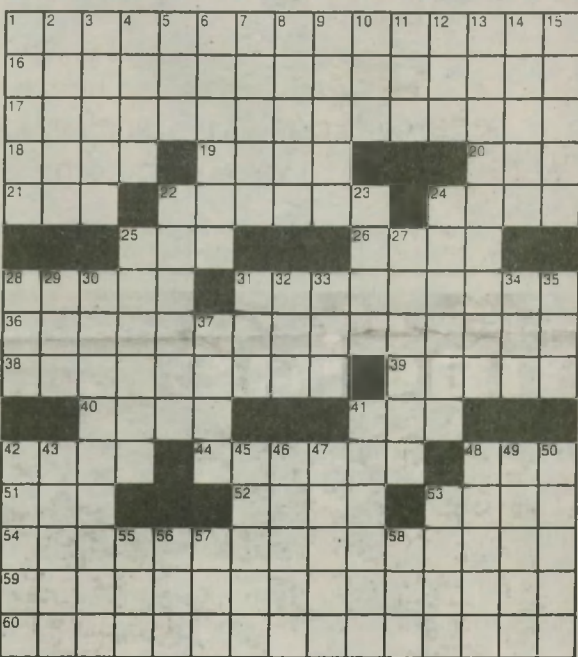
Yesterday's Jumbles: CRAZE HAIRY BAKING DOOMED
Answer: What the dealer on the gambling boat was known as — A DECK HAND

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CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS
- 1 They're lifesavers
 - 16 Degree requirement, maybe
 - 17 Point out
 - 18 Suit to
 - 19 Start of a German series
 - 20 Source of being, it's said
 - 21 Meyerbeer's "Huguenots"
 - 22 Some poles
 - 24 Amalgamate
 - 25 Discouraging word
 - 26 "Promised Land" author
 - 28 Shot the breeze
 - 31 Old colonial region
- DOWN
- 36 1983 film based on a Jean Shepherd book
 - 38 Began
 - 39 Assuaging agent
 - 40 Shake off
 - 41 Game show V.I.P.'s
 - 42 It produces wrinkles
 - 44 Repeat
 - 48 "A shrewd pickwreck": Howell
 - 51 Herbert of "War and Peace"
 - 52 Help
 - 53 Reticulation
 - 54 Brief time?
 - 59 Smash-up
 - 60 Restlessness
- 3 Chest sounds
- 4 Marie Claire competitor
 - 5 Bust specialists, for short
 - 6 Compass
 - 7 Place to sun
 - 8 Better
 - 9 Dentist's direction
 - 10 Rock blaster
 - 11 Spring time in Paris
 - 12 1940's arena: Abbr.
 - 13 Home entertainment systems
 - 14 Thoroughgoing
 - 15 Hair holder
 - 22 Reviews, as books
 - 23 Salon specialties
 - 24 Tropical rays
 - 25 Brat
 - 27 Split
 - 28 Madison, for one: Abbr.
 - 29 It separates two breaks
 - 30 Part of an Eskimo diet
 - 31 LAX posting
 - 32 "Blue?" (1929 hit)
 - 33 Japanese honorific
 - 34 E.U. member
 - 35 Firth of Clyde port
 - 37 Percolate

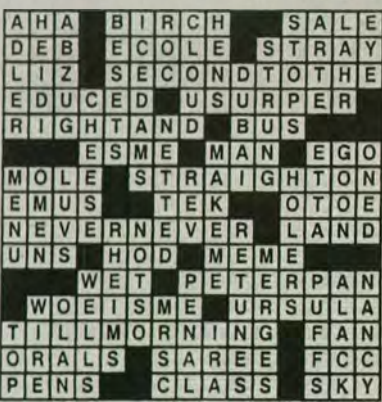


Puzzle by Martin Ashwood-Smith

- 41 4-Down features
- 42 Top dog
- 43 "Bridge Complete" author
- 45 Exxon rival
- 46 Became wearisome
- 47 Biathlon need
- 48 Moscow's Museum
- 49 Track founded in 1711
- 50 Times
- 53 Blue Reservoir (Colorado's largest body of water)
- 55 Old protest grp.
- 56 "Married an Axe Murderer" (Mike Myers comedy)
- 57 Media inits. since 1980
- 58 It may be written in stone

For answers, call 1-900-289-CLUE (289-2583), \$1.20 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5550.
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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jamie Lee Curtis, Rodney Dangerfield, Tom Conti, Billie Jean King, Robert Vaughn
Happy Birthday: You'll have to have your wits about you this year if you don't want to miss out on a good opportunity. Don't be a daydreamer. Turn your ideas into something concrete and you won't be sorry. You have everything to gain and nothing to lose. Your numbers are 3, 14, 22, 27, 34, 39
ARIES (March 21-April 19): Travel should be on your agenda. You can obtain a vast amount of knowledge if you keep an open mind and discuss your opinions with established individuals. This is a wonderful day for learning. ★★★★★
TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take time to do things for and with colleagues. You should be able to pick up additional knowledge or skills through courses or apprenticeships. It's a good time to learn. ★★★
GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your flippancy will surface if you allow your emotions to take over regarding your partnership. You need to get out and enjoy. Look into activities that will provide you with mental and physical stimulation. ★★★★★
CANCER (June 21-July 22): Added responsibilities may be difficult to handle. Do your best to make residential changes and improvements that will benefit the whole family. Make sure everyone knows you could use a little help. ★
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Love connections can solidify if you discuss your intentions with your mate. Don't hesitate to set aside time and find a private place where the two of you can share your dreams. ★★★★★
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Emotions may flare up on the homefront. Take one step at a time and don't pick sides. Your practical outlook will win out. Get sound advice from someone you respect. ★★
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Travel will lead to new friendships and valuable information. Don't be afraid to accept inevitable changes in your personal life. They will ultimately be better for you in the long run. ★★
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your possessive tendencies may be difficult for your mate to handle today. Don't put demands on those you live with or love. Take this time to work on yourself and give some to those around you. ★★★★★
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Inevitable changes concerning your career may surprise you. Stomach problems due to nervous tension are likely. Try to remain calm, eat properly and set up an exercise program to alleviate stress. ★★
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't mix romance with business. Gossip will damage your reputation. At this time, honesty and discrimination are your greatest assets so use them wisely. ★★
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can utilize your discipline to accomplish personal goals that you set for yourself. You have everything it takes to succeed in all your endeavors at this time, so get started. ★★★★★
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Emotional problems with family members can stifle your plans. Residential moves or changes will be beneficial in the long term. Follow your instincts. You will be right on the mark with your decisions. ★★
Birthday Baby: You will be lighthearted, fun and entertaining. You will always want to be surrounded by friends and family. You will find solutions to other people's problems and that will bring you respect and popularity throughout your life.
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SPORTS

Friday, November 22, 2002

FOOTBALL

Dueling the Knights

No. 8 Notre Dame returns to the gridiron against 1-9 Rutgers

By JOE HETTLER
Associate Sports Editor

For the second straight game, Notre Dame faces an opponent that has only one win this season.

And the Irish hope this game goes better than their last one.

See Also

Game analysis
pages 24-25

Two weeks ago, Notre Dame played a 1-7 Navy team at Ravens Stadium in Baltimore and needed a late 67-yard touchdown pass from Carlyle Holiday to Omar Jenkins in the final minutes to secure a 30-23 victory over the Midshipmen.

On Saturday, the Irish will need to play better than their last two outings if they hope to secure a win against Rutgers. While only 1-9 and 0-6 in the Big East conference, the Scarlet Knights have played several top teams tough this season. They led Tennessee at half-time and were beating No. 1 Miami late in the third quarter before losing 42-17.

"They have played their best football against the best teams, and, of course, they have played some of the really better teams in this country," Irish coach Tyrone Willingham said. "So it is a frightening thought that a team that has the skill that they have will play their best game against us this Saturday."

Notre Dame must also caution against looking past a lowly Rutgers team and seeing USC on the horizon. The Trojans are in contention for a BCS bowl bid and host the Irish next weekend.

"That has always been the difficult side of coaching, is how can you get

your young men to focus and concentrate on what's important now," Willingham said. "To do that, you really have to count on not only the leadership of your coaches, but the leadership of your players. They have to understand what's important."

The Scarlet Knights use a two-pronged backfield of Markis Facyson and Clarence Pittman. Facyson leads the team in rushing with 408 yards on 108 attempts and a touchdown.

Rutgers has also used different combinations of quarterbacks extensively this season. Ted Trump leads the team in passing yards, while Ryan Cubit has started more games. Yet the Irish will likely see true freshman Ryan Hart, who has started the last two games for Rutgers. The freshman has two touchdowns and three interceptions on the season.

Meanwhile Notre Dame hopes to hold on to the football and move the ball effectively on offense. In their last two games, the Irish have fumbled a combined 11 times, including seven fumbles in their 14-7 loss to Boston College.

Notre Dame will be without starting offensive lineman Jordan Black as well. The South Bend Tribune reported the senior will miss the first half of the game for repeatedly parking his car illegally, a violation of team policy.

"This is just handed down from coach Willingham. It's his decision," Black told the Tribune. "I don't think he wants people to do that and he wants to set a precedent and obviously he's using me as the example."

The game kicks off at 1 p.m.

Contact Joe Hettler at jhettler@nd.edu



BRIAN PUCEVICH/The Observer

Irish running back Ryan Grant tries to elude two Navy tacklers in Notre Dame's last game. The Irish host 1-9 Rutgers Saturday.

ND SOCCER

NCAA Tournament time continues for Irish

◆ Mens team looks to avoid letdown in rematch with Akron

By BRYAN KRONK
Sports Writer

Few were surprised Monday when Notre Dame's name was announced as a part of the 48-team NCAA Tournament field for mens soccer.

What may have surprised some, however, was the opponent, an Akron team the Irish have already faced — and beaten — this year.

Friday night at 7:30 at Alumni Field, the Irish (11-5-3) and Zips (9-7-3) face

off in the first round of the "second season" for both teams.

The winner of the rematch will play Indiana in Bloomington on Wednesday.

After an early exit from the Big East Tournament, the Irish are more than ready to start over again.

"[Coach Bobby Clark] has really got us believing that being eliminated from the Big East Tournament [in the first round] was a blessing in disguise," junior captain Greg Martin said.

Friday's match will mark the first-ever NCAA Tournament home game for the mens soccer team.

The first time these two teams met this season, on Oct. 6, the Irish rebounded from an overtime loss to Pittsburgh two

see SOCCER/page 22

◆ Irish women look to spoil No.1 Stanford's Sweet 16

By JOE LICANDRO
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame womens soccer team may be huge underdogs this weekend, but they sure are not worried about it. On Saturday at 10 p.m., the No. 19 Irish will travel to Palo Alto, Calif., to take on No. 1 Stanford, with

the winner advancing to the Elite Eight of the NCAA Tournament.

"I think the pressure is really on them," defender Candace Chapman said. "They're the No. 1 team, and we're supposed to be the big underdogs. We might have struggled a little during the season, but I don't think they understand how good we really are."

"I know we're physically tough. We just need to go in there mentally tough. Even if there are tough times against Stanford, we can't break down,"

defender Melissa Tancredi said. "It's hard to face the No. 1 team, but right now we have the advantage. We just can't make the little mistakes because that is what has killed us all season."

After last weekend's pair of 3-1 home victories over Ohio State and Purdue in the opening rounds of the tournament, the Irish will now be facing their toughest test of the season. The Cardinal has allowed only four goals the entire season on

see SWEET/page 26

SPORTS
AT A GLANCE

MENS BASKETBALL

Bucknell at Notre Dame

Friday, 9 p.m.

The Irish look to go 3-0 on the season tonight at the Joyce Center.

page 23

MENS SWIMMING

Purdue at Notre Dame

Friday, 5 p.m.

The Irish host the Boilermakers in this dual meet.

page 21

HOCKEY

Notre Dame at Michigan

Friday, 7:35 p.m.

The Irish return from a bye week to play No. 5 Michigan.

page 20

VOLLEYBALL

Notre Dame at Big East Tournament

Saturday-Sunday

Irish look to defend their Big East title.

page 19

FOOTBALL

Rutgers at Notre Dame

Saturday, 1 p.m.

The Observer profiles seniors playing their last game at the Stadium.

Insider

INTERHALL FOOTBALL

Siegfried vs. Alumni, Cavanaugh vs. Pasquerilla East

Dorm championships in the Stadium Sunday.

Insider

CONSIDER

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GEROME SAPP

RYAN SCAROLA

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COURTNEY WATSON

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table of contents



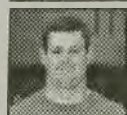
Bernard Akatu
page 21



Arnaz Battle
page 15



Jordan Black
page 8



John Crowther
page 18



Chad DeBolt
page 21



Charles Hedman
page 12



Jason Halvorson
page 10



Joey Hildbold
page 17



Tom Lopienski
page 5



Sean Mahan
page 9



Mike McNair
page 5



David Miller
page 7



Dan Novakov
page 12



Ed O'Connell
page 14



Tim O'Neill
page 20



Carlos Pierre-Antoine
page 4



Ryan Roberts
page 13



Gerome Sapp
page 3



Ryan Scarola
page 16



Shane Walton
page 11



Chris Yura
page 6

Fourth-year seniors
pages 22-23

Seniors relish return to glory



TIM KACMAR/The Observer

The Irish charge out of the tunnel wearing green jerseys before Notre Dame's game against Boston College three weeks ago. This season has been a redemption for a senior class that endured two losing seasons in three years.

The fifth-year seniors had every right to jump ship.

Could you blame them if they did? This was the class that suffered through two losing seasons with sub-.500 records.

The class that had as many head coaches as winning seasons. The class that came in with loads of potential and hadn't seen it manifest on the football field.

Notre Dame's senior class had motive and opportunity. All they needed to do was run away from Notre

Dame, away from the scribes who would write off their years under the Golden Dome as a giant disappointment, away from the shadows of Rockne and Leahy, away from the black stain on Notre Dame's football program.

But they stayed. And by staying, they became legends.

They'll admit it. Many of Notre Dame's fifth-year seniors toyed with the idea of leaving Notre Dame for the NFL, for real life, for anywhere where their every move wouldn't be analyzed under a microscope.

But they stayed. Their individual reasons for why they stayed are different. Shane Walton didn't think he was ready for the NFL. Arnaz Battle had yet to establish himself as a wide receiver. Ryan Roberts couldn't wait to start.

The Irish seniors had their individual reasons for sticking around. They also had a legacy to leave behind.

Few will admit it, but the prospect of being remembered as playing during an era best described as decidedly Faustian wasn't exactly how the seniors wanted to leave.

"I didn't expect to have any losing seasons coming to Notre Dame,"

Jordan Black said. "I expected to win a national championship. I thought that was very possible with the recruiting class that I was in."

They had dreams of winning a national title, of proving that Notre Dame could still compete with the nation's elite programs. They wanted to walk out with their heads held high knowing they left behind a program in stable hands.

And they will.

Ask a Notre Dame die-hard the significance of 1964 and they'll start bragging about how Ara Parseghian magically turned the Irish program around. Talk to those around campus in 1993 and they'll say how great it was to be around a national championship race.

Now, the 2002 version of the Irish football team is writing chapters in history one Saturday at a time.

And the seniors love it.

Say all you want about the dramatic turnaround Tyrone Willingham created this year, but Willingham himself would be the first to say the Irish wouldn't be 9-1 without the senior class. He didn't even name captains, choosing instead to place the burden of leadership on the entire team instead of on four individuals.

