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New TCE proposal gains support

Students, faculty express positive sentiment

By TERESA FRALISH
Associate News Editor

One semester after faculty and students clashed over publication of teacher course evaluations and ultimately failed to rectify their differences, the two groups appear to be back on track — due to a new course evaluation proposal that promises to satisfy both sides.

The new plan, proposed by associate provost Dennis Jacobs this fall, calls for the University to create a reporting mechanism, entirely apart from the TCEs, for students to provide other students with information

and assessment of classes.

"The TCEs by themselves do not adequately capture teaching. ... If the measures we have are unreliable, then we can't make advances in any real way," Jacobs said.

Student government's previous proposal to publish the actual data compiled from the TCEs recognized that need, but ran into trouble when faculty — concerned about publicizing information used for sensitive decisions on tenure and promotion — voted it down last spring.

Throughout this semester, Jacobs and student leaders

see PROPOSAL/page 6



JOANNA PAXTON/The Observer

Students Jeremy Lao, left, Jeremy Staley, back, and Vijay Ramanan led efforts to develop a course review mechanism for students.

White delivers address

SMC president gives annual "State of the School" speech

By KELLY MEEHAN
News Writer

Saint Mary's student body president Sarah Catherine White delivered the annual "State of the School" and spoke about her accomplishments this year and vision for student government.

White began her address to students, faculty and administrators by giving a brief history of the initiation of the Student Government Association in 1935 by former college president Sister Madeleva. Madeleva began student government after she recognized students' need for self-representation.

"The creation of student government helped redefine the Saint Mary's woman who does not shy away from the world around her," White said.

White recalled the goals that she and student body vice president Mary Pauline Moran created last semester after winning the student body president election. They aimed to welcome College President Carol Mooney to campus, make service opportunities more available to the student body and to oversee the building and opening of Opus Hall and the new student center.

To welcome the new president, White started "Dessert with Dr. Mooney" in which each residence hall welcomed the new president for a Sunday evening of desserts and discussion. This event has occurred in each residence hall, with the final "Dessert

see ADDRESS/page 6

College remains on alert

By ANGELA SAOUD
Saint Mary's Editor

A report saying that at least one cab driver has been soliciting Saint Mary's students to pose for pictures in a hotel room remains under investigation, a College official said Thursday.

On Nov. 11, students at Saint Mary's received an e-mail from Linda Timm, vice president of Student Affairs, warning them of the situation. The e-mail stated that a student or students had reported the solicitation to Saint Mary's security after being offered a "significant and intentionally enticing" amount of money to pose for photographs in a hotel room.

According to College spokesperson Melanie McDonald, various agencies in the community are work-

see DRIVER/page 4

ND welcomes basketball season



GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

A sign outside the Joyce Center announces the first regular season men's basketball game, tonight. The Irish take on the Harvard Crimson at 7 p.m.

By PETER LEAHY
News Writer

For Notre Dame students discouraged by the performance of this year's football team, watching basketball may present a remedy for that disenchantment.

This year's team returns nine monogram winners including four starters who will play in tonight's season opener in the Joyce Center against Harvard.

Junior Rob Hallman said football left him disappointed but was hopeful about the upcoming basketball season.

"I expect Notre Dame basketball to generate that winning feeling left void during the fall," he said. "I think the basketball team's success will largely depend on how Chris Thomas plays. I think this will be his year to shine."

According to Hallman, the team would likely do well if it can get

back to the NCAA tournament after missing out in 2003-04.

"Despite the parity in the Big East, I think we have a good shot of winning the Big East title and advancing far into the [tournament]," he said.

Freshman Mike Hatke credited the depth of this year's team with his hopes for the season.

"There's like 10 guys who could start," he said.

see BASKETBALL/page 4

Campus reacts to disputed play

By K. AARON VAN OOSTERHOUT
News Writer

Despite anticipated controversy, "Angels in America" flew onto campus with virtually no protest.

According to director Steve Hoeplinger, this is perfectly fine.

"It wasn't really controversy that I wanted," he said. "I wanted people to talk."

The performance drew modest crowds, 100 two nights ago on opening night and 139 Thursday, and stage manager Chelsea Mason expects the same tonight.

"That's pretty typical for a student show like this," she said.

Not at all disappointed with the turnout, Mason added, "if we've touched one person with this show, it's been a success."

Playwright Tony Kushner's most well-known work, "Angels

presents the tale of four men and one woman in 1980s New York City, all battling various inner demons. The four men also happen to be homosexual.

"Coming from a Catholic school background, you don't ever really know about homosexuality," said junior Mark Huberty at the intermission of Thursday's performance. "I think it's extremely pow-

see ANGELS/page 4



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Actors Joe Garlock, left, and Andre Valdivia perform in "Angels in America" Wednesday night.

INSIDE COLUMN

'Winning,'
off the field

Notre Dame Stadium has always been a place where dreams fade or dreams are made. And on that sun-drenched Sunday afternoon, a dream was put away for another fall for the Cavanaugh interhall football team. After a season starting at the top and ending first in the polls, there was only goal left unfinished — bringing the coveted title home to the North Quad.

Kate Gales

Sports
Production

Disappointing? Yes. Devastating? Almost. But demeaning? Never. Because the team went out there before hundreds of fans (and a band with a half-time show) and played a hard-fought game and learned a few lessons along the rocky road that is the interhall women's season.

And at the end of the day, without trophy but brimming with pride, we look back and remember the reasons that interhall football really is what Notre Dame is all about.

My parents probably never thought they would raise a daughter who would run through the tunnel with Touchdown Jesus raising his arms behind her, who would take the field with 50 teammates and a crowd cheering with passion unrivaled by any football Saturday.

OK, so I'm more Rudy than the Rocket, but I did have a number of fans yelling my name and one verified jersey-chaser. I didn't have a golden helmet (which is convenient, as the last thing I want in a postgame photo is helmet hair) but I did have a lovely set of flags and a green T-shirt that I wear with unequalled pride.

So we lost. After spending last week chalking the sidewalks in front of DeBartolo and having fun with glass-writing markers, it wasn't an easy loss to take. But there are wonderful moments over my past two seasons that deserve a moment of reflection.

On the field, I've realized that football isn't quite as easy as it looks — and we're not even required to make tackles. I've seen that fourth-and-inches is possibly the most stressful time for any team, offense or defense. I learned that putting your trust in your teammates — and yourself — is probably one of the hardest things to ask of yourself.

But the off-field lessons are just as valuable. As post-victory parties, I learned that Jell-O is not always what it seems, that a Suburban can't always carry as many people as you thought it would and that a whisper can be very, very loud.

I've been inspired by a number of e-mails from our head coach, Lou Perry, who will forever be "Coach Lou" to me. I learned that in the defensive huddle, anything and everything is fair game for a cheer. I saw that your best friends will always be on the sidelines cheering you on and that there's really nothing as flattering as a jersey chaser.

But most of all, I learned there's nothing like a team to bring people together. I consider myself incredibly lucky to have been on a team that made it to the Stadium, but I count myself much luckier for having such an amazing group of teammates and coaches. We'll miss some ridiculously talented seniors but for the rest of us — there's always next year.

Contact Kate Gales at kgales@nd.edu

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

CORRECTIONS

Due to an editing error, a graphic in the Nov. 18 issue of The Observer misspelled the first name of Condoleezza Rice. The correct spelling was in the accompanying story. The Observer regrets the error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT DO YOU THINK OF TEACHER COURSE EVALUATIONS?



Alex Renfro
freshman
Alumni

"I never knew it was such a hot issue."