When a new head coach comes in, he often ignores the seniors and focuses on rebuilding the program's freshman and sophomore classes. But Willingham didn't scorn Notre Dame's seniors. He called on them for their leadership, asked for their respect and offered them the chance to return to greatness.

It was a chance they grabbed.

"As a senior, you don't want the year of a new coach to be a rebuilding year," Ryan Roberts said. "We knew from the first workouts this was going to be a different kind of deal."

Did the Irish worry about their

place in history? Not too often, mostly because they already knew they were only going to receive a few lines in the media guides instead of pages devoted to great teams.

Not many will admit it, but the uncertainty was there. It was there in winter workouts, it was there in spring practice, it was there over the summer, and it was there on media day. The Irish said they were

headed for a huge turnaround. Few heard them. Fewer believed them.

In fact, even as the Irish claimed they could contend for a national championship, they weren't too sure

themselves whether this year would be different from the rest.

But they blew out Maryland. Edged Michigan. Rallied to beat Michigan State. Crushed Florida State. Secured their place in history.

"We've had so many losing seasons, thinking about losing wouldn't have done us any good," Gerome Sapp said.

Now, instead of being remembered as the forgotten seniors, this year's class will be seen as the catalyst for an Irish return to glory.

Now, instead of being compared to the 1993 team, considered by many to be the last time Notre Dame challenged for a national title, the 2002 Irish will be looked at as the first group of many to challenge for a title.

Now, instead of wondering whether they'd ever make an impact, the Irish will graduate feeling their stint under the Dome had tremendous significance.

Now, the seniors know what pride feels like.

The views in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Andrew Soukup at asoukup@nd.edu.



Andrew Soukup

Sports Writer

QUOTING THE IRISH

"If we win out and win a bowl game, this is going to be one of the great teams in Notre Dame history."

Jordan Black
offensive tackle

"Every year ... I'm 100 percent proud of, and I just want to finish it up with a great season like we have been doing."

Chris Yura
punt protector

"It was a hard year last year. This year we returned to Notre Dame football."

Sean Mahan
offensive guard

GEROME SAPP

Taking control

Sapp may play defensive back, but the defense he calls his own calls him the quarterback

By KATIE McVOY
Associate Sports Editor

Sitting at home in front of the television was excruciating. He even thought about turning the game off, but he knew he couldn't do that. Instead, he turned down the sound to avoid having to listen to the announcers and put on soothing music. There was pain, but it wasn't the pain that came from his injured knee.



Sapp

The defense, his defense, was struggling against a weaker team and there was nothing he could do about it.

Gerome Sapp could only describe watching the close Irish victory against the Midshipmen on his television instead of on the field with one word.

"It was torture," he said.

Playing strong

Sapp is not used to injury. Aside from the normal bumps and bruises any football player suffers in the course of his career, Sapp hasn't had much experience with injury. In fact, before the Navy game, he had never missed traveling with the Irish.

"He's never hurt," defensive coordinator Kent Baer said, ironically, the day before Sapp suffered the knee injury. "He hasn't missed a practice, hasn't missed a snap. That's part of playing as well as he's played because he hasn't missed a practice."

The next day, Sapp got hurt in practice. The injury to his knee isn't so serious that it's career-ending or even season-ending. Sapp may even be back in time to play against Rutgers Saturday. But for the senior safety, it was a new experience.

"I've always dealt with knick-knack injuries," he said. "This is the most serious I've had, and, in the big picture, it's not all that serious. It just came at a bad time."

Sapp played in all 12 games his freshman year. He missed just one game his sophomore year with a slight ankle sprain and one game as a junior with a shoulder injury. But he had never missed a trip. He had always been there when his team needed him.

So the real pain for Sapp came not from the injury, but from his inability to help the Irish. As part of a secondary that has prided itself on making big plays to turn games around, Sapp was infuriated that he couldn't do anything helpful when the Irish were losing to a 1-7 Navy squad. He had taken ownership of this defense and they were leaderless.

"When I look at the defense, I feel kind of like it's my defense, or at least my secondary," he said. "And to not be able to be out there and help our team, it was horrible."

Although the injury has set Sapp back in terms of what he wants to accomplish this season, he refuses to let it shut him down. Injury or no, it's

still his defense and there's more yet to be done.

"[The injury] sets me back leaps and bounds," Sapp said. "Just in terms of wanting to play in every game and produce in every game. But I plan on catching up however I can."

Besides, he and cornerback Shane Walton are in a picking contest. Walton has now had an extra game to get interceptions.

"Yeah, he probably does [have an edge]," Sapp said. "I plan on being back before the season's over so I can catch up with him."

Playing tag

For Sapp and his fellow members of the secondary, football isn't so much a job as a walk in the park, or rather, a walk on the playground.

Coaches will argue that individually, the Irish secondary players may not hold a candle to some of football's defensive greats, but together, they're dynamite.

"I've been around better corners individually, I've been around better safeties individually," Baer said. "But I'm not sure I've been around a better group or a group who likes to play the way they play as a group."

The way Sapp describes it, when he plays with corners Vontez Duff and Walton and fellow safety Glenn Earl, it's not really a purely professional relationship. He feels more like he's tossing around the pigskin with his brothers.

"It's kind of like we're out there playing on the playground," Sapp said. "When you think back to high school and play with that mentality

when it's fun, it's so much more effective because you're not really afraid of making mistakes and things like that. We all know each other so well — Shane, Vontez, Glenn — that we have fun playing together."

But once game time hits, they have no problem putting away their jump ropes, hopping of the teeter-tauter and focusing.

"It's natural," Sapp said. "We can have a good time and we play well in a game. ... Once it's game time, it's all ball and it's all business. When the game's over, it's all laughs."

Making sure it's all ball and all business is something Sapp prides himself on.

Playing quarterback

"He's the quarterback back there in the secondary," Baer said. "That's good because of all the adjustments we have to make on almost every snap."

Coaches and players don't seem so shocked by comparing Sapp to an offensive player. After all, he's the signal caller for the secondary. He watches out for the line-up, he checks for any adjustments that have to be made. He's the quarterback.

"He's very vocal and instrumental in getting people lined up," Earl said. "[Quarterback] is a pretty accurate characterization."

"He also provides great leadership," added coach Tyrone Willingham. "He's very much the quarterback in our secondary."

Sapp himself didn't seem so sur-



NELLIE WILLIAMS/The Observer

Irish safety Gerome Sapp, the so-called quarterback of the Irish defense, has taken the leadership of the Irish secondary under his belt.

prised with the characterization. Every time he steps on the field he wants to make sure everyone is focused on all ball and all business. But he doesn't want his team to lose track of the big picture either.

"I would say the quarterback is always calm no matter what's happening, poised and always keeping his head to the sky and realizing that everything is going to be OK," Sapp said. "That's kind of how I am. I get the guys lined up and checked in and out ... it's a lot of little things so I take on more of a leadership role and things like that, try to lead by example."

Taking that kind of leadership role is something Sapp always wanted to do. He knew from the first day he stepped into the Notre Dame locker room that someday it would be his team.

"I knew as soon as I got the chance that was going to happen," Sapp said. "I was just waiting patiently for that to come and never doubting it. I knew as soon as I got enough playing time and enough confidence behind me

from the coaching staff that I would [take a leadership role]."

With a new coaching staff, taking that definitive leadership role was a little easier for the Texas native. They had no preconceived ideas about the past, they were only looking to the future. Sapp saw himself as part of that future.

"They know nothing of me. They knew some, but really nothing," he said. "All they wanted to know was what can you do for the future. They didn't care about the past. So I felt my leadership qualities would come out even more."

Now, even with an injury, the secondary's quarter-

back is pretty sure when he leaves things will be OK.

"Even when I leave, I'm leaving things in good hands," he said.

The next time he has to watch a Notre Dame football game on television, maybe it won't be so hard.

"He's the quarterback back there in the secondary. That's good because of all the adjustments we have to make on almost every snap."

Kent Baer
defensive coordinator

Contact Katie McVoy at
mcvo5695@saintmarys.edu

CARLOS PIERRE-ANTIONE

Moving from an earthquake to a rumble

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Sports Writer

Carlos Pierre-Antoine's arrival at Notre Dame caused an earthquake. His departure will barely make a tremor.

What happened to cause one of the most heavily recruited high school athletes to essentially become a four-year special



Pierre-Antoine

teams player, Pierre-Antoine doesn't know. He only understands that he tried his hardest, yet never emerged as a regular in the Irish lineup.

"It was frustrating," he said. "I want to get out there and I want to play, but you have to do whatever the coaches think is best, and what the coaches thought was best was for me to get behind my teammates."

Coming out of high school in Seattle, virtually every major recruiting service listed Pierre-Antoine as one of the top linebackers in the nation. He earned MVP honors in the Seattle Metro League twice, captained his team twice, and finished with 105 tackles his senior year.

When the Irish landed Pierre-Antoine, he was seen as one of the crown jewels in a recruiting class that eventually pro-

duced seven NFL draft picks. But even as NFL teams placed calls to his classmates last spring, Pierre-Antoine ferociously battled to earn a starting spot.

At times, Pierre-Antoine admitted the hype got to him and affected his adjustment to college. He sat out his entire freshman year to preserve a year of eligibility and to adjust to college life, a decision he hoped would prepare him for future greatness.

The decision appeared to pay off his sophomore year when he appeared on defense in all 12 of Notre Dame's games, recording a career-high 19 tackles that season.

But Pierre-Antoine started to feel the pressure the spring after his sophomore season, when he battled his good friend Tyreo Harrison for a starting linebacker job — a decision Pierre-Antoine thinks was already made before the spring.

"I think he was going to start anyway, they were just doing that to get him fired up," he said. "So I'd try to help him out as best I could, that was my role."

That spring seemed to be the defining point in Pierre-Antoine's career, a point that epitomized the struggle he went through trying to carve out a spot on the team. Harrison moved into the starting lineup, while Pierre-Antoine moved to the special teams unit.

He had another chance this fall to earn a starting position again, but Derek Curry beat out Pierre-Antoine, sending the fifth-year senior back to the special teams unit.

Pierre-Antoine isn't bitter toward Bob Davie's coaching staff for keeping him on the sidelines, nor is he bitter toward Tyrone Willingham's staff for deciding to keep him there again. Although he briefly thought of transferring, he wanted to stay in South Bend to get a Notre Dame degree. In the meantime, he was left wondering why he stayed on the sideline.

"I don't know what it was," he said. "I guess its that the coaches felt the other person can get the job done better than I can."

Notre Dame's success this season has made Pierre-Antoine's season go a little easier. He gets his satisfaction in small bursts, mostly from making huge hits on special teams.

He had his moment in the spotlight against Florida State when he drilled a kickoff returner and caused a fumble, helping Notre Dame to a 34-24 victory.

What lies ahead for Pierre-Antoine, he doesn't quite know. He got his degree in Sociology and computer applications last year, and is working on an education minor. After college, with the NFL out of the picture, Pierre-Antoine wants to explore the possibility of playing football at some level. If



CHIP MARKS/The Observer

Carlos Pierre-Antoine practices a ball-carrying drill. The senior forced a fumble against Florida State.

that doesn't work out, he plans to get a Masters in social work.

Even now, at the end of his college career, Pierre-Antoine isn't sure how he'll look back on his football days at Notre Dame. Disappointment is a word he frequently uses, yet his experience in South Bend taught him football isn't everything.

"You can say that about a lot of people, that they came in

[and] didn't do what was expected in college," he said. "There are different situations, you want to come in and play, and I wish I could have done the same."

"But this is the plan God has for me, and I'm going to do the best I can and go in the direction I'm going to go."

Contact Andrew Soukup at asoukup@nd.edu

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MIKE MCNAIR

McNair learning to stop running, start blocking

By CHRIS FEDERICO
Sports Editor

USA Today first team prep All-American. Rated in the Top 20 players in the nation by the Chicago Sun-Times. Rated in the Top 50 players in the nation by The Sporting News.

School record 2,671 yards rushing and 33



McNair

touchdowns for California football powerhouse Mater Dei as a senior. A 10.55 time in the 100 meters and 4.36 in the 40-yard dash — top 10 national times for both distances.

Those were the stats, records and honors earned by Irish fullback Mike McNair during his senior year of high school — as a tailback.

But when McNair arrived as a freshman at Notre Dame, former Irish coach Bob Davie decided to try to take advantage of his size and growth potential and moved the talented runner to fullback.

It was a difficult change, and one that took longer than either player or coach had hoped.

"It was pretty tough, because I had never blocked in high school," McNair said. "I was mostly used to just carry-

ing the ball. I had to really develop my blocking over the years."

The southern California speedster worked to gain weight to bulk up to the size of a fullback and tried to learn the blocking skills and techniques of the position.

"When I first gained a lot of weight, I didn't really lose a lot of speed, but I felt kind of tight and restricted," McNair said.

But McNair managed the switch and played most of his freshman season as a blocking back in short-yardage situations.

Then injuries took their toll — McNair played only one game of his sophomore season before suffering an arch injury that kept him out the rest of the year.

Then as a junior, McNair saw action as a backup in six games, but missed two trips and some playing time, this time with a hip flexor injury.

In fact, it wasn't until the Navy game last season that McNair — the record setting high school tailback — got his first carries for the Irish, three for 15 yards against Navy.

So when new coach Tyrone Willingham and his almost completely revamped staff came in last season, McNair, who had a fifth year of eligibility remaining, saw it as an opportunity for new life in his last year.

"With the new coaching staff, I saw it as an opportuni-



NELLIE WILLIAMS/The Observer

Mike McNair came into Notre Dame as a highly touted running back. He spent most of his career blocking so someone else could run the ball.

ty to end my time here on a good note, and just give it one last shot to see if I could have fun," McNair said.

For McNair, who along with the other members of his class had witnessed some tough times with the Irish, including two losing seasons, a 41-9 Fiesta Bowl loss to Oregon

State and Notre Dame's first 0-3 start last year, this season has been one of redemption.

In addition to Notre Dame's 9-1 start, McNair has seen increased playing time, including appearances in all 10 games and his first career reception against Stanford.

"I think this year is great,"

McNair said. "It's a great team to be a part of with some really great guys. We've done some good things, and I'm definitely happy about how things have gone so far. It's been a lot more fun for me this year."

Contact Chris Federico at cfederic@nd.edu

TOM LOPIENSKI

Lopienksi happy to do the team's dirty work



LISA VELTE/The Observer

Irish fullback Tom Lopienksi scored his first touchdown against Navy. However, the senior is just as happy to block and let someone else score as to score himself.

By MATT LOZAR
Sports Writer

Most football fans notice Notre Dame fullback Tom Lopienksi when he doesn't do his job instead of when he does. But two weeks ago, the senior's name was announced for doing something good, and it wasn't just throwing a block.

Unfortunately, Lopienksi wasn't able to enjoy his first career-rushing touchdown as much as he should have. Lopienksi's touchdown put the Irish ahead 9-7 in the second quarter against lowly Navy.

"During that game, things weren't going too well so I was more mad throughout the whole game," Lopienksi said. "Things weren't going so well for the team so I was more focused on that than the touchdown being a big thing for me."

Even though the Irish were able to pull out the 30-23 victory, Lopienksi hasn't focused on his moment in the sun.

"I just keep on working hard," he said. "I block, and to score a touchdown is a



Lopienksi

perk, but I am just as happy to throw a good block and let [Irish running back] Ryan Grant or somebody else score."

The fullback's role on offense is to open holes for the running backs, block blitzing defenders and, basically, help the offensive line do the dirty work. Even watching the fullback and concentrating on him every play doesn't necessarily reveal if he is playing well.