Brandy Ellison
graduate
student

"Well, I'm a teaching assistant so I take my own TCEs very seriously."



Bridget Osetinsky
sophomore
McGlinn

"I'm the freaky overachiever who stays after 20 minutes finishing."



Danny Richter
senior
Keough

"I try and treat them fairly seriously, but I don't know put much faith in how much good they're gonna do."



Josh Hoen
sophomore
Stanford

"What's a TCE?"



Kurt Yeasted
senior
Zahm

"I thought I was done with bubble tests when I took the TCE."



ERIC SALES/The Observer

Students in the class "Technology, Nature and Death: The Problem of Antigone" lay on the ground in front of DeBartolo Hall Thursday in an effort to draw attention to their class. Other students passed out flyers explaining the project.

OFFBEAT

Bill Gates gets 4 million e-mails a day

SINGAPORE — Bill Gates might not use AOL, but he's definitely got mail. The Microsoft Corp. chairman receives millions of Internet messages a day, said Steve Ballmer, the company's chief executive. "Bill literally receives 4 million pieces of e-mail per day, most of it spam," Ballmer said Thursday.

Spam or junk e-mails are unsolicited messages, generally advertising goods or services and usually sent to many e-mail accounts simultaneously.

Ballmer said Microsoft has special technology that just filters spam intended for Gates. In addition, several Microsoft employees are dedicated to ensuring that nothing unwanted gets into his inbox.

"Literally there's a whole department almost that takes care of it," he said.

Entire class suspended for food fight

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — A cafeteria food fight on "meat loaf day" led to the suspension of the entire eighth-grade class at a

Memphis school. The students were suspended after refusing to clean up the mess they caused.

"Given an opportunity first to apologize for their behavior and help with the cleanup, most of the class refused to cooperate," school spokesman Vince McGaskill said.

The food fight broke out Wednesday at Geeter Middle School, which has 637 students in grades six through eight. Meat loaf and chicken were on the menu.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Notre Dame alumni Mark Lang and Nadina Bembic will give a music performance today as part of the Center for Ethics and Culture's Ephanias of Beauty conference today from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the LaFortune Ballroom.

The Student Union Board will sponsor two showings of "The Bourne Supremacy" today at 8 and 10:30 p.m. in 101 DeBartolo Hall.

Stanford Hall will host its "Benefit Bash" from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m. today in Roll's Aquatic Center. Events will include knockout basketball, a hockey shootout and acoustic music, and all proceeds will benefit Hogar Santiago, an orphanage in Chile.

The Kellogg Institute will sponsor a conference on "Reforming the State in Mexico: The Challenge after Fox and NAFTA" today from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in C-103 Hesburgh Center and the Hesburgh Center Auditorium.

The Notre Dame Chorale and Chamber Orchestra will present its fall concert today from 8 to 9:30 p.m. in the Leighton Concert Hall of the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts.

The men's basketball team will play its home opener against Harvard University tonight from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Joyce Center Arena.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 53 LOW 49	HIGH 52 LOW 49	HIGH 59 LOW 45	HIGH 53 LOW 36	HIGH 47 LOW 33	HIGH 48 LOW 34

Atlanta 74 / 62 Boston 70 / 49 Chicago 64 / 48 Denver 65 / 42 Houston 83 / 67 Los Angeles 78 / 72 Minneapolis 80 / 62 New York 70 / 49 Philadelphia 75 / 48 Phoenix 56 / 40 Seattle 61 / 48 St. Louis 71 / 58 Tampa 88 / 68 Washington 75 / 49

Conference to address listening techniques

By MEGAN O'NEIL
News Writer

As part of its commitment to interfaith dialogue, the Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership (CWIL) is hosting a two-day conference this weekend at Saint Mary's titled "Called to be Compassionate Listeners."

Two prominent figures in the field, Leah Green and Linda Wolf, will serve as facilitators for the workshops.

The event, part of a CWIL program called "Living as Women of Faith," will focus on the importance of compassionate listening and the techniques one should utilize in order to be a conscious listener.

Green founded and serves as the director of The Compassionate Listening Project, a program which focuses largely on the Israel-Palestinian crisis. She has led 16 citizen delegations to Middle Eastern hot spots.

Wolf, the author of numerous books, is the founder and director of the Teen Talking Circle Project. She also co-founded Global Youth Allies, an organization committed to youth empowerment on an international level.

The conference was born out of discussion at a human rights intercultural dialogue at the college last year, said coordina-

tor Sister Marianne Farina. Participants realized that real progress in the area of human rights would require compassionate listening and requested a forum specifically dedicated to that topic.

"They really wanted to learn how to do it well, not just a sample of it," Farina said.

The theme of compassionate listening, Farina added, is "striking a chord" with students and community members.

"We don't know how to really to talk to one another, and to listen to one another deeply," Farina said.

Publicized through student government and the student diversity board, the conference quickly filled its 35 available slots, and Farina was forced to create a waiting list.

Organizers hope, however, that the conference will mark only the beginning of the recognition of the role of compassionate listening in conflict resolution. The skill, they believe, can be used both in violent world conflicts and conflicts on the campus itself.

"Hopefully what will emerge is the notion of compassionate listening circles where we can bring issues that occur on this campus," Farina said, "and where we can discuss them openly."

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Haitian service trip to resume

By TRICIA deGROOT
News Writer

After a cancellation last spring due to an unstable government situation, the University will resume its humanitarian trip to Haiti this spring break. Since 1999, Steve Silliman, associate undergraduate dean in the College of Engineering, has taken nine students to Haiti for a one-week mission to repair wells and train the local population to maintain and repair their hand-pumps.

Silliman began organizing these student seminars after his own trip to Haiti with Lifewater International, a Christian organization that helps rural poor obtain safe drinking water in 1996.

"Once I visited there, I thought it would be a good place for Notre Dame to be involved," Silliman said.

The seminars have taken place at different times during and after the academic year depending on several different factors.

"The time of the trips can vary. They can be during fall break, spring break or even senior week," Silliman said. "It depends on several factors including my time, the political situation and the availability of housing."

Silliman canceled the last seminar, which was to take place last spring break, because of a coup in Haiti. Since such a dangerous politi-

cal environment prohibited students from traveling to this mission, it has been about 18 months since the University has completed this service project in Haiti.

Silliman usually receives about 75 applications to this program, but he is only able to take 10 people — himself and nine selected students.

Once selected, these students begin training on campus for at least two hours every week.

"The training consists of two parts — to fix hand pumps, which only takes about two to three hours of training and to learn about the social, religious and political conditions," Silliman said.

The main objective is not just to repair the water pumps but, most importantly, to train the locals on how to repair these pumps themselves, Silliman said. Before returning, the group will leave the Haitians with tools to continue making these repairs and the skills to help their community maintain their source of safe drinking water.

In addition, when in Haiti, the students and Silliman will stay in housing provided by OMS, a missionary group with a significant compound in Cap Haitien. OMS also provides the group with all their food and water in addition to allowing them the use of vehicles, ensuring the students safe food and transportation while they are there.

The program prides itself not only on the repair of India

Mark II pumps and the training given to the locals but also on the opportunities it gives students to experience life in Haiti, interact with the Haitians and finally, live their faith.

There will be an information session regarding this seminar in the next few weeks, and applications will be due soon afterwards. Students will be notified about the program in December or January.

In addition to Silliman's service project, there are a number of other professors and organizations on campus who have extended their efforts to help the people of Haiti. Kenneth Filchak, for example, has gotten his freshmen involved in raising money through Lifesaver sales.