"Basically, it is like an offensive lineman, if you just focus on that player during the game, it's pretty hard to tell if they are doing their job," Lopienksi said. "Any time you get in the open field and you can see the fullback making a block for the tailback then you can tell he is doing a good job."

The change to the pro-style offense brought by Irish coach Tyrone Willingham and his coaching staff hasn't resulted in a big change in Lopienksi's role.

"I am getting the ball maybe a couple times more, but basically it is just blocking and I have no problem with that," Lopienksi said.

Coming from Walsh Jesuit High School in Ohio, Lopienksi had scholarship offers from Ohio State, Michigan and Michigan State. The Parade prep All-American was rated as one of

the top 100 high school players nationally by The Sporting News, Chicago Sun-Times and Dallas Morning News.

However, seeing his older sister Sarah run track for the Irish and knowing his dad Tom was a cornerback for the Irish in the '70s made Lopienksi's decision easier.

"My dad came here and my sister came here who ran track here although she got scholarship opportunities to run elsewhere," Lopienksi said. "I followed her pretty much, you know the big sister — go with her."

"Notre Dame has a good football tradition and I thought it was the best choice."

Although he has played in every game in which he has been eligible, what Lopienksi will remember most won't be the plays on the field.

"I would say the friendships on the team stick out the most and is what I will remember the most with the guys on the team, the guys in my class the year before," Lopienksi said. "Just remembering those memories of joking around, winning games and losing games you don't remember too much about that."

"You just remember the good times you had with your teammates."

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu

CHRIS YURA

Fullback makes best of what's given to him

by BRYAN KRONK
Sports Writer

Chris Yura has made the most of the opportunities that have been given to him.

Even before he began breaking state record after state record as a running back in his hometown of Morgantown, W. V., Yura knew where he would spend his college years.

"When I first came here, I came to football camp," Yura said. "After I saw the traditions, like Touchdown Jesus, it was just like, 'Wow.' And I couldn't think of anyplace else to come but here, and that was my sophomore year of high school. So I basically made my mind up when I was 15."

Unfortunately for Yura, his primary position in high school — running back — would be backlogged with competition at Notre Dame. In 1999, star running back and fellow freshman Julius Jones would take many of the handoffs at tailback for the Irish and Jones' depth would be supplemented by fellow backs Tony Fisher, Tony Driver and Terrance Howard.

So the Irish placed Yura on

the special teams unit.

Yura spent much of his Notre Dame career playing special teams, making a few rushing attempts, most notably on a fake field goal in 2000 against Boston College. Yura's 4-yard run on fourth-and-2 gave the Irish a key first down in the game, which the Irish went on to win.

Despite not seeing much action at running back, Yura has still relished his time here at Notre Dame and his ability to make contributions to the Irish effort.

"Just being here, just being able to experience the football part [of Notre Dame] has been awesome," Yura said. "The whole Notre Dame experience has been such a gift. I feel like I'm the luckiest guy in the world to have the opportunity to come to a place like this and play football. It's just amazing."

In his final year of eligibility, Yura made contributions to both special teams and the Irish offense, earning a rushing attempt during this year's game with Air Force. In addition to the rush at Air Force, Yura also made a special teams tackle that game.

Although he has seen only limited action this season, Yura said he has no regrets about not being able to contribute more.

"Every year and every thing I've done here, I'm 100 percent proud of, and I just want to finish it up with a great season like

we have been doing," Yura said.

Having been part of the Notre Dame tradition for his four years in college, Yura will look back on his time at Notre Dame as a special time in his life. After this season is over, he will move on from the Irish sidelines and take with him the lessons that those four years as a part of the Irish football team — as well as part of a greater Notre Dame "team" — taught him.

"The work ethic — hard work, commitment ... just the Notre Dame experience — is the one thing I'll be taking with me," Yura said. "I've been with a great group of guys, and with excellent students ... just the whole combination is a great thing to take away."

While his future remains uncertain, Yura will still keep a place in his heart for the Irish long after his playing days at Notre Dame are over.

"I think the thing I'll miss most [about Notre Dame] is my teammates," Yura said. "A lot of these guys ... you're with them all the time, you kind of grow to be like family. It's such a close-knit group. I think it's going to be hard stepping out of it and not being a part of the team anymore. You grow so close, and it creates a bond just with the hard work you go through. It's hard to walk away from it."

Contact Bryan Kronk at
bkronk@nd.edu



Yura



NELLIE WILLIAMS/The Observer

Chris Yura came to Notre Dame as a running back but made the best of playing on special teams as a punt protector.

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DAVID MILLER

Free-spirited Miller carves spot as holder

By HELENA PAYNE
Sports Writer

David Miller grew up minutes away from Irish territory, was recruited in 1998 to kick and never permanently obtained the coveted starter's position.

But things happen for a reason.

"I would obviously love to kick, but I would never change the fact that now I'm playing," said Miller who is finishing his fourth year of eligibility as a holder and backup kicker with the Irish. "All I want to do in my last year is win."

When Miller entered Notre Dame as a freshman, he had grown accustomed to winning. As the kicker and punter for Penn High School in Mishawaka, he contributed to three consecutive state championship teams from 1995 to 1997.

"The thing that sticks out most about David is that the more crucial the situation the better he performed," said Penn football coach Chris Geesman.

But more than Miller's composure caught the Geesman's eye.

"He was a free spirit," Geesman said, adding that Miller would dye his hair differ-

ent colors and often painted his nails gold.

Even now, Miller describes himself as an independent thinker who is very opinionated.

"It's tough for people to get in an argument with me," he said.

Geesman said it was Miller's self-confidence that made him an outstanding football player.

"He's what I consider the typical kicker," he said. "He was a little eccentric but very, very good."

Early in Miller's Notre Dame career, he sprang into the spotlight at a time when kicker Jim Sanson missed several attempts and the crowd was responding by crossing their fingers in the air.

Against Arizona State in 1999, Miller made 6 of 7 extra-points, with the lone miss coming on a blocked kick. That same year, Miller made field goals at of and 33 yards for USC and totaled 19 points for the season.

Although Miller had his moment to shine, Sanson returned to the starter position, and, in the following season, Miller faced the competition of another teammate, senior Nicholas Setta. That year, Miller kicked off during the Navy and Rutgers games but did not play during 2001.

Now, Miller works as the holder for the Irish. And Despite the kicking games' inconsistencies this season, Miller is proud of his teammates' perseverance.

"We've had some tough times," Miller said. "It'd be easy



BRIAN PUCEVICH/The Observer

Irish holder David Miller looks on during practice. The senior, whose high school coach called independent and free-spirited, has made a spot for himself on the Notre Dame team.

for a lot of guys to leave, but this whole senior class, we've stuck around and finally fought through it."

He added that playing under coach Tyrone Willingham has revitalized the team's sense of pride.

"Now, you expect the best out of everybody," he said.

The 5-11, 210 pound, kicker graduated with the class of

2002 as a psychology major with a 3.33. In his fifth year, he is taking graduate classes in psychology in preparation for a job or internship, and later, a graduate studies program.

Miller calls music one of his "biggest loves," owns hundreds of CDs and enjoys listening to the lyrics of rock groups like Metallica, Rage Against the Machine and Korn among oth-

ers. He gets pumped up before games to the sounds of Korn's "Here to Stay," said he anticipates an emotional last home game against Rutgers.

"It feels like I've been here forever," he said.

Contact Helena Payne at
payne.30@nd.edu

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JORDAN BLACK

Hookin' 'em Longhorn style

Black turned down Texas to come north and win with the Irish

By CHRIS FEDERICO
Sports Editor

When Texas native Jordan Black turned down offers to play college football for in-state giants Texas and Texas A&M, and instead selected to head north of the Mason-Dixon line to play for Notre Dame, he expected to be a part of many great teams for the Irish.



Black

He didn't expect it to take four years to develop.

"I didn't expect to have any losing seasons coming to Notre Dame," Black said. "I expected to win a national championship. I thought that was very possible with the recruiting class that I was in."

But four years after stepping onto campus, the senior offensive tackle knew he couldn't leave South Bend — knew he couldn't leave one of the greatest college football programs of all time — without leaving a mark.

"Everybody has a goal of winning a national championship, or as in my case, to just be a part of a winning team," Black said. "Last year, we didn't do so hot, and I didn't want to end on that note. So I came back."

Black decided to take advantage of his fifth year of eligibility and returned for one last run with the Irish.

Now, 10 games into a dream season, the fifth-year senior and the rest of his classmates finally have their chance to contribute to Irish lore. They have a chance to go down in history as another great Notre Dame team.

"If we win out and win a bowl game, this is going to be one of the great teams in Notre Dame history," Black said with proud certainty. "We're one game short of being able to play in the national championship. I think this is going to be remembered just like the '93 team. We had the one bad game against Boston College, but other than that, this team will be considered a very special team."

The player

Few teams have the luxury of seeing five seniors start on the offensive line. But if the Irish line is experienced, Black is a grizzled veteran. Entering this season, Black ranked 13th in the nation in starts by a lineman with 32, and he is now up to 42.

Over that span, Black can see how much he has matured and grown as a lineman from the time of his first start as a sophomore in the first game of the 1999 season against Kansas.

"It's night and day. If you go back to my sophomore year,

you can tell that I'm a kid," Black said. "It's funny to go back and look at. But I think now, it's pretty obvious that I've got some games under my belt, and I've just got a better feel for the game. I think you can just see more maturity in the way that I play."

Now Black is one of the dominant tackles in the game, using a combination of talent and experience to lead the Irish line.

"I think Jordan — physical-skill wise — is as gifted as anybody I've ever worked with," Irish offensive line coach Mike Denbrock said. "But he's also a smart football player."

Black uses what he's learned from his four years as a starter, and brings it with him to every game. Some of the coaches relate it to having another coach out on the field during a game.

"He understands the game, does a good job of communicating with me on the sidelines about the kind of things that are happening while they're out there on the field," Denbrock said. "A lot of that is him having the opportunity to play so much and having the game experience that he does have. But a lot of it, too, is instinctive, and it's just something that he brings to the table."

The leader

Even a squad that starts five seniors along the offensive line needs someone to look to for leadership. While it's nice to have the wisdom of being with a team for four years, age can mean very little without playing experience.

"Game experience is invaluable. There's no substitute for it," Denbrock said.

In that respect, Black has been the pace-setter for the Irish, starting in almost every game during his career, a near unimaginable feat for a position that receives so much wear-and-tear. After sitting out his entire freshman year, Black started every game but two. He missed two games at the end of his sophomore season when he suffered a torn medial collateral ligament in his right knee.

Now, in his fourth year as a starter, Black tries to share everything that he's learned from 42 games on the gridiron.

"Leadership-wise, I think he's somebody that the guys on our team really look to and try to be like, not only in the way that he approaches the game, but in the way he studies it and prepares himself to be ready every week," Denbrock said.

Even though many of those players he has been expected to lead are peers and classmates, Black has had no problem accepting that role.

"Regardless of whether they look to me for leadership or not, it's my responsibility to demonstrate leadership — hopefully, I do that," Black said. "But at the same time ...



BRIAN PUCEVICH/The Observer

Irish tackle Jordan Black hits an opponent during Notre Dame's victory against Navy. The Texas native turned down offers from in-state schools to come to Notre Dame.

we're all old and experienced guys, and it's just fun to go out there and play with a group that's so close."

The Texan

As one of the top offensive linemen in the nation coming out of Dallas Christian High School, it seemed almost automatic that Black would stay in state and become an Aggie or Longhorn. So Black committed Texas football suicide when he pulled the wool over the eyes of Texas and headed north for Notre Dame.

It's hardly acceptable when Texas players leave for the SEC or other Big XII schools, so it's equitable with treason when one leaves to play for a northern school.

"A lot of people were unhappy — especially in the media — when I decided to go to Notre Dame," Black said. "Everybody thinks, 'Jordan Black, he's a traitor.' But at the time I wasn't really impressed with Texas or Texas A&M."

Black eluded the lure of the then newly-hired Texas coach Mack Brown, who is often considered the top recruiter in college football.

"Mack Brown, though, when he got hired, he almost talked me into going [to Texas]," Black said. "But Notre Dame was too big of a deal to pass up, so that's why I came here."

For four years, all those naysayers and second-guessers had been able to criticize Black for leaving his home state behind. But now, as the Irish sit at No. 8 in the nation, just two wins away from a BCS bowl berth and a few strategic losses by the right teams away from the national championship game, Black knows it was the right decision.

"I'm happy about what we've accomplished this year," he said. "I couldn't ask for anything more."

And it's no surprise Black already has one team he'd love to play in a bowl game.

"Oh man, that's got to be Texas," he quickly responds with a devilish grin. "I would love to play them."

The end

After four seasons of disappointment in which Black witnessed the Irish go a combined 28-19, including two losing seasons, the 41-9 debacle in

the 2001 Fiesta Bowl and the program's first 0-3 start last season, he is finally enjoying the type of season for which he told all those Texas coaches to keep their scholarships.

"We had a couple of bad years," Black said. "We did make it to the Fiesta Bowl, but in retrospect that was kind of an embarrassment what happened to us there. But considering how this year has been, it's been totally worth it."

And now, Black and his Irish teammates — especially those senior classmates that have seen the worst days — are basking in the good times. After four years that seemed to last an eternity, he can't make this final one last long enough.

"It's unbelievable, coming back from the Florida State game at the airport, there's people waiting there to cheer us on," Black said. "There's 500 people waiting at the stadium for us when we get back. That's just something I haven't experienced. I'm trying to just soak up as much as I can before I leave here."

Contact Chris Federico at cfederic@nd.edu

SEAN MAHAN

Orphaned, but not alone

After losing both parents, Mahan found support in friends and family

By KATIE McVOY
Associate Sports Editor

Sean Mahan lived the life of an All-American boy. He grew up in a comfortable neighborhood in Tulsa, Okla. with his parents and his sister. He played basketball and wrestled. His first love was football and he was good at it. He was just the boy next door.



Mahan

Then his whole life changed.

During the summer of 1996, right before Mahan entered his junior year in high school, a year during which his football team would win a state championship, Mahan's father passed away. Just two years later, in October of his freshman year at Notre Dame, his mother lost her long battle with cancer and left Mahan an orphan.

"It has been very difficult," Mahan said. "It's something you never expect as a teenager or a child — to lose your parents."

By his sophomore year in high school, Mahan seemed to have it pretty much figured out. He had earned a starting spot on the Jenks High School foot-

"It has been very difficult. It's something you never expect as a teenager or a child — to lose your parents."

Sean Mahan
Irish offensive tackle

ball team, a team that did not allow a sack in all three years that Mahan started. He played football with a team of all-stars, including last year's Dick Butkus award winner Rocky Calmus. By his senior year, Mahan had two state championships under his belt.

His father would not be able to watch those wins. Michael Mahan, a 1964 graduate of Notre Dame, fell victim to a heart attack in the summer of 1996.

With his decision about college just around the college, his father's legacy weighed heavily on Mahan's mind.

"I definitely thought about it," Mahan said. "It was definitely in the back of my mind. I talked about it with my mom and she just wanted to make sure that whatever decision I made I was happy with it."

Mahan knew about the Notre Dame legacy and his father stayed in the back of his mind. But he wanted to keep his mind open.

"When I was being recruited by schools, I wanted to make sure and have an open door policy with everyone recruiting me," he said. "[I wanted] to make sure I checked every place out to

make sure I made the right decision."

Even with just his mother around to talk him through his decision, Mahan knew that both of his parents would have been proud of whatever path he chose.

"They both would have supported me with whatever decision I made," Mahan said.

When it came down to it, whether it was the legacy of his sister, his father and his uncle attending Notre Dame or whether it was just a feeling, Mahan chose Notre Dame.

"Everything just weighed in and it felt like the right place for me," Mahan said.

Mahan knew he was choosing Notre Dame for the football, for the tradition and for the academics. He didn't know he was choosing a support system.

Halfway through his freshman season, which he sat out to preserve a year of eligibility, Mahan received a disturbing phone call from home. His mother, who had battled with cancer when Mahan was younger, had undergone surgery to correct a brain clot.

The surgery was successful, but Mahan's mother had passed away unexpectedly following the surgery.

"She had cancer when I was younger," Mahan said. "But she had diabetes and her body just started to fall apart."

Mahan was not alone

when he received that phone call. The first line of his support system was there when Mahan's sister, Lisa, told him that they had lost another parent. His teammate roommate on the road, Jordan Black, sat and listened as Mahan talked.

"I was actually there when he got the phone call," Black said. "And that was a hard thing to sit there and hear him listen to his sister telling him what happened. That was just real hard."

After he got the news, Mahan wasn't sure he was even going to stay at Notre Dame. The shock of losing both parents was something that could have sent any man back home. But, in choosing Notre Dame, Mahan had unexpectedly fallen upon a support system that would help carry him through the hardest times in his life.

"I was living in Siegfried Hall at the time and I had a bunch of friends living in the dorm that were very supportive," Mahan said. "And my friends on the team — Jordan Black, Mike McNair — they were very supportive, always helped me. ... When it first happened, I didn't know if I



BRIAN PUCEVICH/The Observer

Irish offensive guard Sean Mahan lost both of his parents before his 20th birthday. Through the tragedy, the fifth-year senior learned that Notre Dame was about more than football.

wanted to come back, but they were so supportive that I wanted to come back and finish what I started."

Mahan stayed four more years.

But the five years Mahan spent at Notre Dame felt like a lot longer for a young man who had to learn to cope with more than just bad football games.

"I came in 1998. It feels like it was 20 years ago," Mahan said. "I've been here for half a decade."

But five years have found Mahan with more than just football statistics. A half a decade of football and a tragedy that no one expects to face left Mahan with friends that he didn't exactly

bargain for when he came to Notre Dame to face off against opposing defensive lines.

"I think when something like [death] happens, everybody tries to get as close as they can to him and help him

out," Black

said. "I think the team responded and was there for him when he needed us."

In return, Mahan has brought a

sense of strength to the offensive line. He has overcome major obstacles and continues to overcome the smaller obstacles of day-to-day life.

"He has a lot of respect among his teammates," offensive line coach Mike Denbrock said. "... I think

he's a young man that any obstacle that's put in front of him, he's going to overcome it. Unfortunately, he's had to overcome tragedy that none of us would ever want to deal with and done a good job and become a solid young man."

Five football seasons later, Mahan has grown as a player and as a man. But there are some things that always stay the same.

Every week the Irish play a different team, they focus on different weapons their opponents use, they run out of the tunnel looking at different colored jerseys. Mahan has dealt with different coaches, he has met new teammates.

But one thing has never changed.

"There are always two [people] I dedicate games to," he said. "Every game is dedicated to them."

Contact Katie McVoy at
mcvo5695@saintmarys.edu

"There are always two people I dedicate games to. Every game is dedicated to them."

Sean Mahan
Irish offensive tackle

JASON HALVORSON

Halvorson hits the books and then the field

By MARK ZAVODNYIK
Sports Writer

Jason Halvorson didn't come to Notre Dame to play football. The walk-on senior defensive lineman from Burnsville, Minn., arrived at Notre Dame to focus on academics.

"I came to Notre Dame because it's a great academic institution, and I figured my football days were over," Halvorson said.

Halvorson spent his inaugural football season at Notre Dame in the student section like most undergrads. However after experiencing the aura and tradition of Notre Dame football from the stands, Halvorson knew that he needed to be a part of it on the field.

So at the end of his freshman year, Halvorson tried out at spring practice and made the squad. He has been living the dream of Notre Dame fans ever since.

From being in the locker room to playing in the games, Halvorson has been able to live out his dreams as a Notre Dame football player.

"You get goose bumps on the back of your neck running out of the tunnel, looking out into the 80,000-people sea of green," he said. "It's exhilarating."

This season Halvorson was on the sidelines for every home and away game. All of the hard work paid off when Halvorson got into the action for a play in Notre Dame's Oct. 5 victory over Stanford. However, the best part of



Halvorson

being a Notre Dame football player for Halvorson has been the daily opportunity to follow in the footsteps of so many Irish greats, from George Gipp to Rocket Ismail, and the chance to wear a gold helmet.

"Making the football team is definitely one of my biggest football achievements," Halvorson said. "When I tried out freshman year, I didn't even expect to make the team."

Another achievement that Halvorson is very proud of is the scholarship that he earned for his senior year.

"I was totally surprised when Coach Willingham told me about the scholarship," Halvorson said.

This season Halvorson has had an opportunity to be part of the renaissance of Notre Dame football. New coach Tyrone Willingham has instilled in his players the importance of team unity.

"The team has really come together and set goals for itself," Halvorson said.

Willingham and his staff have also instilled a belief that the team can accomplish its goals. Halvorson talks about how this foundation of being goal-oriented is evident in all aspects of this team.

"From day one, Coach Willingham set a standard for us to achieve," Halvorson said. "We are trying everyday to achieve those standards that he set for us."

This season has been highlighted for the Irish by a win over Florida State at Tallahassee. For Halvorson, that game was the most exciting of his career.

"It was a riot to go down there and beat them at home," Halvorson said.

But the world doesn't end with football for Halvorson, who has bigger plans in state after graduation.

The science pre-professional major plans to attend medical school next



LISA VELTE/The Observer

Irish walk-on Jason Halvorson watches the Irish from the sideline during their close victory against Michigan State.

year. Despite his difficult class schedule and lofty expectations, Halvorson said the opportunity to be a part of the Notre Dame football team has been worth juggling his responsibilities.

"It's hard, it hasn't been easy, but at the same time it has been really rewarding," he said.

As he approaches his final two games as a Notre Dame football player, Halvorson will be forced to look back at his career and think about how far he

has come. In the end, he'll be able to say that he was a member of one of the most tradition-rich teams in all of collegiate athletics.

"It's fun just to be a part of it," Halvorson said. "To say that you are a part of something truly bigger than yourself."

Contact Mark Zavodnyik at
mzavodny@nd.edu

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SHANE WALTON

Playing for pride

Walton started football to make his coach proud — his soccer coach, that is

By JOE HETTLER
Associate Sports Editor

Throughout his football career, Irish cornerback Shane Walton always wanted to make late Notre Dame soccer coach Mike Berticelli proud.

It's safe to say Walton has done a good job of that.



Walton

Berticelli gave Walton an opportunity to try-out for the football team before his sophomore year, even though the young superstar led the Irish soccer team in goals and was an All-Big East second team selection the year before as a freshman.

"[Berticelli] was my foot in the door," Walton said. "He wanted what was best for me and not what was best for the soccer team. That shows the true meaning of a man right there."

Berticelli's sudden death in 1999 was one of the hardest experiences Walton's ever had to endure.

"The way I got through [his death] was just knowing he was up there, looking after me, and it was his dream for me to succeed," Walton said. "If I could do that, then I'd proven something."

Berticelli's selfless act changed Walton's life forever and gave the Notre Dame football program an outstanding leader as well as a great football player. To cap off an illustrious career and 2002 season, Walton was named a finalist for the Bronko Nagurski award Tuesday, an award given annually to the best defensive player in the country.

"I had a goal," Walton said about changing sports from soccer to football. "I think if you don't set goals then there's something wrong with you. My first year I just wanted to learn the system, and if I played, it was a bonus. My second year I wanted to do well, my third year I wanted to be good, and my fourth year I wanted to be great. I'm almost there. We still have three games to go so I'm not there yet, but I want to make my mark on Notre Dame."

Walton's climb from stand-out soccer player to standout football player didn't come without its setbacks. After making the team as a sophomore, Walton stood on the sidelines and hardly saw any action.

"I've never sat the bench in my entire life, and that was hard for me to deal with," Walton said. "But you have to deal with it, and I think I learned from it, as far as watching the other players ahead of me."

Walton waited his turn and used one of his biggest assets — his work ethic — to put himself in a position to start in 2000. He also added weight to his then 175-pound frame.

"I basically had to change my body, the structure of my body from a soccer player to a football player," Walton said. "Football is a lot of burst, so I had to put about 10 pounds on. ... I think [starting and being successful] is a tribute to my work ethic. I believe anyone can do anything they want to do. It's just a matter of how hard you're going to work to attain that goal."

In 2000, Walton recorded 31 solo tackles and assisted on nine others. One of the highlights of the season for Walton occurred when he intercepted Purdue's Drew Brees and returned the ball 60 yards for a touchdown in Notre Dame's win over the Boilermakers. Walton also led the team in minutes played that season until breaking his right forearm against Rutgers.

Just a year later, 2001 was a very bittersweet season for Walton. He had a breakout year, quickly becoming the leader of the Irish secondary by blocking a punt against Nebraska that set up the only Irish score of the game. He went on to record 43 tackles, a sack and seven tackles for a loss that season.

However, Notre Dame struggled to win and finished just 5-7 under former coach Bob Davie. The season challenged the Irish, as well as Walton, to rise above the criticism and the bad aura surrounding the team.

"It was hard for me," Walton said. "I hate losing. I think anyone that is OK with losing is a loser. So I was definitely not all right with it. It was frustrating, but I still had fun. I love doing what I'm doing."

After 2001, Walton had to decide whether he would leave school or come back for his fifth-year of eligibility. When making his decision, Walton thought back to his goals and knew he had not attained all of the ones he set before himself. So the decision to stay was made.

"I didn't think I was proven yet," Walton said. "I think I still had a lot to prove. I just wasn't ready to leave. This place kind of grows on you. I thought I was a pretty good player [in 2001], but I still think I had a lot of room to improve."

So Walton returned to a team that had been through losing seasons in two of the last three years, a coaching controversy and rape accusations aimed at four players. Despite these obstacles, Walton kept working, kept improving and kept his focus on helping the 2002 Irish football team.

He knew things could change quickly.

"I'm not too big on the indi-



NELLIE WILLIAMS/The Observer

Senior cornerback Shane Walton returns an interception during an Irish loss to Boston College. Walton began his Notre Dame career as a soccer player trying to make his coach proud.

vidual, but for the team I definitely expected this [success this season]," Walton said. "You look at some of the games we lost last year ... I knew we had talent, it was just a matter of bringing it all together."

New coach Tyrone Willingham brought all that talent together this season as the Irish sit on a 9-1 record heading into the seniors' last home game of their careers. Much of Notre Dame's success this season has been attributed to the defense, particularly a devastating secondary that has made big plays all year, and Walton has had a hand in his fair share of those game-turning plays.

He picked off three passes against Maryland in Notre Dame's 22-0 season-opening win. He came back two weeks later and broke up a potential game-tying 2-point conversion against Michigan, then sealed the upset win by intercepting Wolverine quarterback John Navarre late in the game. Walton also recovered a fumble and forced another in the 25-23 victory.

With the Irish offense strug-

gling three weeks later against Stanford, Walton had an 18-yard interception return for a touchdown against the Cardinal and also served as a gameday captain. Against Air Force, Walton had another interception and recorded four tackles against the talented Falcon option attack.

In arguably Notre Dame's biggest game of the season at Florida State, Walton shined, recording a career-high nine tackles and breaking up three passes while again serving as a captain.

Walton attributes his knack for big plays to playing in important games throughout his life. He also credits the coaching staff for putting him in a position to be a playmaker.

"I think I've been in so many big games in my career in both soccer and football," Walton said. "I've been in so many big games where [now] the pressure doesn't really get to me, and I'm able to come through."

"I believe a lot of [being in a position to make plays] is game planning by the coach-

es," he added. "They let me know what's going to happen, and if I'm able to pick up on that, I'm able to be at the right spot and make a play."

With his senior season almost over, Walton knows NFL teams will be looking at him as a high round draft pick. ESPN's Mel Kiper recently projected Walton to go as high as the late second round. But Walton isn't concerned about that just yet. He knows the Irish still have a season to finish.

"It's a dream [to go pro]," Walton said. "It'd be a dream come true if that would happen, but right now I'm taking it one game at a time. That's what I think you have to do to get there."

As a leader on and off the field, it's easy to see Walton's impact on Notre Dame's 9-1 record at this point in the season. With his goals close to being reached, no one could be prouder of these accomplishments than Walton.

Except, perhaps, Berticelli.

Contact Joe Hettler at
jhettler@nd.edu

CHARLES HEDMAN

Linebacker plays football while keeping promise

By JASON McFARLEY
Sports Writer

It took Charles Hedman seven years and 100 pounds to make good on his final pledge to his father. An opportune coaching change didn't hurt either.

Then Hedman's yearning to keep his promise kicked in at the right time, too.

"I wanted to wait until all the circumstances were perfect to try out for the football team," said Hedman, now a senior walk-on.



Hedman

Making the team this fall fulfilled the promise to play college ball that he made to his dad before his death in 1995. Keeping his word has today literally made Hedman twice the man he was then as a high school freshman.

The Mishawaka native stood 6-foot-1 — his current height — but weighed a scrawny 120 pounds when he played football and basketball at St. Joseph's High School. Now a 220-pound mass of muscles and fiery red hair, Hedman is a fraction of his former self.

The guy who 100 pounds ago scrambled around the field as a safety now delivers punishing hits as an outside linebacker on the scout team. He benches 370 pounds and squats almost four times his high school weight.

The transformation began when Hedman entered Notre Dame in 1999. With the promise to his father in mind, Hedman knew a 120-pound frame wouldn't fly in the college ranks. He start-

ed building a football body.

"I ate right and lifted every day," he said. "I gained most of the weight in a year's time."

By his sophomore year, Hedman had the body but didn't feel ready to try out. He spent three years at Notre Dame before finally giving tryouts even a second thought last winter. Hedman was in fact waiting for the perfect time to live up to his word.

Enter Tyrone Willingham in January.

"As soon as he was hired, I made up my mind to go out for the team," said Hedman, who lives off-campus this year. "With the reputation Coach Willingham came in with, I knew I wanted to play for him. If it wasn't for him, I wouldn't be here."

And of course, Hedman is happy to be where he is.

Practices are tough, he said, but nothing that he didn't expect. The camaraderie among players makes the experience worthwhile for him. When Hedman needs extra motivation, he thinks of the years-old promise to his father.

"Playing has been better than you could ever expect. I wouldn't trade this for anything in the world," he said.

Life outside of football is good, too. The 21-year-old political science major is headed to Harvard next fall to pursue a law degree and MBA.

Hedman promises he's ready for the challenge of an Ivy League classroom; a season on the Notre Dame gridiron has prepared him for anything. If his latest promise is anything like the one he made all those years ago, expect him to make good on this one as well.

Contact Jason McFarley at mcfarley.1@nd.edu.



BRIAN PUCEVICH/The Observer

Charles Hedman gained 100 pounds and tried out as walk-on for the Irish to fulfill a promise he made to his father before his death in 1995.

DAN NOVAKOV

For Novakov, Notre Dame still the only school

By LAUREN BECK
Sports Writer

When he was growing up, walk-on quarterback Dan Novakov lived every young Irish fan's dream.