"Haiti is the poorest country in the hemisphere and so, with the freshmen, I started our own charity to try to win support," Filchak said.

Filchak went out and bought 200 pounds of Lifesavers and asked his students if they wanted to raise money for Haiti.

"The hook with the lifesavers is that \$20 will save a life in Haiti," Filchak said.

Filchak makes it a point that his students know this fundraising is not part of the class. However, even with no extra credit offered, Filchak has raised about \$2,500 over the past two years with the help of his students.

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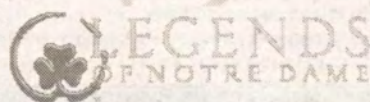
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Angels

continued from page 1

erful, in that it conveys a message of tolerance."

In order to convey this message, however, Kushner included some explicit content. In one scene, character Louis Ironson, played by junior Joe Garlock, makes love to another man onstage.

"Personally, I don't find anything shocking in it," said Kenneth Cole, professor in the film, television and theatre department and mentor to Hoeplinger. "I would gather that there are more shocking displays on 'Desperate

Housewives."

Hoeplinger added he posted a "Mature" warning on the promotional posters, but that students should be able to view the performance with no problem.

"I think any student should be mature enough to handle it," he said. "It happens in the world whether we endorse it or not."

Some might argue, however, that many things happen in the world that should not be depicted on stage.

In "Angels" case, sophomore Chloe Bekavac disagreed.

"It's controversial, of course, but I think it's necessary here at Notre Dame," she said. "Open dialogue is

lacking here. It's productions like these that facilitate dialogue."

Other audience members were concerned that life-changing dialogue might be difficult, however, if everyone who attends the play already finds homosexuality acceptable.

"If (people) did have a problem with homosexuals, I don't think they would come [to "Angels"]," said junior Aliya Riddle. "It's easy to avoid something you don't agree with."

Hoeplinger's advice to those "avoiding" the issues raised by "Angels?"

"It's foolish to ignore," he said.

Contact K. Aaron VanOosterhout at kvanoost@nd.edu

Driver

continued from page 1

ing together to closely monitor the situation.

"Saint Mary's College Security Department continues to work with city law enforcement to gather more information," McDonald said. "Saint Mary's has and will continue to communicate with Notre Dame and Holy Cross College regarding any developments, and Saint Mary's students will receive an update as soon as there is more to share."

The e-mail also cited that one taxi driver had been issued a no trespass order and was no longer allowed on Saint Mary's campus.

Until the situation is remedied, Timm and Saint Mary's security are asking anyone who is propositioned to report the incident to security immediately.

For students looking for a transportation option, McDonald suggested a reputable taxi company.

"Saint Mary's has a working relationship with Michiana Taxi," McDonald said. "Discount cards for that taxi service are available for students through the Security Department on campus."

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Basketball

continued from page 1

Like Hallman, Hatke said he expected the team to compete for the Big East title and advance into the later rounds of the NCAA tournament.

"I think they have a legitimate shot to get to the Sweet 16. I think we should get to the Sweet 16," he said. "If we really come together we could make the Final Four."

Hatke said reaching the Sweet 16, rather than winning the Big East, would be the mark of a successful season this year.

"With all the talent we have, if we don't

get to the Sweet 16 it would be a disappointment," Hatke said. "I think there's too much talent not to get that far. We are easily one of the top 16 teams in the country."

Sophomore Kristine Rosek shared Hatke's excitement for the season.

"I'm pumped. I'm excited. I'm psyched," she said.

Rosek said she likes going to the games. "[I will attend] as many as I can because I'm a big nerd, and I have to study all the time," she said.

But despite her excitement, Rosek said she felt guarded optimism about the upcoming season.

"I think we'll get to the NCAA tournament, but I don't think we're gonna get to the Final Four or anything,"

she said.

Sophomore Jenalle Slosar said she believed the team would play well, and though not a season-ticket holder — she plans to attend as many games as possible.

"If I have the chance to go see them I will," she said.

Like Rosek, Slosar was cautious in her expectations for the team.

"I would expect them to do better than they did last year," she said. "Quite possibly they could make the NCAA tournament."

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IRAQ

U.S. troops discover Iraqi command center

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — U.S. troops sweeping through Fallujah on Thursday found what appeared to be a command center used by followers of Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, and a U.S. general expressed confidence the battle for the city has "broken the back of the insurgency."

A separate raid near the suspected command center uncovered a bomb-making workshop where an SUV registered in Texas was being converted into a car bomb and a classroom that held flight plans and instructions on shooting down planes, according to a CNN crew embedded with the U.S. Army.

Gunbattles still flared in Fallujah as troops hunted holdout insurgents five days after the military said its forces had occupied the entire city 40 miles west of Baghdad. One U.S. Marine and one Iraqi soldier were killed, U.S. officials said.

At a base outside Fallujah, Lt. Gen. John Sattler, commander of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, said the U.S. casualty toll in the Fallujah offensive stood at 51 dead and about 425 wounded. An estimated 1,200 insurgents have been killed, with about 1,025 enemy fighters detained, the military says.

Sattler told reporters he felt the U.S.-led attack on the city had dealt a serious blow to the insurgency.

"We feel right now that we have, as I mentioned, broken the back of the insurgency. We've taken away this safe haven," Sattler said, adding that insurgents had scattered elsewhere in Iraq where they lacked the resources available in their former stronghold.

Iraqi authorities, meanwhile, said they arrested 104 suspected insurgents in a raid in Baghdad, including nine who had fled Fallujah.

However, insurgents struck back elsewhere in volatile Sunni Muslim areas.

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ATHLETIC WEEKEND BE THERE!

Friday, November 19th

7pm #20 Men's Basketball vs. Harvard @ Joyce Center Arena

*First 500 fans receive an ND seat cushion
*One lucky ND student will have a chance to hit a half-court shot to win tuition for a year sponsored by Hacienda
*Early arriving fans will receive the 04-05 magnet sponsored by Papa John's



7:35pm Hockey vs. USA Development Team @ Joyce Center Fieldhouse

*Chevy Trading Card Night #2 - Sophomore Class -
*Postgame autograph session with the Irish Sophomore Players

Saturday, November 20th: 3RD Round NCAA

7 PM #4 Women's Soccer VS Connecticut @ Alumni Field

First 100 Notre Dame Students receive FREE admission

Visit www.notredamepromotions.com for all the latest promotional information

WORLD & NATION

Friday, November 19, 2004

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

U.N. wants to fight drug traffickers

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Heroin production is booming in Afghanistan, undermining democracy and putting money in the coffers of terrorists, according to a U.N. report Thursday that called on U.S. and NATO-led forces get more involved in fighting drug traffickers.

"Fighting narcotics is equivalent to fighting terrorism," said Antonio Maria Costa, executive director of the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime. "It would be an historical error to abandon Afghanistan to opium, right after we reclaimed it from the Taliban and al-Qaida."

Yet while all sides agree on the goal, disputes over tactics surfaced.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai called fighting the narcotics industry his "top priority," but came out Thursday against U.S. proposals to use crop dusters, citing possible risks to the health of villagers.

"The government of Afghanistan opposes the aerial spraying of poppy fields as an instrument of eradication," Karzai's office in Kabul said.

Annan urges warning Sudan forces

NAIROBI, Kenya — U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged the Security Council to issue "the strongest warning" to all forces fighting in Sudan, saying that ending a 21-year civil war in the country's south would also help halt a humanitarian catastrophe in its Darfur region.

The council's meeting in the Kenyan capital — a rare appearance outside the United States — was intended to focus attention on two wars that have left millions dead or homeless.

Southern rebels have been fighting the government since 1983, and the western region of Darfur erupted into violence in February 2003.

NATIONAL NEWS

Specter wins crucial backing

WASHINGTON — Arlen Specter on Thursday won the backing of Senate Judiciary Committee Republicans to be their new chairman, surviving complaints from abortion opponents after submitting an extraordinary statement underscoring his support for Bush judicial nominees.

"I have assured the president that I would give his nominees quick committee hearings and early committee votes," Specter said at a news conference during which outgoing chairman Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, said the panel's Republicans were unanimous in backing the Pennsylvania moderate.

"I have no reason to believe that I'll be unable to support any individual President Bush finds worthy" of the federal bench, Specter told reporters.

Scientists find human, ape ancestor

WASHINGTON — A nearly 13 million-year-old ape discovered in Spain is the last probable common ancestor to all living humans and great apes, a research team says in Friday's issue of Science magazine.

A husband-and-wife team of fossil sleuths unearthed an animal with a body like an ape, fingers like a chimpanzee and the upright posture of humans. The ancient ape bridges the gap between earlier, primitive animals and later, modern creatures.

This newest ape species, *Pierolapithecus catalaunicus*, is so significant that it adds a new page to ancient human history.

LOCAL NEWS

Voting fraud key in recount

BLOOMINGTON — Allegations of voter fraud in Monroe County will be a key point in the recount of Republican Mike Sodrel's apparent victory over Rep. Baron Hill in southern Indiana's 9th Congressional District.

Sodrel's campaign responded to the request of Democrats for a recount in the district by claiming a "substantial number" of ineligible voters may have cast ballots in Monroe County, which Hill won by some 7,000 votes.

Clinton library opens in Ark.

Center debuts with celebration, chronicles former president's 8 years in office

Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Bill Clinton, America's first baby boomer president, opened his library Thursday with a rock 'n' roll gala that hailed the \$165 million glass-and-steel museum as "a gift to the future by a man who always believed in the future."

Despite a steady, bone-chilling rain, nearly 30,000 people joined a celebration that included tributes from President Bush, his father and former President Carter. Rock stars Bono and The Edge of the band U2 performed a three-song set before Clinton spoke to a crowd that included dignitaries and ordinary folk. Poetry and gospel singing added a down-home flavor.

"The story that began in a little house on Hervey Street in Hope, Arkansas, inspires people from every background all over America," President Bush said of Clinton's rise from small-town beginnings to the White House.

The William J. Clinton Presidential Center is a sleek, futuristic complex that contains more than 80 million items from the former president's life, including photos, e-mails, excerpts from famous speeches and gifts from world leaders. The library celebrates eight years of peace and prosperity and dismisses his impeachment as a Republican vendetta.

The 27-acre complex is cantilevered out over the Arkansas River — an allusion to Clinton's desire during his presidency to build a "bridge to the 21st century."

"What it is to me is a symbol of not only what I tried to do but what I want to do with the rest of my life, building bridges from yesterday to tomorrow, building bridges across racial and religious and ethnic and income and political divides," said Clinton, 58, accompanied by his wife and daughter.

"I want young people to want to see not only what I



Former President Bill Clinton, by way of video monitor, celebrates the opening of the William J. Clinton Presidential Center in Little Rock, Ark. Thursday.

did with my life but to see what they could do with their lives," he said, "because this is mostly the story of what we the people can do when we work together."

Bush called the library "a gift to the future by a man who always believed in the future, and today we thank him for loving and serving America."

A number of celebrities traveled to Little Rock for the opening, including actors Ed Begley Jr., Kevin Spacey, and Robin Williams, and Democratic luminaries John Kerry and Al Gore, Clinton's vice president.

Clinton pointed out that during the eight years he and Gore led the country, the nation reduced the national debt and reformed the mili-

tary while also reducing poverty and making college accessible to more people.

A steady rain pelted the crowd throughout the ceremony, and a soldier stood near the podium bearing an umbrella to protect each speaker from the elements.

A tent had been set up Wednesday to shield dignitaries from the rain, but it was taken down because of faith placed in an overly optimistic weather report. The presidents and first ladies held their own umbrellas and tipped dry their own rain-slicked chairs. By the end of the two-hour ceremony, Clinton's usually poofy hair was matted down.

"If my beloved mother were here, she would remind me that rain is liquid

sunshine, and I shouldn't complain about this because the ground probably needs it and somebody is benefiting from it," said Clinton, who was raised by a hard-working widow, the late Virginia Kelley.

Clinton, much thinner as a result of his September heart surgery, chuckled several times as the other ex-presidents recounted stories of past meetings with him, and often slapped his thigh.

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, said the new library "is like my husband: it's open, it's expansive, its welcoming, it's filled with life, and the exhibits tell the story of someone who loves his fellow man, who cares deeply about all of our children, who recognizes our common humanity."

Possible mad cow case discovered

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The government is checking a possible new case of mad cow disease, officials said Thursday, rattling the nation's cattle industry, food processors and beef-oriented restaurant chains.

Additional checks are being conducted after initial testing proved inconclusive on the suspect brain tissue. Officials said the animal never entered the food or feed chain.

The Agriculture Department gave no information on the location or origin of the slaughtered animal and said results from advanced tests were not

expected before four to seven days.

Ranches and businesses dependent on beef are still feeling financial effects from the nation's only confirmed case of the fatal brain-wasting disease last December.

And Thursday's announcement sent cattle prices tumbling on fears that foreign markets would remain closed to U.S. beef. Shares of McDonald's, Wendy's, and other restaurant chains that feature hamburgers also slumped, as did those of U.S. meat producers.

Mad cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy, attacks an animal's nervous system. People who eat food contaminated with BSE can con-

tract a rare disease that is nearly always fatal, variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

"The inconclusive result does not mean we have found another case of BSE in this country," said Andrea Morgan, associate deputy administrator of the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

The "inconclusive result" was the same term the agency used in June when two potential cases turned out to be false alarms. Inconclusive results "are a normal component of screening tests, which are designed to be extremely sensitive so they will detect any sample that could possibly be positive," Morgan said.

Proposal

continued from page 1

exchanged dialogue on the topic, and the provost's office eventually developed a revamped plan that Jacobs presented at the November Faculty Senate meeting.

Students, faculty and administrators have long said they agreed on the concept of publishing student feedback about classes — but diverged on how to go about it.

Rethinking undergraduate education

When Jacobs, 2001 U.S. Teacher of the Year, came to the provost's office in August, he brought a strong background in teaching excellence and intended to critically examine undergraduate education at Notre Dame.

His proposal calls for new course evaluations as just one part of a strategy that aims to provide students with accessible, standardized information about course descriptions, reading materials and learning objectives.

"The larger question is how can we help inform the process by which students select courses," Jacobs said.

At the November Faculty Senate meeting, Jacobs presented the course information initiative as well as a plan to reform teaching evaluation in the tenure process.

As it stands currently, the student review plan will likely rectify many of the concerns that led faculty to oppose TCE publication the past two years, especially the evaluations' impact on tenure.

"[The TCE] is a very sensitive subject," Jacobs said. "It's treated with a high degree of confidentiality," Jacobs said.

If approved, Jacobs said the mechanism would most likely include a set of questions separate from the TCE, drafted by a committee of faculty, students and the administration specifically designed to provide students with feedback about courses and instructors.

"Those [TCE] questions were written with a different purpose in mind," he said. "Is there a set of questions that would better serve the needs of the students and for which students are well-qualified to answer?"