Novakov, a senior from Dallas, Tex., was one of the kids scurrying around on game day wearing a Notre Dame jersey and gold pants — only he actually knew the guy whose number he sported.



Novakov

The number on his replica jersey was 81, and it belonged to Tim Brown, 1987 recipient of the Heisman Trophy and fellow Dallas native who Novakov's father helped recruit.

Novakov met Brown and fell in love with the Irish at an early age, when his father, former Irish center Dan Novakov, Sr., brought the family to South Bend each year. Novakov was able not only to watch the games but also to go behind the scenes afterward.

"The neatest thing was going into the locker room after the game," said Novakov. "My grandfather and Coach [Lou] Holtz were good friends. When Notre Dame played in the Cotton Bowl I went to practice ... I have autographs from those teams."

Novakov's grandfather also graduated from Notre Dame, as did two uncles, who also played football, a great uncle and a sister.

Notre Dame, and in particular Irish football, is such a part of the Novakov family's life that it's tough to put their

experience with the school's tradition into words.

"I've never really known anything else because it's always been normal to me. Growing up, I didn't really know there was any other college," Novakov said.

When he was younger, Novakov wanted to be a basketball player, but he soon realized that Notre Dame football was in the cards for him.

He started playing football in junior high school and grew to like it more — enough to walk on to the Notre Dame football team and back into the locker room that captivated him as a child.

While it hasn't been easy, Novakov said he never thought twice about giving up.

"I've never quit anything in my life," he said.

Having a father who played college football has also helped him through his four seasons playing on the scout team.

"Overall it's so much more time and so much more intense than playing in high school. It's nice having someone who has gone through it, who understands and can offer advice," he said.

Novakov, Sr. said he values his experience with Notre Dame football and thinks his son is learning some of the same timeless lessons.

"You learn a lot more than football. You learn teamwork, how to deal with success, how to deal with failure, and how to deal with those weekly. ... But really the important thing is to do your best and let the chips fall where they may," he said. "The greatest asset about Notre Dame is the people and being associated with them. The football players are really great people, good kids."



BRIAN PUCEVICH/The Observer

Walk-on quarterback Dan Novakov grew up a true Irish fan. Today he can say he has lived every fan's dream.

His son agreed, saying the friendships he has made with his teammates have been the biggest rewards of playing football.

As the younger Novakov carries on the family football tradition, he said this season has been a perfect way to

end his experience.

"I don't think last year was much fun for anyone," he said. "So it's good to end on a good note and have a great year."

Contact Lauren Beck at lbeck@nd.edu

RYAN ROBERTS

Different is good

Teammates poke fun at him about being unique, but Roberts prides himself on it

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Sports Writer

The atmosphere inside the tunnel before the Irish race onto the field can best be described as a bolt of electricity waiting to explode from the sky. Players bounce around the tunnel, hopping around, jumping into each other, and shouting motivational phrases to their teammates.



Roberts

Ryan Roberts is different.

The fifth-year defensive end plants his feet and stands like a wall amidst an ocean of teammates. Sure, running out of the tunnel is a thrill. But Roberts would rather focus on something else.

"I love the energy, but I'm the only guy not jumping," he said. "All people think about all week is coming out of the tunnel. All I'm thinking about is that first drive."

The fact that Roberts contains his excitement in the tunnel while his teammates enthusiastically psyche themselves up shows that Roberts isn't your typical football player.

Trendbreaker

"He's kinda weird," Gerome Sapp said with a laugh. "But the thing that's funny about that is he knows he's weird and he's okay with being weird."

Roberts is the first person to admit he's not exactly like the rest of his teammates. He doesn't follow trends. He doesn't follow the crowd. He has his own set of priorities.

And his teammates love to point that out.

In fact, the Irish love to pick on Roberts for just about anything. When he dyes his hair red, they make fun of him. When he turns on his eccentric music, they make fun of him. When he talks about hanging out at a sushi bar, they make fun of him. When he shows up to class wearing a long-sleeve thermal shirt under a polo shirt, his teammates make fun of him. When he talks about soccer — a sport he played until he was a high school freshman — his teammates make fun of him.

"He's his own species," Glenn Earl said.

But Roberts doesn't pay too much attention to his teammates' ribbing. Everything he does has a purpose. He dyed his hair because he was bored. He listens to techno, rock, rap and pop because he likes all different kinds of music. He eats sushi because he likes it. He doesn't dress bad, just com-

fortably. And he calls soccer the best sport on earth — strong words coming from a football player.

"I don't do what a lot of people would expect me to do," Roberts said. "If you sit around doing what people expect you to do, then they never really know who you are as a person."

Roberts doesn't try to pretend he's something he's not, and his teammates enjoy the flavor the fifth-year senior brings to the Irish locker room. He's even earned a certain amount of respect for establishing himself as a different person.

"When he does something crazy, nothing surprises me anymore," Earl said. "Everyone accepts him for who he is and it kind of makes our team a fun group."

Gamebreaker

It seems appropriate that a guy with a different personality would get his chance on the field as a result of unusual circumstances.

Roberts had never played football until his freshman year of high school. One of his friends encouraged the 6-foot, 220-pound soccer player to give football a try. Roberts went to football practice, skipped soccer that afternoon, and never kicked a soccer ball around in a game again.

He came to Notre Dame as a linebacker who had returned kicks and punts in high school as well as starring as a tailback. But Irish coaches quickly switched Roberts from linebacker to defensive end, and Roberts was forced to sit and wait his turn behind established veterans Anthony Weaver and Grant Irons.

His career seemed to hit a low point the winter after his sophomore season, when Roberts needed back surgery. Doctors fused bone from his hip to bone on his spine and used four screws and two metal rods to stabilize his back.

Roberts could have taken the year off to rehabilitate. But he decided to add the metal implants because they would accelerate the healing process, and, less than six months after surgery, Roberts was doing full-contact drills.

It was a good thing he was ready. When Irons suffered a season-ending shoulder injury, Roberts was the only guy who could take his place.

"I had been practicing my hardest, and that's what I was preparing for," he said. "I just wanted to be healthy enough to participate and help out. I was forced to step into a starting role, and I did."

He filled Irons' shoes in a big way, recording a sack in his first four games, giving



LISA VELTE/The Observer

Senior defensive end Ryan Roberts marches to the beat of his own drum. Although teammates joke about it, Roberts prides himself on his individuality.

him confidence that he could excel at the college level.

The next season, Irons started ahead of Roberts again, but another Irons injury propelled Roberts into the lineup. Playing with Weaver, with nobody available to back them up during a game, was the highlight of Roberts' career.

"K n o w there was nobody coming in for us, pushing our hardest, knowing the other guy is going so hard, its great times," he said. "I worked hard to get into that position."

A torn MCL ended Roberts' season three games early, but the defensive end had made a statement — he was ready to step into his own spotlight.

Walking his own path

Roberts doesn't talk much on the field — he leaves that

to his more verbose teammates. Instead, he impresses coaches and players with his quiet intensity and lead-by-example style of leadership.

"He's playing with a metal rod in his back," Sapp said. "If you see that and see the way he plays, that's inspirational right there."

Gerome Sapp
Irish safety

more than the next closest Irish defender. He also ranks sixth on the Irish — and first on the defensive line — with 31 tackles.

"He is a guy we can count on to make plays in the ballgame," Irish coach Tyrone Willingham said, "a guy in the locker room that has provided some excellent leadership."

Yet football isn't everything to Roberts. He focuses intently on his academics,

trying to make sure he gets good grades. While he would love to play in the NFL someday, Roberts is already preparing for a career as a sales representative.

And yes, that does mean he has to actually dress nicely and wear a suit.

"I'm a kid," he said. "This is what you get to do when you're 22 years old. When it's over, you move into true adulthood. It's just the experiences of life."

Roberts has a great time experiencing life. His teammates have a great time experiencing Roberts' eccentricities.

And that's just fine with Roberts. As long as he doesn't bother anybody, he doesn't mind doing his own thing.

"I'm a different person. I don't follow trends. I don't have to rant and yell," he said. "I just come, get my job done, and I'm happy with success any way I can get it."

Contact Andrew Soukup at
asoukup@nd.edu

Ed O'CONNELL

Busy man on campus balances football, ROTC

By JOE LICANDRO
Sports Writer

Think you're busy. Think again. Meet Ed O'Connell, the busiest man on this campus.

As if walking on to the football team were not time-consuming enough, the senior from Chicago also takes on additional responsibility as a member of the ROTC program. On a typical day, O'Connell wakes up at 5:30 in the morning for physical training with Marine Corps Officer's program.

From there, he heads to Loftus for weightlifting with the football team. From 9 to 2, O'Connell goes to class where he is currently finishing his degree in finance. After class, he gets ready for three grueling hours of football practice. When practice ends, he finally returns home to his off-campus apartment where he somehow has the energy to study. At about midnight, an exhausted O'Connell goes to bed so he can get up and do it all over again the very next day.

"It's something I definitely take a lot of pride in. Both organizations have been very

understanding," O'Connell said. "The Marines know that I have football commitments in the afternoon, but it is very important for me to be out there training with them in the mornings."

O'Connell arrived on campus four years ago as a lifelong, die-hard Irish football fan, but he never had any intention of playing football, let alone joining ROTC. Although he played offensive guard and served as the long-snapper for his high school football team, O'Connell hoped to play a different sport at Notre Dame.

"Growing up, I was always the 'Notre Dame' kid. Whenever Notre Dame lost, my friends always ragged on me," said O'Connell. "... When I came here, I actually wanted to play baseball ... but they had too many catchers so it didn't really work out."

As O'Connell found out during his freshman year, sometimes life's twists can really catch you by surprise.

"I was really just looking for something to do," O'Connell said. "... In the spring of my freshman year, there was an ad in the paper to come out and try to long-snap so I gave it a shot. My RA during my freshman year at Siegfried got me interested in ROTC at about the same time. All of the sudden, I went from doing nothing to having my day completely filled with ROTC duties

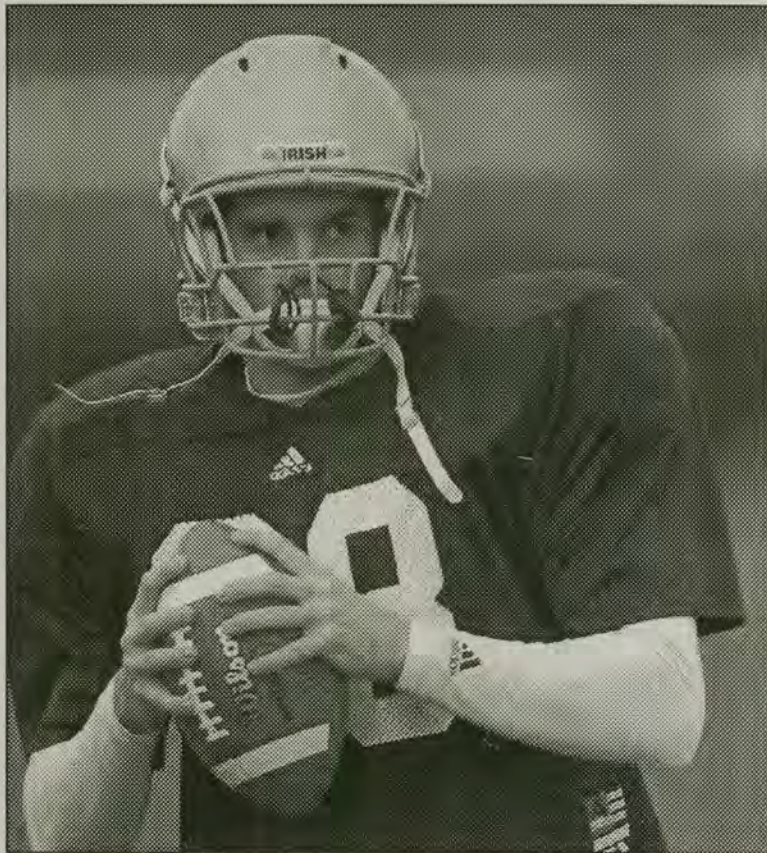
and football practices."

In the wake of last year's disappointing 5-7 season, it would have been easy for someone with as many commitments and responsibilities as O'Connell to choose not to come back out for another year. After all, the life of a walk-on is not glamorous. But quitting and giving-up is simply not in Ed O'Connell's nature. With the success of this year's team, O'Connell knows he made the right decision.

"There's a lot to be said for the guys who have stuck around and persevered," said O'Connell. "I guess it could have been easy to jump ship and say this isn't worth it any more. But for me, I couldn't picture myself doing anything else. I wouldn't change a thing."

After initially making the team as a long-snapper, O'Connell's role on the team has expanded over the last three years to serving as a tight end, linebacker and defensive end at times. As a second-team special teams player this season, he not only suits up for all home games but has traveled to every away game.

When O'Connell graduates from Notre Dame in May, he will spend at least the next four years of his life in the United States Marine Corps and could eventually be placed



BRIAN PUCEVICH/The Observer

Ed O'Connell balances playing football for the Irish with ROTC. He never planned to do either when he decided on Notre Dame.

in a combat situation.

"As a newly commissioned officers, they will go through at least a year of training before they I go into a situation like that," said O'Connell. "I knew when I signed on the dotted line that war was a real possibility. ... For me, there's a

sense of duty. The fact that I can represent what this country and the Marine Corps stands for is something I take a great deal of pride in."

Contact Joe Licandro at
jlicandr@nd.edu

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ARNAZ BATTLE

Learning what it means to be tough

Battle has had struggles in football, but none as difficult as losing his brother

Editor's Note: This article originally appeared on Nov. 1, 2002.

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Sports Writer

Tough for Arnaz Battle has nothing to do with a football field.

Tough isn't starting your college career working as a back-up and when you finally start that first game, play arguably the worst game of your life.



Battle

Tough isn't entering your junior season as the starting quarterback, only to break your wrist and miss the rest of the season and lose your job.

Tough isn't trying to switch to wide receiver, and then breaking your leg, leaving you wondering whether you made the right choice and if you're ever going to reach the NFL.

Battle didn't learn about toughness on a football field. He learned over a decade ago, when he was nine years old and found his three-year-old brother floating face-first, dead, in his grandmother's pool.

"Things could be worse, that's the way I look at it," said Battle. "The death of somebody so close to you reminds you that football isn't everything."

Football struggles

The fifth-year senior is used to seeing headline writers play off his last name. "A New Battle Plan", "The Battle Back", "Battling Back" — Battle's seen them all, and dozens more.

But he knows the catchy phrases aptly describe a football career teeming with adversity.

When he arrived at Notre Dame in 1998, coaches saw him as the crown jewel of the recruiting class and a player that would emerge as the next great Irish quarterback.

Yet he was stuck playing behind Jarious Jackson and barely made it onto the field his freshman year. The one game he did start, the season finale at USC, he estimated he knew only 70 percent of the offense, mostly running plays, and dismally finished 7-for-19 for only 94 yards passing with two interceptions.

That game haunted him his entire sophomore season, as he stood on the sidelines and watched Jackson inch closer and closer to breaking all kinds of Notre Dame passing records even as the Irish tumbled to a 5-6 record.

But Jackson graduated, and Battle began his junior year as the undisputed starting quarterback. Finally, Battle remembered thinking, he had a chance to show people what

he could do.

On the first play from scrimmage during Notre Dame's second game of the season, against top-ranked Nebraska, Battle started scrambling and got drilled by a Cornhusker defender, landing on his left wrist. The next day, fans started scrambling for anatomy books to find out what a navicular was, because that's the bone Battle broke.