Students would complete the survey simultaneously with the regular TCE, but would receive clear instruction about the purpose and use of the separate questions. The data would likely be uploaded in an online format, with access restricted to students and the teacher of the course.

"The data that comes out of this new survey cannot be used for the purposes of tenure," said Jacobs.

Succeeding in the long-term

When student leaders first broached the idea of TCE publication two years ago, they wanted simply to give students a tool to choose the right courses.

"It really boiled down to something that students needed. You were to some extent choosing classes in a vacuum," said Trip

Foley, 2002-03 student body vice president and an early proponent of TCE publication.

Foley and others researched the issue and proposed using the TCE to share course information because it was already in place.

"It seemed like a great way," he said. "[But] given people's feeling on the issue it's understandable that it took two years."

Ultimately, student government failed to succeed with this approach — but students like senior Jeremy Staley kept the idea alive since Foley's first efforts two years ago.

"You find out the hard way — but you still fight for it," said Staley, current student Academic Council representative and former Sorin Hall senator. "The faculty was very uncomfortable with [the publication] idea, but we also knew that students needed that information."

In early October, Staley presented a course review proposal to Student Senate with Senate academic chair Vijay Ramanan. Staley and students leaders met with Jacobs, who welcomed their ideas into his proposal on course information.

"We have not had this much reception from the administration ever. Of course [Jacobs] is not taking sides — he's just trying to facilitate," Staley said.

Now, student leaders fully back Jacobs' proposal and said they strongly believe faculty will approve it.

"It was like night and day between this year and last year ... The further along we get, the more clear will be the picture of what it's going to look like," Staley said.

Ramanan, who represents students at Faculty Senate, said he feels confident the current plan will address the major issues that drew criticism from the faculty previously.

"I think in the past maybe students have fallen into the trap of asking ... for things that are good for students but aren't necessarily good for the University," he said.

At this point, Ramanan said students would work with the faculty to hammer out the student questions and the mechanism for analyzing and distributing the survey data.

"They were very receptive to the idea," he said of the faculty. "I think most of the things they asked were nuts and bolts questions."

Staley, Ramanan and last year's student body president Jeremy Lao met with Faculty Senate leaders Thursday to discuss the project's next step. Current president Adam Istvan said though he is not involved with the effort, he supports Ramanan and Staley's efforts.

For their part, student leaders said this year marks the end of a long, but now successful, process for providing their peers with real information about courses.

"Very rarely do students get to see long-term projects proceed," Staley said. "Nobody expected this two years ago — we're very excited."

Moving forward

Regardless of the strong student and administration support, the current proposal must ultimately win faculty approval — and faculty leaders say that appears more possible than ever.

John Robinson, last year's Faculty Senate chair and current Faculty Affairs chair, said the current student review proposal resolves a key flaw in the old plan.

"The real purpose of TCEs is two-fold — to help the teacher become a better teacher ... and the second is normative," he said in reference TCE use in tenure and promotion. "The best thing to do is to separate those two sets of interests."

According to Robinson, the new proposal promises to do just that.

"All we've got to do now is fine-tune it," he said. "I think Dennis [Jacobs] has hit upon the idea of a solution."

In addition to the revamped proposal, faculty leaders also credited improved dialogue between students, the administration and themselves for this year's difference.

"I think we're embarking on much more of a dialogue between Faculty Senate and student government. ... I think these more interactive discussions are going to be very helpful," Faculty Senate chair Seth Brown said.

But both Robinson and Jacobs cautioned that students and faculty would need to resolve issues such as the survey questions themselves and exactly who would have access and how before the project takes physical form. In particular, technical aspects must be harmonized with the University's computer network.

"Details are going to matter," Brown said.

Students, faculty and Jacobs said the earliest the program might be ready would be for the Fall 2005 semester. But for now, a spirit of cooperation prevails.

"I'm very optimistic that something can be worked out," Brown said.

Contact Teresa Fralish at tfralish@nd.edu

Address

continued from page 1

with Dr. Mooney" occurring Sunday in LeMans Hall.

The creation of "Service Sundays" allows students with busy schedules a low time commitment opportunity to volunteer one Sunday per month at the Christ Child's Society.

SGA has made old traditions new again by restarting the "Big Sister-Little Sister" program, which pairs up every first-year student with a sophomore. This program was first initiated by sophomore class president Claudia Toth.

"Our ultimate hope is that [Big Sister-Little Sister] will continue in the future as a strong Saint Mary's tradition," White said.

White reported that the Student Academic Council has continued its readership program to supply campus with daily copies of The New York Times, The South Bend Tribune and USA Today. The Student Activities Board has taken campus events to the next level by bringing bands such as "Blessed Union of Souls" and "Emerson Drive" to campus.

The newly created student government position of chief-of-staff was filled last year by sophomore Susan McIluff.

"Susan's clear communication helps us to move forward as a united student government," White said.

White also discussed the

development of a women's center and the ideas and effort of women's issues commissioner Katie Kelly. The Women's Center will be located in the new student center and will have a full time staff through a grant from the Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership. White said she believes that bringing a women's center to campus is something that will strongly empower women.

In the midst of progress, White reminded the audience that everyone must remain in control of the budget issues.

"Student government treasurer Molly Welton has worked diligently to ensure that we carry on traditions at Saint Mary's despite budget cuts," White said.

The student body is currently asking tough questions about the identity of a Saint Mary's woman. White also said the Student Diversity Board, Katie Kelly and

the Student Activities Board have been working to host "Identity Forums" for students to come together and not be afraid to have honest discussion and look to answer these difficult questions.

White said she and SGA are looking forward to the inauguration of Mooney and the opening of the new student center.

"It is our job to create and add to the pages that will play in the symphony of history that is Saint Mary's College," White said.

Contact Kelly Meehan at kmecha01@saintmarys.edu

"It really boiled down to something that students needed. You were to some extent choosing classes in a vacuum."

Tripp Foley
2002-2003 student
body vice president

"The data that comes out of this new survey cannot be used for the purposes of tenure."

Dennis Jacobs
Associate Provost

Want to start a new club?

- ~ Didn't find what you were looking for at Activities Night
- ~ Hoping for ways to perfect your talent
- ~ Passionate about something you think others would enjoy

?

Stop pondering the questions and get some answers!

New Club Proposals
are being accepted now!
Deadline: December 1 @ 5:00 PM.

Academic & Athletic
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Still have questions? Email Amy Geist

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<http://sao.nd.edu/studentgroups/listing/prospectivegps/index.shtml>

MARKET RECAP

Stocks			
Dow Jones	10,572.55	+22.98	
Up: 1,645	Same: 181	Down: 1,541	Composite Volume: 1,458,684,544

AMEX	1,365.36	-0.60
NASDAQ	2,104.28	+4.60
NYSE	7,002.91	-10.55
S&P 500	1,183.55	+1.61
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	11,151.93	+69.51
FTSE 100(London)	4,805.30	+9.40

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
SIRIUS SAT RADI (SIRI)	-4.65	-0.23	4.72
APPLIED MATL (AMAT)	+1.79	+0.31	17.65
INTEL CORP (INTC)	+1.97	+0.48	24.80
MICROSOFT CP (MSFT)	-0.37	-0.10	27.07
CISCO SYSTEMS (CSCO)	-0.10	-0.02	19.52

Treasuries			
30-YEAR BOND	-0.64	-0.31	48.13
10-YEAR NOTE	-0.65	-0.27	41.17
5-YEAR NOTE	-0.14	-0.05	34.76
3-MONTH BILL	+0.34	+0.07	20.87

Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	-0.74		46.38
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-2.20		442.90
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+0.08		99.73

Exchange Rates			
YEN			104.100
EURO			0.7715
POUND			0.5406

IN BRIEF**FDA finds five drugs too risky**

WASHINGTON — At least five medications now sold to consumers pose such risks that their sale should be limited or stopped, said a government drug reviewer who raised safety questions earlier about the arthritis drug Vioxx.

In testimony Thursday before the Senate Finance Committee, Food and Drug Administration reviewer David Graham cited Meridia, Crestor, Accutane, Bextra and Serevent.

The nation is "virtually defenseless" against a repeat of the Vioxx debacle, he said.

Merck & Co. pulled Vioxx from the market on Sept. 30 after a study indicated the popular painkiller doubled the risk of heart attacks and stroke when taken for longer than 18 months.

The committee chairman, Sen. Charles Grassley, suggested an independent board of drug safety may be needed to ensure the safety of medications after FDA approval. An "awful lot of red flags" were raised before Vioxx was withdrawn, said Grassley, R-Iowa, and the agency disdained, rather than listened to, its own reviewers.

Graham contended that FDA has an inherent conflict of interest that triggers "denial, rejection and heat" when safety questions emerge about products it has approved.

U.S. committed to strong dollar

WARSAW, Poland — U.S. Treasury Secretary John Snow repeated Thursday that the United States supports a strong dollar and "currency values set in open markets," even as the dollar plunged to a new low against the euro earlier in the day.

"I think everybody knows what our position is — the strong dollar, currency values set in open markets," Snow told reporters in Warsaw following a meeting with the finance ministers of Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Snow declined to comment any further on the dollar, stressing that he had made his position known clearly in London on Wednesday, when he said the Bush administration would continue to stick to its "strong dollar" policy — an assertion the markets greeted with skepticism.

Whistleblower complaints rise

2002 law offering protection to corporate insiders has led to surge in allegations

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Home on sick leave two years ago, Ammar Halloum says he watched the Enron Corp. investigation play out on television — then decided he had to blow the whistle on his own employer.

His former company, computer chip maker Intel Corp., says that's just a flimsy cover story. Halloum's whistleblower allegations — that the company purposely delayed payments for factory parts to bolster its earnings — are the invention of an employee who knew he was on thin ice for poor job performance, Intel says.

Either way, the run-in between Halloum and Intel points to the tensions generated by a recent surge of workers accusing their firms of fraud or misconduct, a wave touched off by high-profile scandals at Enron, WorldCom and other firms.

The rise in workers claiming whistleblower status began after Congress' approval of a law in 2002 offering new protection to corporate insiders willing to flag financial trickery at publicly traded companies. Just a handful of workers stepped forward at first, but 181 filed such complaints in the year ending Sept. 30, making them the fastest-growing category of whistleblower cases handled by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Workers like Halloum seeking to take shelter under the new law, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, are just the most visible part of the rise in whistleblower complaints, including some by employees of privately owned companies, employment lawyers say.

Other workers accusing their companies of misconduct are attempting to take shelter under state whistleblower laws and other measures.

While most of those laws have been in places for years, states like Illinois have added protection for



Ammar Halloum blew the whistle on Craig Barrett, above, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Intel Corporation, the world's largest computer chip maker.

whistleblowers at private companies. California has strengthened its law, requiring employers to post its provisions inside offices and factories and setting up a hotline to the state attorney general's office.

The swelling chorus of whistleblowers is an outgrowth of recent corporate scandals, attorneys and officials say. The spotlight on corporate greed and the high praise for whistleblowers like Enron executive Sherron Watkins have sensitized rank-and-file workers to once arcane accounting practices and convinced some of a responsibility to speak up.

"This isn't just people who read The Wall Street Journal. This is the average

American," said Sara Goldsmith Schwartz, an Andover, Mass., lawyer who represents employers. "As people are more educated about these financial fraud issues, then when the opportunity arises to point out financial fraud, they're more willing to do it."

But lawyers representing companies say many of the complaints are bogus and are largely efforts by marginal employees to squeeze settlements out of their companies. Even many of those situations are made complex, they say, because some of the very whistleblowers who deserve to be fired are also worthy of being heard.

"Some of the more difficult problems I've had is

whistleblowers who will raise issues in which we find some merit, but where they will raise them to gain personal protection for marginal performance," said Victor Schachter, a Mountain View, Calif., lawyer who argues on behalf of companies. "It's very much a mixed bag."

His clients' companies and other California firms are facing a "genuine explosion of whistleblower claims," Schachter said.

Under the new federal law, companies are not allowed to fire or otherwise retaliate against a worker who reasonably believes financial fraud is taking place and files a complaint, either with the company or an outside agency.

Evidence weighed in tobacco case

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Government lawyers told a federal judge Thursday they had made the case that the tobacco industry conspired for decades to deceive the public about the dangers of smoking. Leading cigarette makers contended the government had failed to prove anything in the \$280 billion racketeering case.

Both sides provided U.S. District Judge Gladys Kessler with interim summaries in the trial, which began in September and is expected to last several more months.

Justice Department lawyer Stephen

Brody said that while the industry did not admit that smoking causes cancer until about five years ago, there was a consensus long before that.

Brody directed Kessler to the testimony of William Farone, a former Philip Morris scientist who worked at the company in the 1970s and 1980s. Farone said it "so widely accepted internally" that smoking causes disease.

Brown and Williamson Tobacco Corp. lawyer David Bernick said even though the industry maintained for years that there was no conclusive link between smoking and disease, the public never bought the argument — meaning no one was defrauded.

He said that was evident from the decline in smoking that followed a 1964 surgeon general's report linking smoking to cancer.

Kessler asked how the industry could argue that the companies' point of view was legitimate if average citizens were so sure smoking causes cancer. "How can you have it both ways?" she asked.

Brody also reminded the judge of the industry's public pledge in 1953 to fund research into "all phases of tobacco use and health."

The industry compared the effort to a crusade. Brody scoffed at that. "It wasn't a crusade for research. It was a crusade for profits on the sale of cigarettes," he said.

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

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Friday, November 19, 2004

THE OBSERVER

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Commend ticket exchange

Student government is often ridiculed for having little effect on students' daily lives. But when the displeasure over the lack of men's basketball student tickets became a hot issue at the start of this month, student government had an opportunity to do something that concerned an issue close to many students.

And they did. For that, student government should be commended.

The Student Senate passed the Ticket Share resolution Nov. 10 — less than two weeks after the initial ticket sale. Materials were distributed to hall presidents six days after that — three days before the first regular season home game. The plan was efficient and timely.

All students' interests were taken into account with this plan. The disadvantage of living in a smaller dorm allows those students to put their ticket preferences on lists in bigger dorms to have a better chance of getting tickets to the games they want. In lieu of getting an electronic exchange on the off-campus Web site, off-campus students also can go to any dorm to record their ticket desires.

As promising and inclusive as this solution is, it does not stop there.

Not only did student government do something to ease ticket concerns this year, but it worked with the Notre Dame ticket office to help make the process more efficient in future years.

Now students will only be able to purchase four booklets, providing a better chance for the diehard fans to get season tickets. Not putting the single-game tickets on sale to the public until after the student ticket sale will also allow those students who didn't get tickets to purchase tickets to the games of their choice.

Student government has done its part. Now students must take advantage of the Ticket Share program and pack the Joyce Center for each home game. If that happens, more tickets will become available and these measures won't be necessary. Remember that the number of student tickets is half of what it was when Digger Phelps paced the Irish sideline. Until the Joyce Center gets renovated, nobody knows if that number of student tickets will increase, but packing each home game will be a statement to the ticket office and athletic department.