At first, the coaches couldn't wait to get Battle back. When former Irish head coach Bob Davie asked how the Irish reacted to Battle's injury, Davie responded, "You mean after we stopped crying?"

But attitudes started to change in a hurry. Battle sat the season out to preserve a year of eligibility and watched freshman Matt LoVecchio lead the Irish to seven straight wins and a BCS berth.

At some point in the season, coaches approached him with the prospect of a position change. The reason? According to Battle, the coaches told him that LoVecchio would enter the spring as the starter, and if Battle wanted to find playing time, it would probably come at wide receiver.

So Battle transplanted from quarterback to receiver, a position hadn't played since his freshman year of high school, and had to earn playing time behind future NFL draft picks David Givens and Javin Hunter.

The playmaking potential coaches raved about never materialized. Battle broke his leg midway through the season and missed four games. He only caught five passes all season and didn't score a touchdown.

Throw in a coaching change in the winter, a new offense and a whole lot of uncertainty, and Battle started to think about life after football.

"There's a lot of people out there who have the talent to make it to the next level, but I think you have to be in certain situations," Battle said. "I never doubted my ability, but I doubted my opportunity. I didn't know if I'd get an opportunity to show what I had."

Family first

If Battle needed inspiration, he looked to three places — God, his family and his left bicep.

After his brother drowned — an event too painful for Battle to describe in detail — Battle carried around a picture of his brother in his wallet. But after he kept losing his wallet and the picture, someone suggested he get a tattoo.

So before he came to Notre Dame, Battle had his brother's face engraved on his arm — a constant reminder of how bad things can get, as Battle is fond of saying.

"I'm going through so many tough times, and I'm able to appreciate my blessings," he said. "I can appreciate that



TIM KACMAR/The Observer

Amaz Battle makes a reception against Boston College on Nov. 2. The struggles the senior has faced in football pale in comparison to the death of his brother.

things could be worse, and so I'm enjoying this moment. You can be high one time and low the next time, but you just have to appreciate it and live everything to the fullest."

Much like the family pulled together when Battle's brother drowned, they rallied around Battle as his football career spiraled out of control. Nearly every day, he talked with either his mother or grandmother. They told him everything would be fine, that things happen for a reason.

What that reason was, Battle still doesn't know. He's grateful to his family for their support, and part of his motivation for reaching the NFL is getting money to give to his family. And he knows he's a stronger person because of everything he's endured.

"The Lord, He tests you to see how strong you'll be, and I believe I've been through a strong test," Battle said. "Things are going to work out for me."

Breaking out

Battle admits he felt some trepidation before the first official team meeting with Tyrone Willingham. He was worried the coach would try to move him around to a different position or worse, not even play him.

But Willingham and offensive coordinator Bill Diedrick never considered a change. Diedrick didn't want to take

the most experienced receiver out of an already-depleted wideout corps and Willingham wanted to give Battle the chance to flourish as a receiver.

"That was very reassuring. I needed to find a home, and I think I found it," Battle said. "Jumping back and forth was very hard to make that transition, and then having people say you should go back to quarterback, it was tough. But I finally found a home."

The coaches' confidence in Battle was relatively high, considering the receiver only caught five passes in his career and had never caught a touchdown pass. Yet they called him the team's playmaker, the go-to guy when the Irish needed a clutch reception.

"He had speed, strength and athletic ability," said Diedrick, reflecting on his pre-season prediction. "What else do you want?"

"If he was able to transfer those skills and that mentality to his position, he would be a young man we could count on," Willingham added. "He has really started to live up to that role."

It took time, but Battle grew increasingly confident as a receiver. Finally, everything seemed to come full circle when he caught a 60-yard game-winning touchdown pass with less than two minutes remaining against Michigan.

That catch was just the beginning. Two weeks later against Pittsburgh, Battle seemingly took over Notre Dame's only extended drive of the day, making a pair of tough catches before hauling in a tough catch in the end zone. He finished with 10 catches for over 100 yards.

Then came a 112-yard receiving performance against Air Force and a stunning 65-yard touchdown on Notre Dame's first play from scrimmage against Florida State.

"I would have thought I would have been in this situation early in my career, but obviously things didn't work out," Battle said. "I say things happen for a reason, and the things that happened to me just made me a stronger person. It helped me realize to not take my blessings for granted. The good things that happen to me, I've learned to appreciate them, because I know things can be a lot worse and go the opposite way."

Then Battle stopped for a second and paused.

Even though he had on a long sleeve shirt, he momentarily glanced toward his left arm, at his brother. The message was clear.

His football career has been tough.

But not that tough.

Contact Andrew Soukup at
asoukup@nd.edu

RYAN SCAROLA

Faine's backup accepts playing out of the spotlight

By JOE LICANDRO
Sports Writer

Ryan Scarola isn't used to playing in the spotlight.

The fifth-year back-up center has played in every game the past two seasons, but usually only in his special teams capacity. But at Michigan State this year, the time arrived for Scarola to step up as Jeff Faine's backup. When the starting Irish center left the game briefly after spraining his ankle, Scarola took to the field.



Scarola

"I'd never really played center in a game before," Scarola said. "I was really excited to get a chance to play."

Being Faine's backup is not a position that would afford one much playing time, but Scarola believes he has learned much from the experience.

"You have to be ready," he said. "Your nerves kind of go away and instinct takes over. You never know. It teaches you a good lesson."

Scarola has not regretted one moment of his time on the football squad.

"It's a dream to play here," the psychology major said. "I think that motivates everybody. Playing football, which you love [is part of the motivation], but I think it's a dream to play here especially."

Additionally, his positive attitude and duty to the team have made his experience rewarding.

"I enjoy what I do," Scarola said. "I like playing here. I like everything about it."

Scarola has always enjoyed football, and Notre Dame has been part of his life ever since he was a baby.

Scarola's father, a Notre Dame graduate, proposed to his mother during a game at Notre Dame Stadium. So despite being an export from Export, Penn., he has always had Irish blood.

Although Scarola did not see any playing time in his capacity as backup center during his freshman year, his sophomore year brought some playing time as well as his first career start against Kansas.

Scarola is still amazed from his first-ever experience running out of the tunnel into the Notre Dame Stadium.

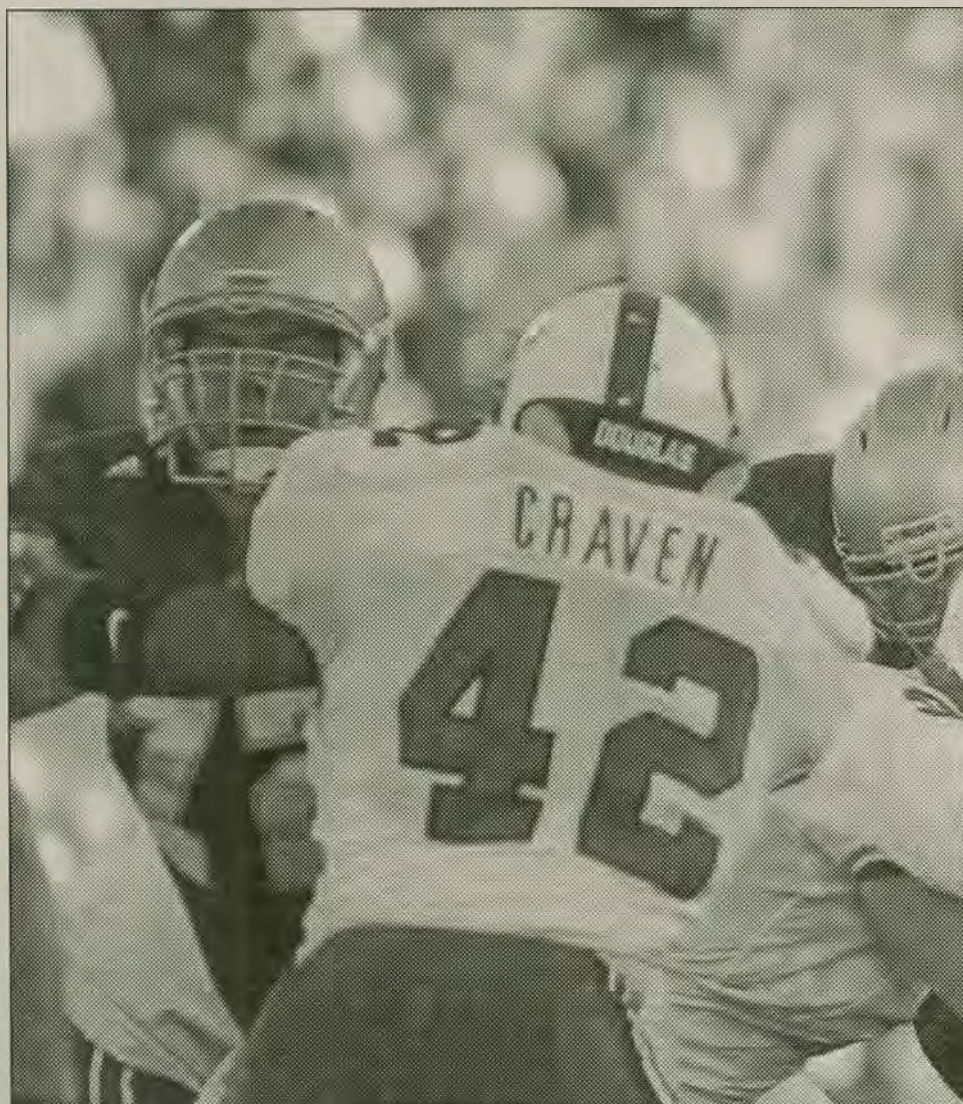
"The most unforgettable [moment] was probably the Michigan game my freshman year, coming out of the tunnel," Scarola said. Despite knowing that he would not be playing in that game, Scarola said the day still stands out as one of his best Notre Dame memories.

"You don't really realize what it's like to walk out into the Stadium until you actually do it," Scarola said. "That's probably the most memorable thing for me."

Scarola is relishing every moment of this, his last season donning the blue and gold.

"You can't put a price on playing here," Scarola said. "It's unforgettable."

Contact Joe Lindsley at jlindsle@nd.edu



NELLIE WILLIAMS/The Observer

Senior Ryan Scarola makes a block against Boston College. Scarola has seen limited game time playing behind Jeff Faine at center.

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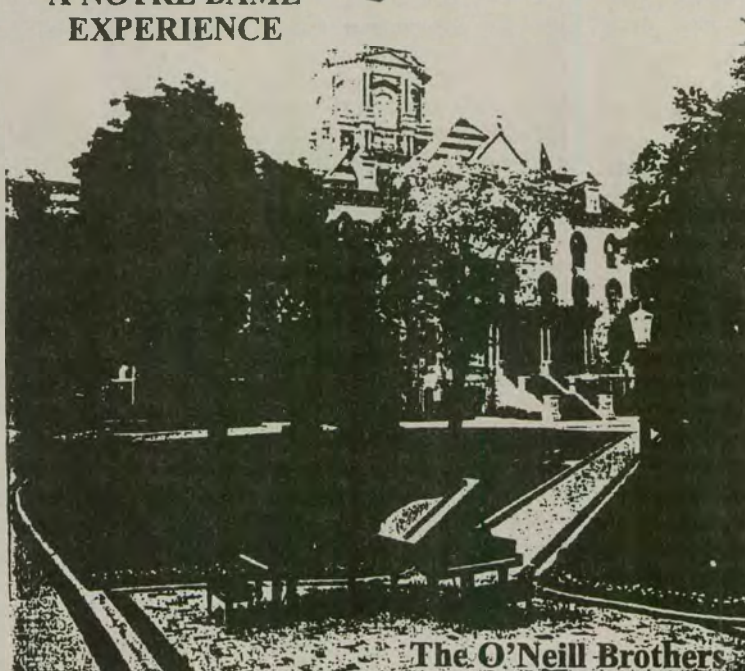
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JOEY HILDBOLD

Going long

Irish rely on punter to pin opposition deep and send Notre Dame far

By JOE HETTLER
Associate Sports Editor

The Hilbold family can never enjoy a Notre Dame football game when they visit campus to see their son Joey play — even if the Irish are winning.

"If I play, I play. It's probably good if I don't," Hilbold said. "My family comes to the games, and they have the big dilemma because they want to see me play but they want us to win."

This is the life of a punter.

But Hilbold doesn't mind. In fact he loves his job. Hilbold has worked hard in practice and in the off-season throughout his four years at Notre Dame and it has paid off. He was a finalist in 2000 and this year for the Ray Guy Award, given to the nation's best punter. He will also graduate as one of the best punters in Irish history.

"[Being recognized as a top punter] feels pretty good," Hilbold said. "That's a real nice honor to have. I really couldn't do it without my protection team. They've been really good, a good snapper, good personal protector. They all help me out. It's a great honor. It'd be nice to win it but it be a lot better if we were winning."

All of Hilbold's accolades aren't bad, considering he frequently gets booed when taking the field at Notre Dame Stadium.

"Sometimes it's funny because when I run out on the field, [the fans] boo because we're not going for it or we just had a bad play," Hilbold said. "A couple times that happened in the past. It's kind of funny because you run out there and you wonder 'Is that for me?' or 'Is that because we didn't do well?' I really don't take it too personally."

He doesn't take it personally because he has been an unlikely contributor to Notre Dame's success this season.

He's averaged 40.3 yards per punt this season and has pinned opponents inside their 20-yard line a career-high 25 times. In Notre Dame's 24-17 victory against Purdue, Hilbold drilled eight punts, averaging 44.6 yards per kick. He also pinned the

Boilermakers inside the 20-yard line five times. Against Florida State, Hilbold stuck the Seminoles inside their own 10-yard line three times.

Hilbold does the Irish defense a huge favor by forcing opposing offenses to travel the whole field for a score. Notre Dame almost always wins the field position battle.

"I just go out there and try to help out the team and try to do the best for the team and eventually that does well for me," Hilbold said.

Hilbold's success dates back to his freshman year when the Centreville, Va. native became Notre Dame's full-time punter. He made the most of his opportunity by averaging 39.0 yards per punt and nailing a season-long 56-yarder against Michigan State.

Hilbold used his success as a freshman as momentum when he headed into his sophomore year. That season, Hilbold was named a Ray Guy award finalist and was one of only two sophomores in the country to receive such recognition. Football News and Collegefootballnews.com also named him to the All-Independent team. Hilbold crushed his career-long punt of 69 yards against Texas A&M that season, placing the Aggies at their own 3-yard line.

As a junior, Hilbold finished 35th in the country in punting average at 42.2 yards per punt. He also had one of his best games at Notre Dame against Michigan State, drilling

eight punts for a 50.1 average. Hilbold followed that career-best performance by besting it the next week when the Irish faced Texas A&M. In that game, Hilbold drilled six punts for a career-best 50.5-yard average per punt.

Hilbold credits his work ethic for the success he's had so far in his Irish career.

"I knew if I worked hard enough and really concentrated on what I was doing, I would do pretty well," Hilbold said. "I'm just concentrating on the kick itself. You visual a little bit before and know what your going to do, know what your assignment is and then just go through the fundamentals and just go out and kick."

That formula has continued to work for Hilbold this season. He has been named an All-American candidate



LISA VELTE/The Observer

Fifth-year senior Joey Hilbold punts during an Irish victory against Stanford. The punter is averaging 40.3 yards a punt and helping the Irish win the field-position battle.

as well as a Ray Guy semifinalist.

All this success may have given Hilbold a chance to play on Sundays next fall. However, he's not thinking about the NFL too much right now.