As the men's basketball program continues to grow under Irish head coach Mike Brey, this type of proactive change shows that student government recognized the increased student interest and did something reasonable and logical to foster it. When issues like these arrive in the future — issues that a lot of students feel strongly about — student government should remember its quick action with Ticket Share and find solutions that similarly alleviate problems that directly affect the student body.

The Observer Editorial

Using football for post-election rhetoric

Call it an academic addiction. Call it the post-election withdrawal syndrome. Political junkies like this writer try to unwind immediately following a presidential election but have difficulty with the "cold turkey"

Gary Caruso

Capitol Comments

approach. Notre Dame's football loss last weekend to Pittsburgh made that fact painfully clear to me as for the first time this season I had the opportunity to watch an entire Irish game. As events of the game unfolded, my mind raced to formulate rhetorical tongue-in-cheek rapid responses.

ND-Pitt games have always been a personal contradiction for me. Following graduation from du Lac, I entered the University of Pittsburgh and earned a masters degree in communications. My heart always lies with Notre Dame, but I attended Pitt while football great Tony Dorsett led the Panthers to football prominence and a national championship. Great football achievements marked both universities at the time, but their philosophies were as different as this year's Republican red and Democratic blue presidential state atmospheres.

Notre Dame embodies everything "red" in this year's electoral map — a private institution with a faith-based identity that espouses a strong vocal anti-abortion position, that maintains single-sex dormitories with parietal hours, has a hesitancy to officially recognize gay student or alumni groups, refuses to allow alcohol commercials during its televised athletic events except when participating in a league or post season bowl, is comprised of a larger percentage of students from higher income families, has one of the largest ROTC programs in the heartland of the nation, prides itself on a reputation for more challenging academic standards and has an overall clean-cut image.

Pittsburgh is everything opposite, or politically "blue" this election year — a

secular public institution that recognizes birth control options at its health facilities, that observes a 24-hour visitation policy in coeducational dormitories, has an open-minded approach to recognizing campus groups, participates in the league that permits alcohol commercials during televised athletic events, is generally comprised of more working-class students from commonly much lower-income families, has a more diverse and urban composition, prides itself in returning to more challenging academic standards and has a bit of a bad boy image. So it did not surprise me when the Pitt quarterback thanked his "flipping" team live on television before NBC could beep over the remark.

Let's face it, anyone can let a swear word slip from time to time, so I cannot denounce the Pitt quarterback. At an all-male Notre Dame I also learned a few "flipping" swear words. In fact, at Thanksgiving dinner of my sophomore year, I asked my parents to pass me the "flipping" salt during the course of our dinner discussion. I quickly caught myself, and my parents went on as though they had not heard me.

The University of Pittsburgh I attended with Tony Dorsett in the mid-1970s was the epitome of bad boy blue. For about three years as a graduate student, I taught several public speaking and presidential rhetoric courses. Fortunately, I never had to face the problem of how to work out a grade with an athlete who may have carried the university's fortunes on his shoulders but rarely attended class.

I vividly recall one high-profile athlete collecting more than a thousand dollars worth of parking ticket fines on his green Monte Carlo that he insisted on parking along Fifth Avenue outside of the towers dormitories. While serving as a resident assistant on a coeducational floor in the towers complex, I witnessed the same athlete enter the facility after a night out

and yell that he needed sex from anyone who might be able to assist him. So having shared that same atmosphere with Tony Dorsett, I personally found his comments disingenuous when he questioned the abilities of Pittsburgh's head coach prior to the Notre Dame game.

It seems ironic to me that Irish fans must endure a similar disappointment we Democrats suffered two weeks ago. I can think of several positive ways to spin the substance of this football story. After all, Notre Dame's players gave every ounce of effort to win — well, maybe number 8 should learn to use his body instead of his arm when trying to tackle the three runners I recall who blew over him. Also, that clean-cut Notre Dame image should have enamored at least one bowl official — well again, maybe number 15 should cut some of those curls dancing out from his helmet before someone tears it out by the roots while chasing a fumble. More importantly, Notre Dame could not ask for a more dedicated and savvy head football coach who builds character — well yet again, he was the same coach who refused to kick a field goal when presented with several opportunities during the Florida State game that turned the day's headline into, "FSU shuts out ND at home for the first time in decades."

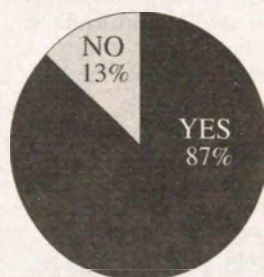
It also appears that I am finally beginning my withdrawal from the spin mode since the effectiveness of my examples is fading. Any spin attempts to give an impression contrary to the absolute truth. But one thing is certain. The Irish, like the Democrats, will survive to win another "flipping" day.

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

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

OBSERVER POLL

Do you think TCE results should be accessible?



*Poll appears courtesy of www.ndsmcobserver.com and is based on 102 responses.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Success is how high you bounce when you hit bottom."

George Patton
general

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Do you see any ivy?

Thank you Stephen Dick, for informing me that "Notre Dame is more than its football program" and that the world will not end if we keep losing. I can finally sleep well at night.

I've read all the Viewpoint letters to the editor about the football team, but Stephen Dick's letter in the Nov. 18 Observer made it impossible for me to bite my tongue.

First and foremost I will admit that I grew up with a Notre Dame blanket in my crib, and have been a Notre Dame Football fanatic for as long as I can remember. I am the product of an alumni upbringing, and I warmly embrace that fact. That being said, I don't even want to talk about the football team, the coaching staff, our recruiting, or the athletes. I just want to address the school I love.

While I agree that Notre Dame has outstanding academics and an excellent faculty, this is not what the school was built on. Many of us have heard Notre Dame termed as one of the "Ivy's of the Midwest." What you may fail to realize, is that this is not what Notre Dame has always been. I have spoken with many alumni who openly admit that if admissions were this tough when they were in high school, they never would have been able to attend Notre Dame. An enormous growth in the applicant pool has allowed the administration to make admissions at Notre Dame as tough as an Ivy League.

The bottom line is the University would not be what is today if it weren't for the football program. It is the football program and the spirit of Notre Dame that has always attracted students. "Ivy League" academics are a relatively new development.

Here's the thing: Notre Dame is not an Ivy League school. I did not choose to, nor did I want to go to an Ivy League. Many of the students here could have attended a Northwestern, Yale, Princeton or any number of schools with academics just as good as Notre Dame's. But Notre Dame is different.

Dick expressed his disappointment with some students' obsession with football and said that he would expect that of a state school because football is all they will ever have. He added "But I don't expect that from us. By getting sucked into

the hype, we merely bring ourselves down to their level." It is this mentality that makes me sick. This attitude is typical of an Ivy League student: to think all other schools, especially state schools, are in some way inferior. It is this attitude I precisely wanted to avoid when coming to Notre Dame.

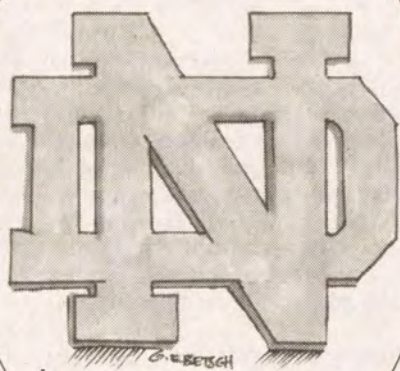
What makes Notre Dame different is that the students come together in a united love for the school, and with that, a love for the legacy of Notre Dame Football. Notre Dame students are not concerned with our school being viewed as one of the most academically challenging schools in the country or being ranked among the Ivy's. Or perhaps I should say, the students never used to be concerned with that. Instead, the campus has always become a home and the student body a family, with weekly fall outings to the stadium that fills us with a sense of pride, excitement and belonging.