"That's a goal," Hilbold said. "I'd like to do that. So this off-season [I may] train and see what happens. But right now I'm just trying to focus on punting well for the team, try to win some games and then go to a good bowl game and perform well there

and help the team to win. Then when that times comes, decide then."

Football wasn't always Hilbold's first interest. He played soccer from the fifth grade until the 12th grade and also wrestled and played wide receiver and kicker on the football team.

Hilbold's father attended Notre Dame, so when it came time to choose a college, Notre Dame was what Hilbold judged other schools against. It was the right choice.

"I knew if I worked hard enough and really concentrated on what I was doing, I would do pretty well."

Joey Hilbold
Irish punter

"[Notre Dame's] been a great place," Hilbold said. "Everybody talks about it, but you don't really understand how great it is until you get here and you go through the whole four years. Playing football adds a whole other level to it."

Notre Dame is Hilbold's first love, but punting the football on Saturdays is a close second and he takes great pride in doing his job as best he can.

"Just going out there every day is a joy for me," Hilbold said. "I treat it like punting. I like punting. That's something I enjoy doing so everyday is good for me."

Contact Joe Hettler at
jhettler@nd.edu

JOHN CROWTHER

Snapper climbs from walk-on to veteran

By CHRIS FEDERICO
Sports Editor

John Crowther has lived the Notre Dame student's dream.

The Irish long snapper, who was virtually un-recruited out of high school in his hometown of Edina, Minn., entered his freshman year at Notre Dame with intentions no greater than simply playing dorm football for Morrissey Manor.

Little more than a week into his first year of college, Crowther got a surprise call from one of the Notre Dame football coaches to tryout for the team.

"It started when I first got here, staying in Morrissey Hall," Crowther said. "I went out for the interhall team there. Father Bill Steech was the assistant coach, and he called up the head football coach for me and got me a tryout with the team without my knowledge or anything."

"I got a tryout on the team, actually made it and then a week later the backup got hurt, so I got to travel about a week and a half after I made the team to Michigan State for my first game," Crowther said.

That first game was bitter-



Crowther

sweet. The freshman walk-on combined the excitement of running out onto the field with one of the most storied football programs in history with the despair of witnessing one of Notre Dame's worst losses in recent history.

"It was the first time I had ever dressed, and I was really excited coming out and hearing the band," Crowther said. "The only bad thing was I believe we were down at halftime 42-3. It was one of our worst games, and we had a good year that year. I was really excited to be out there, but they just kept scoring on us, and I was just thinking, 'Wow.' It kind of ended the excitement real quick, but it was still a memorable moment."

The Irish ended up losing that game 45-23, but things were only just beginning for Crowther. By his junior year, he had worked his way up the chart to the starting snapper for field goals and extra points, and he would soon become the snapper on punts as well.

At the end of last season, after two years atop the depth chart at snapper for Crowther, the senior walk on was offered an opportunity to return for a fifth year.

It was an opportunity he could not turn down.

"I was very excited when I met Coach Willingham for the opportunity to come back for a fifth year," Crowther said. "I've been with the same guys on this team for a long time, and we've been



BRIAN PUCEVICH/The Observer

Senior John Crowther came to Notre Dame unrecruited and moved from being a walk-on to being a scholarship veteran.

through a lot of ups-and-downs. I felt that as a group, we could still really accomplish some good things."

Over the summer, Crowther was offered a scholarship to return for his fifth year. That only made the dream complete.

The former Morrissey center has climbed from walk-on backup, to starter, to scholarship veteran.

"It's been a pleasant surprise, and I've definitely enjoyed it," Crowther said. "But looking back on it now, I couldn't imagine going through my four years at

Notre Dame without playing on the team. It's such a great experience, and it completely changed my outlook and my view of Notre Dame."

Contact Chris Federico at cfederic@nd.edu

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TIM O'NEILL

Fifth year doesn't wake O'Neill from dream

By MATT LOZAR
Sports Writer

Tim O'Neill couldn't give up the dream.

When the chance to play a fifth-year for the Irish came, the 5-foot-6 walk-on couldn't say no.

"I have always wanted to play football at Notre Dame. If you have the chance to do it for one more year, I mean, that was an easy decision for me to make," O'Neill said. "If you still enjoy playing and you are playing at Notre Dame, then you are going to come back."

The announcement of Irish coach Tyrone Willingham replacing former coach Bob Davie was just icing on the cake.

"The decision was made before [the coaching change] but obviously there is a lot of excitement with a new coach coming in," O'Neill said. "It has just been a tremendous experience. One of the best decisions I have ever made."

O'Neill rushed for 1,634 yards and scored 12 touchdowns at Athens high school in Troy, Mich. and passed up opportunities at other schools where he would be featured to attend Notre Dame.

"I often thought about that, because in high school you get the ball a lot, but if I got in to Notre Dame, this is where I was coming," O'Neill said. "It was Notre Dame and then I had some fallback plans. But if I got in to Notre Dame then I didn't think about any-



O'Neill

where else."

That intention to attend Notre Dame began early in O'Neill's life. Going to his first Notre Dame football game when he was seven years old, O'Neill watched wide receiver Tim Brown run back two kickoffs for touchdowns. O'Neill's older brother Mike also walked on at Notre Dame and played in 1991.

Three years ago in his sophomore season, O'Neill saw his first game action in Notre Dame's 48-17 win against Arizona State. O'Neill gained four yards on two attempts.

This season, O'Neill has carried the ball in two games. O'Neill gained four yards in Notre Dame's 22-0 defeat of Maryland in the Kickoff Classic and rushed for 18 yards against Stanford, including a career-long rush of 11 yards.

Despite seeing little playing time in his career, O'Neill relishes the opportunities he has been prepared for his entire life.

"It might surprise some people when you say you aren't nervous but when you have been playing football since fourth grade, that is what you prepare in the off-season," O'Neill said. "That is what you think about at night before you go to bed is getting in there and playing and contributing."

"I think if you have confidence in your abilities then you are not in awe or it's not like you can't believe you are in that situation because that's a situation you have pictured yourself in."

Running out of the tunnel, putting the uniform on for that first time or even his first carry aren't the moments that stick out in O'Neill's mind. It's the



NELLIE WILLIAMS/The Observer

Tim O'Neill runs off the field after making a carry against Maryland in the Kickoff Classic. The walk-on began looking at attending Notre Dame early in life.

larger picture of being part of the team he will carry with him for the rest of his life.

"It's kind of hard to pinpoint just one experience," he said. "But just being with your teammates, just being in that family and supporting each other

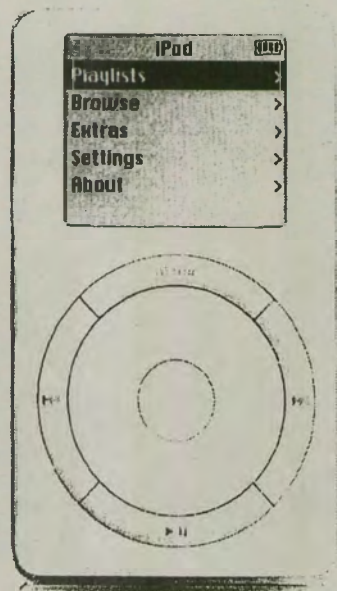
and making adjustments from high school to college and then accepting you into a family is the biggest thing."

That, and keeping the dream alive.

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu

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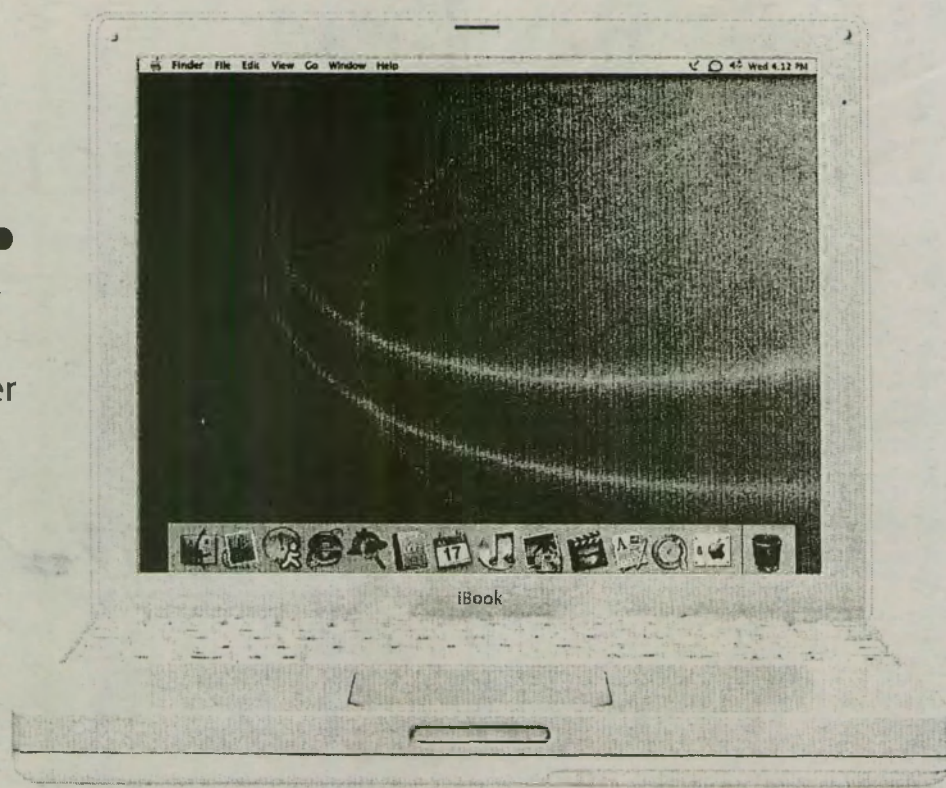


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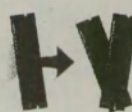
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CHAD DeBOLT

Special teams player balanced football and lacrosse

By JOE LINDSLEY
Sports Writer

Football practice five days a week is tough enough.

Especially when one couples that with starting for the lacrosse team.

Add to that an engineering degree, and why not toss in an MBA too?

Then, just for kicks, throw in playing the bagpipes when time allows.

Chad DeBolt does not like to miss opportunities.

"It's just been a great ride," DeBolt said. "That's the reason why I came here. I wanted to play football and lacrosse."

DeBolt never thought it would be an easy ride, but he always believed that if the ride were enjoyable, it would be doable.

"I knew it was going to be tough," he said. "I just worked really hard, and I had some little bit of luck behind me, and everything kind of fell into place. I've played with a bunch of great guys on both teams, so I've just been very blessed to have the opportunity to do it."

DeBolt was recruited to come to Notre Dame to play lacrosse, but that did not mean he was about to relinquish football. Before he came to South Bend

as a freshman, he sent out brochures to the Irish football coaches in hopes of gaining their attention. They did not respond.

Nevertheless, he held onto the dream, and as a high school senior, told Irish lacrosse coach Kevin Corrigan of his desire to be a part of the Notre Dame football team.

"I always had in the back of my mind that I love football too," he said. "I always liked both equally the same. What better place to be able to play them both than here, so it just worked out great."

Although Corrigan encouraged DeBolt, it was not until DeBolt's sophomore year that he earned a spot on the football team. Fall of that year proved to be the most trying of his collegiate experience, with football practice five days a week as part of the scout defense and then three-hour lacrosse scrimmages on Sundays.

The following years, he did not attempt such a hard fall routine, but still found time to watch lacrosse practice, "just to see how the team's going."

While he did not appear in a game his sophomore year, as a junior, DeBolt played in every game of the season on special teams.

DeBolt said the route to success when trying to balance so much springs from having a passion in all pursuits.

"You have to enjoy what you're doing," DeBolt said. "[It is] time management. You have

to find quality in everything you do, if you have fun doing it, it'll be easy to do."

In high school, DeBolt had always enjoyed math and science, so engineering seemed a good fit for him.

"I enjoyed my classes, but it's definitely been very tough, very demanding," he said. "But it pushes you to the limit, and hopefully it will get me ready for the next step."

Even with all of these challenging commitments, DeBolt found time for other pursuits.

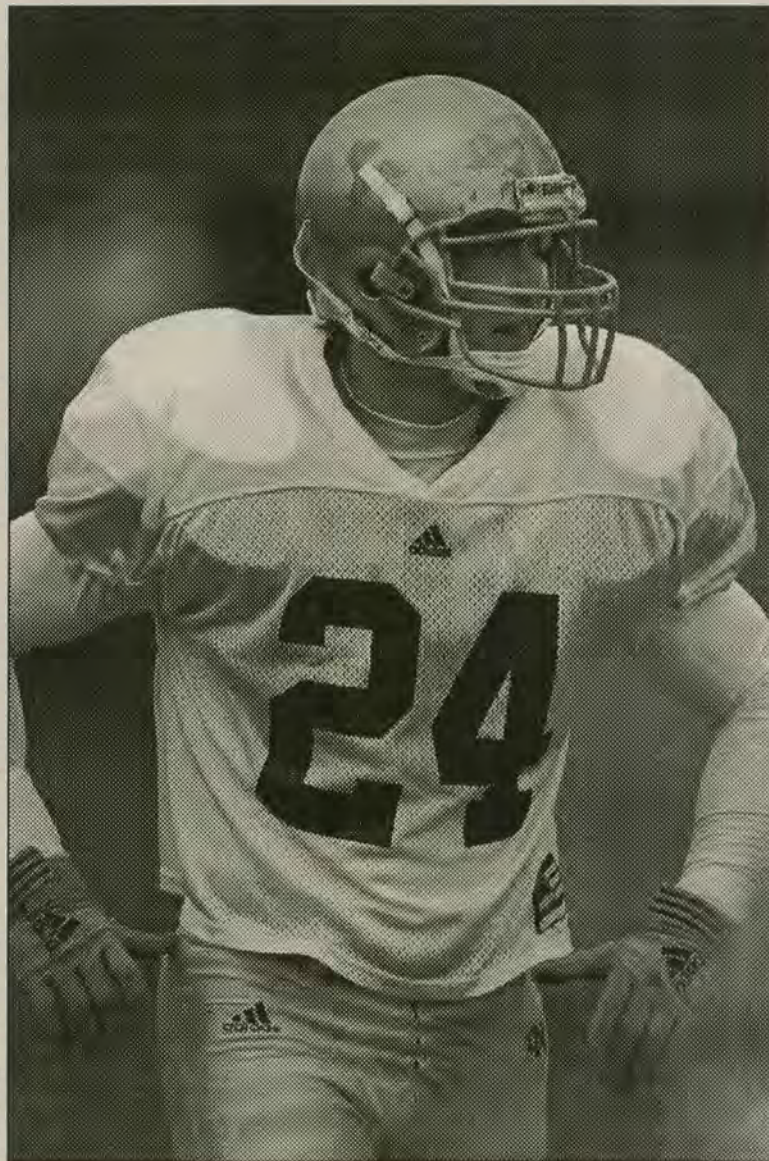
"I play bagpipes," he said with a laugh, almost surprised himself at his high level of involvement.

Despite all that he's done at Notre Dame, DeBolt sometimes wishes he could have done more.

"I wish I had put a little more time into the school," he said. "I think it's a great school, there are a lot of things you can get out of it."

In a sense, DeBolt, who wants to work on Wall Street after graduation next spring, feels lucky about what he has been able to accomplish at Notre Dame. With his passion for the school, for the football and lacrosse teams, and dual engineering and MBA degree, DeBolt has become a Notre Dame man — northern Indiana's version of the Renaissance man.

Contact Joe Lindsley at
jlindsle@nd.edu



BRIAN PUCEVICH/The Observer

Senior Chad DeBolt played lacrosse, majored in engineering and played football for the Irish.

BERNARD AKATU

Decision to stay was right for wide receiver



BRIAN PUCEVICH/The Observer

Nigeria native Bernard Akatu thought twice about coming back to Notre Dame until he met Tyrone Willingham.

By JOE LICANDRO
Sports Writer

After four years of working against the first team defense every day in practice, walk-on wide receiver Bernard Akatu was seriously contemplating whether to call his football career quits or return to exercise his final year of eligibility.

Even though he would be returning to Notre Dame for a fifth academic year, the 21-year old native of Lagos, Nigeria, was starting to question whether all the practices and team meetings were worth it any more.

"When they made the announcement there would be a new coaching staff, I got a little excited, but I didn't make my decision until I met with Coach Willingham. After I talked to him, I was so impressed with the man I met that I thought this was definitely the right direction for Notre Dame football," Akatu said.

As this season has unfolded, it turns out Akatu's instincts were correct. With



Akatu

a 9-1 record and No. 8 national ranking, Notre Dame has proved the doubters wrong all season. Akatu is extremely thankful for the way Willingham has quickly left his imprint on the program.

"I'm not going to sit here and say that I predicted we would be 9-1, but I thought we could compete with every team on our schedule. At no point, did I ever doubt that we were good enough to win a national championship," said Akatu. "Willingham now has made us believe we can win a national championship."

Both on and off the field, Akatu has a great sense of humor. Although he is the constant recipient of ribbing from his teammates, the fifth-year senior does not mind at all. As a walk-on, Akatu believes his job is to always carry a positive attitude into the locker room to keep his teammates loose for the games.

"Walk-on or not, football is tough for everybody. It is hard for all of us to do what we do both physically and mentally. So for you not to have some excitement about what you do is just putting an added stress on yourself," said Akatu.

Five years ago, Akatu entered Notre Dame planning to major in engineering, but after his junior year

he began to have second thoughts. As he points out, sometimes life has a funny way of turning out.

"I was an engineer for three years. I kept hoping I'd like it, but it never happened. I don't remember a single professor or single class I liked so I guess that's not good," said Akatu with a laugh. "I thought I'd go into business because I like people."

Even if this season had turned out differently for Notre Dame, Akatu is glad he made the decision to come back. Throughout the past five years, he always had faith that Notre Dame football would return to glory. Now, he's thrilled that he's had the chance to be a part of it.

"I wouldn't say the last four years wouldn't have been worth it, but this year made it feel like hard work really pays off," said Akatu. "I cannot imagine what it had been like if last season had been my last year because I really would have felt that I hadn't accomplished much. I always believed this team could be good, but for some reason things just didn't work out. This year has been a huge sigh of relief."

Contact Joe Licandro at
Licandro.1@nd.edu

Fourth-year seniors

COURTNEY WATSON

Notre Dame's senior inside linebacker has been a big hit for the Irish.

Courtney Watson, recently named a finalist for the Dick Butkus award given to the country's best linebacker, has hit often and hit hard. After missing the first two games of the season due to an illness, Watson came back strong. After eight games, he leads the Irish with 81 total tackles. He's recorded three interceptions, including a 34-yard runback for a touchdown.

The 2002 season marks the second year in a row that Watson has started at linebacker for Notre Dame and the second year in a row he has been in the top two in tackles. Last season he recorded 76 after filling the spot left by the graduation of former All-American Anthony Denman.

However, Watson's hard-hitting abilities aren't the only things that have impressed the new Irish coaching staff. The senior, who still has one year of eligibility left, has taken an obvious leadership role on and off the field.

During the first two games of the season, when Watson was out sick, Irish coach Tyrone Willingham mentioned several times that the linebacker would lead the team. Since then, he has been named a game day captain several times and has led a defense that has held their opponents to an average of 97.7 rushing yards and 182 passing yards.

That is quite an accomplishment for a player who came to Notre Dame without the expectations of playing on the defense. Watson, who hails from Sarasota, Fla., came to Notre Dame as a running back. At Riverview High School he earned all-Sarasota honors while rushing for more than 2,500 yards and 25 touchdowns.

However, when Watson hit Notre Dame, the coaching staff thought they could use Watson somewhere else. So they began to develop themselves a linebacker. Now, 188 tackles, 22 tackles for a loss and four interceptions later, the Irish have developed more than a linebacker. They have a hitting machine.



LISA VELTE/The Observer

Irish linebacker Courtney Watson leads the Irish in tackles and was named a finalist for the Dick Butkus award.

Jason Beckstrom

After playing in every game in 2001, 2002 has been quite a change for the Irish reserve cornerback. He started two games last season. This year he hasn't seen one play.

After suffering a bicep injury and then undergoing surgery at the beginning of the season, Jason Beckstrom has not seen any action this season. The senior Tulsa, Okla. native has spent all season recovering.

In the 2001 season, he recorded three tackles and recovered a fumble against Tennessee and grabbed his first career interception against Purdue, which he ran back for a touchdown.

Ryan Gillis

Despite being a top 30 national prospective by Football News and a Parade prep All-American, Ryan Gillis has had a tough time getting into the game.

Gillis plays behind an offensive line that doesn't get hurt and doesn't give up. As a back-up offensive guard, he plays behind senior Sean Milligan and fifth-year senior Sean Mahan.

The senior Fawn Lake, Va. native saw some playing time during the 2001 season, mostly on special teams. However, he saw playing time at the right guard position against Boston College and Navy after Sean Milligan suffered an injury.

Brennan Curtin

The first thing you notice about Brennan Curtin is his size. The 6-foot-8, 305-pound offensive tackle is the largest member of the Notre Dame team. But if he makes a statement with his size, then he really makes a statement with his play.

The senior offensive tackle is a key member of an offensive line that has shown continual improvement over the course of the season, opening up the Irish rushing game.

Curtin recorded his first start last season against Michigan State and played several offensive line positions before settling into tackle this season.

Sean Milligan

Starting is nothing new to Sean Milligan. The 6-foot-4 offensive guard saw nine starts in 2001 and has seen 10 starts this season. An ankle injury benched him against Boston College and caused him to miss the Tennessee and Navy game.

Milligan joins fellow seniors and fifth-year seniors Brennan Curtin, Sean Mahan, Jordan Black and Jeff Faine on a veteran offensive line.

The Norcross, Ga. native was a USA Today second-team All-American coming out of high school and was rated 86th on the list of top 100 prospects by ESPN.com.

DARRELL CAMPBELL



NELLIE WILLIAMS/The Observer

Irish senior Darrell Campbell has taken a leadership role on the Irish defensive line.

Barely missing being one of Notre Dame's top-10 tacklers, Darrell Campbell has made himself known on the football field. And his size isn't the only thing that makes him obvious.

The 6-foot-4, 288-pound defensive tackle is one of the vocal Irish leaders on a defensive line that is determined to be the best in the country.

Last season, Campbell seemed to settle into his role on the defensive line. This year, he's more than comfortable. He's in charge.

Campbell, who hails from South Holland, Ill., is a starter for the second year on the Irish squad. He has already bested his 26 tackles that he recorded last season, tally-

ing 27 tackles in 10 games thus far this season. He has been key to the Irish pass-rush game. Campbell has recorded five tackles for a loss, pushing opponents back a total of 28 yards.

Campbell started nine of 11 games during the 2001 season, sitting out the Michigan State game after suffering a neck injury and missed the Stanford game due to a right knee sprain.

This season, the starting defensive line has not been with Campbell.

Coming out of Thornwood High School, Campbell was a USA Today honorable mention prep All-American and was ranked 82nd nationally by the Chicago Tribune.

NICHOLAS SETTA



BRIAN PUCEVICH/The Observer

Nicholas Setta attempts a kick against Purdue. The kicker began the season with five field goals against Maryland.

This season has been a roller coaster for Nicholas Setta.

The senior place kicker started the season on what can only be labeled a high. During the Kickoff Classic, Setta connected on five field goals, his only miss coming from more than 56 yards out. He was named the Kickoff Classic MVP for his efforts and found his to be the new household name around campus.

After that game, he hit what Irish coach Willingham refused to call a slump. In the next four games he only connected on 3-of-10 field goals and broke his 16-game streak for consecutive field goals.

However, he managed to find his foot again against Florida State, hitting two field goals from 35 and 39

yards, respectively. He retains a streak for consecutive extra points, hitting every single attempt this season.

The Lockport, Ill. native, whose first love was soccer, has served as Notre Dame's place kicker for the last three seasons, beating out fellow teammate David Miller for the job.

In addition to managing his kicking duties for the Irish, Setta manages to run track. He works in the high jump and the long jump for the Irish and short to medium distance running.

Setta, who was a Parade prep All-American and rated the number-one kicker in the country out of high school, hit the cross bar on a 73-yard attempt at Lockport Township High School.

have one year left

JEFF FAINE



JEFF FAINE/The Observer

Irish center Jeff Faine has started every game this season, exemplifying the steadiness that has characterized his career.

Ask Irish coaches who the anchor of the Irish offensive line and they'll easily name Notre Dame center Jeff Faine.

Faine's career has been characterized by steadiness along the offensive front — a steadiness the Irish have desperately needed amidst their offensive turmoil. In Faine's three years in the middle of the Irish offensive line, the Irish center has started all 32 games of his career. In comparison, he's snapped the ball to five different starting quarterbacks during that period — Arnaz Battle, Gary Godsey, Matt LoVecchio, Carlyle Holiday and Pat Dillingham.

If there's one thing Irish coaches have trouble doing, it's getting Faine to come out of the game. He played with a sprained ankle for most of the Michigan State game and hobbled off the field three weeks later against Stanford. Yet even as Faine jogged into the locker room at halftime, he knew he'd return to the field. "It would probably take a broken neck to keep me out of the game," the Irish center remarked at one point in the season.

Faine is only second to fifth-year senior Jordan Black in terms of minutes played and has started every game of his college career despite sitting out his freshman year to save a year of eligibility. Generally regarded as one of the top offensive linemen in the nation, Faine was a semifinalist for the Outland Trophy, an award presented annually to the nation's top lineman.

One of Faine's greatest assets is his leadership. Although Tyrone Willingham used game day captains this season, Faine has been a constant selection by the Irish coaches, walking out to midfield for the coin toss for well over half of Notre Dame's games this season.

What lies ahead for Faine? The Irish center isn't sure. He has said he's going to carefully consider his options when it comes to deciding whether to leave Notre Dame a year early for the NFL draft. Regardless of Faine's intentions, the center chose to put his team first — waiting until the end of the season to make a decision about his future to put the team's success first.

Sean Milligan

It's amazing what a year of experience can do for an offensive lineman. Last year, Milligan was often pushed around on the Irish front line and struggled to provide adequate protection. An ankle injury kept him out of the Tennessee and Navy games and Milligan only returned in a reserve role in the final two Irish games of the year.

But this season, Milligan has established himself as a dominant presence on the Irish line. He's started all five games for the Irish and is a member of one of the most experienced Irish offensive fronts in Notre Dame history. With one year of eligibility remaining, Milligan is poised to improve even more next year.

Jim Molinaro

Three seasons of turmoil have finally culminated this season for Molinaro with a series of appearances on the Irish offensive line.

Molinaro came to Notre Dame as a highly recruited defensive lineman. But he sat out his freshman year and only squeaked into one game his sophomore season. Coaches approached Molinaro with the idea of a position change, and the senior readily accepted the move.

The Irish lineman spent much of last season learning the Irish offense. But now that he's learned the nuances of being a lineman, Molinaro is ready to break into the Irish rotation next season.

Pat Ryan

Ryan entered Notre Dame with a USA Today All-American selection under his belt. But the senior from Montana has yet to make a significant breakthrough on the Irish squad.

Ryan made his first appearance in 2000 as a member of the Notre Dame's special teams and winning his monogram. He made the lone tackle of his career in Notre Dame's second game of the season.

Last year, Ryan only made a handful of special teams appearances, playing in just three games. He has appeared in nine of Notre Dame's 10 games this season and has recorded six tackles.

Justin Thomas

Thomas' career can best be described as a work in progress. He was named Defensive Player of the Year by an Oklahoma newspaper in high school, but the Irish are still waiting for that potential to translate into on-field prowess.

Thomas played five games his freshman year as a backup linebacker, although he saw most of his work on the special teams unit. He sat out his entire sophomore season and made only a handful of special teams appearances in 2001.

But this season, Thomas has played in every game, making six tackles on special teams. His role next season is still undefined.

GLENN EARL



LISA VELTE/The Observer

Safety Glenn Earl hits a Navy player during an Irish victory. Earl ranks second on the defense with 65 tackles.

The Irish safety entered this season known pretty much for one thing — blocking a field goal against Air Force in 2000 that preserved Notre Dame's hopes to reach a BCS bowl.

But Earl couldn't wait to get out of the shadow of the player who made a huge special teams play and establish himself on defense. His career has been decimated by injuries, and the 2002 campaign is his first completely injury-free season since he arrived at Notre Dame.

Earl entered last season as a reserve defensive back, and nobody knew how much he would be able to contribute to a relatively deep Irish secondary. But he started the season on a rough note, missing the second game with a leg injury. He didn't return to full-time action until the USC game, and then

suffered a separated shoulder two games later at Tennessee and a concussion against Stanford two more games after that.

The game that set the tone for the 2002 season was the 2001 finale. Earl started the game and recorded 12 tackles, including a pair of sacks.

This season, Irish teammates dubbed Earl the headhunter of the Irish secondary for his hard-hitting abilities. He also has recorded a pair of interceptions and is ranked second on the team in tackles with 65.

In the vocal Irish secondary, teammates ridiculed Earl for grabbing a pass against Florida State that caromed off a referee's head. Earl got his first "legitimate" interception against Navy.

GARY GODSEY



LISA VELTE/The Observer

Gary Godsey runs after making a reception. After playing quarterback for two games, Godsey moved to the receiving end of the ball.

He still sees students walking around campus wearing T-shirts that say, "In God(sey) We Trust." But Gary Godsey just smiles and laughs when he looks back on his short-lived Irish quarterback career.

Two seasons ago, when Arnaz Battle broke his wrist in the second game of the season, Godsey started the next two games as Irish quarterback. He won his debut against Purdue, leading the Irish on a 59-yard drive that culminated in a game-winning field goal kick.

But Godsey struggled a week later against Michigan State and was eventually replaced by Matt LoVecchio, who went on to start the final eight games of the Irish season. With Carlyle Holiday and Jared Clark

waiting in the wings, Godsey moved to tight end the winter before his junior year.

During his rookie year on the offensive line, Godsey didn't make much of an impact. Although he started two games, Godsey caught just two passes against Navy for a combined 50 yards. His role in the Irish offense seemed to be reduced to a glorified blocker until Tyrone Willingham instituted his pro-style offense.

This year, although Godsey has yet to score a touchdown, he has caught 15 passes, the third most of the Irish roster, for 150 yards. He also heads a very deep corps of tight ends, yet has emerged as a clutch receiving option when the Irish need a big play.

IRISH

Friday, November 22, 2002

BERNARD AKATU ARNAZ BATTLE

DARRELL CAMPBELL CHAD DEBOLT

GLENN EARL JEFF FAINE

CHARLES HEDMAN

RETURN

CEDRIC HILLIARD JOEY HILDBOLD

MIKE MCNAIR DAVID MILLER

DAN NOVAKOV ED O'CONNELL

RYAN ROBERTS

NICHOLAS SETTA

PAT RYAN