I fear the mentality Dick has is shared by too many ND students. Alumni feel such an intense tie to the school because of the experiences they shared here, which are almost all closely tied to football. I have heard from too many alumni the disgust they share when students leave the football games early, do not stay for the alma mater, or even don't purchase tickets. This school relies on the alumni, but I fear the student body is changing in a way that will cause alumni support to dwindle.

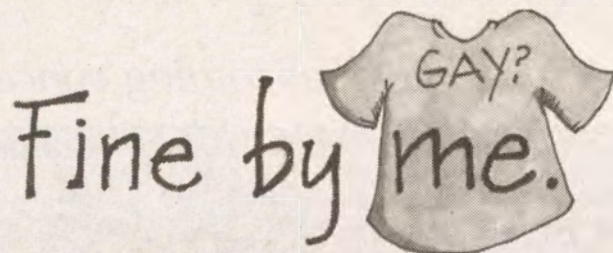
People will always love Notre Dame, I don't deny that. But what will the school become with an increasing proportion of the students not caring about the football program or the legacy of Notre Dame? An Ivy League? No thanks.

If you don't care at all about the football program, fine. If you think the rest of us should not care about it or ignore the losses, and you cannot recognize or acknowledge that the school is where it is because of the football program, then you should have gone to an Ivy League. That's not what Notre Dame ever was, and it's not what it should be.

Kim Fortelka
sophomore
Lyons Hall
Nov. 18



Live tolerance, love



We e-mailed the articles to each other. It wasn't the first time we'd heard such intolerance. But it was the first time we'd heard such nonsense since learning that two family members — our brothers and sons — were gay.

The letters hurt and angered us. Our brothers and sons don't have less "dignity" because they are gay. There is no inherent "brokenness" in their lives.

They are athletes and scholars ... caring family members ... able and confident co-workers ... trusted friends ... the life of the party. We know their hearts and their minds. And we know that they are as good — and deserve as much respect — as each of us.

Remarkably, one of the letters said that living a gay lifestyle hurts and degrades human dignity "because we are not defined by our sexuality." Rather, we "are all defined in the same way, in the image and likeness of God."

Hello!!! If we are not defined by our sexuality, but in the image and likeness of God, what exactly is the problem? Why should people's sexuality matter? Do you think that God somehow makes a mistake — over and over again — in creating gay people? Or has the Church perhaps made a mistake?

Let's face it, the Church is run by people with human weaknesses, and it has made mistakes over the years. Fortunately, the Church is also run by people of good conscience, who eventually realize their mistakes and make amends. We hope that day is coming for gays.

In the meantime, deciding how gay people should be treated isn't that difficult. What would Jesus do? Would he put on a suit and tie — maybe chuck the sandals for some wingtips — and parade self-righteously around campus? Or would he extend a hand and say, "Gay? Fine by me."

You know the answer. We all do. Let's live it.

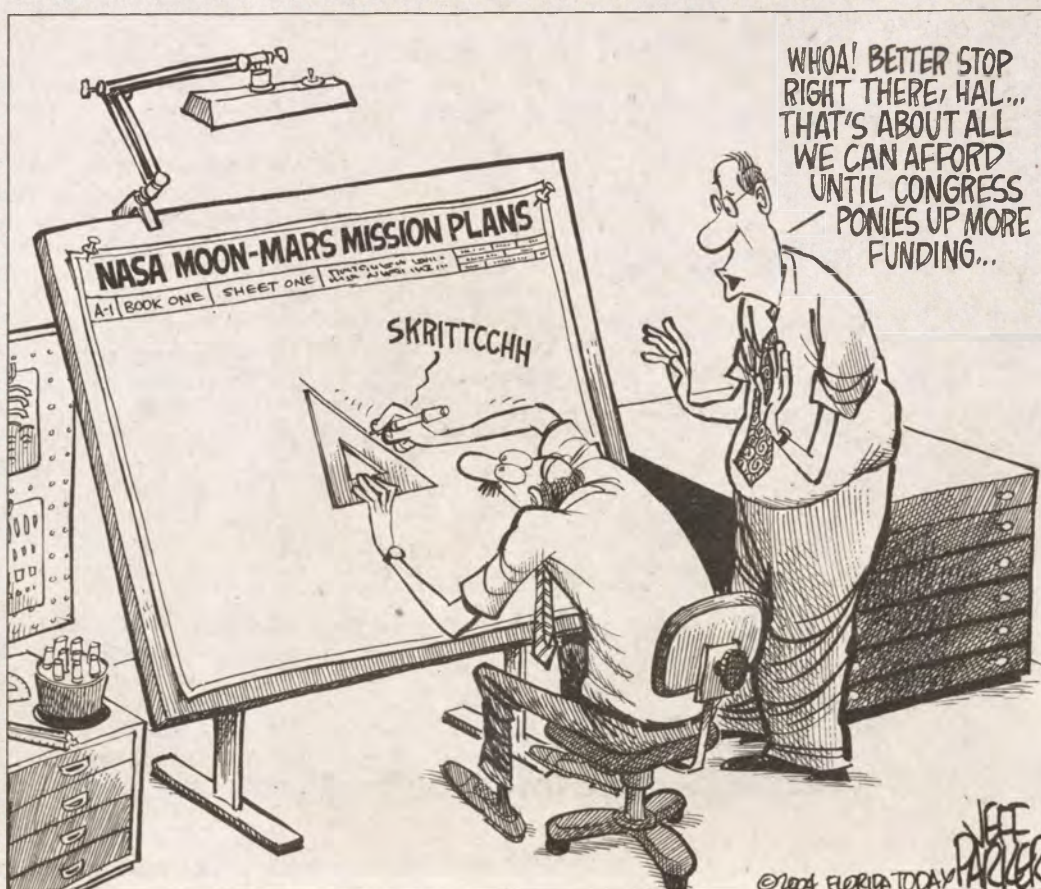
Richard P. Rector
(parent)
Susan F. Rector
(parent)
Megan M. Rector
alumnae
class of 2000
Reid F. Rector
alumnus
class of 2004
Nov. 18

Support water polo

The tradition here at Notre Dame has long been one of excellence, both in and out of the classroom. South Bend, Ind. has long been known for producing excellent minds, athletes and epic beer pong battles. These champions are intently followed, often to the point of ad nauseum. Is Chris Thomas staying or going pro? Did Brady's biceps grow another inch last week? (Did you hear about Brendan's streak last night?) Notre Dame is and forever will be in the public eye and so our high-profile athletes receive considerable face time in the newspaper and on TV. While we will always hold our major athletes dear to heart, we rarely, if ever, get the chance to hear about the Scott Tagwerkers and the Jack Spittlers of Notre Dame. These two, along with the rest of the ND Water Polo club team, are some of the unsung heroes on campus. They practice at terrible times and are often lucky enough to travel to exotic locales such as Toledo, Ohio, yet they show up day in and day out for love of a game most domers have never witnessed and may never understand. This weekend, Notre Dame will host the Collegiate Water Polo Association (CWPA) National Championships for the first time. As a former team member, I know these guys deserve your support. The team has raised their training intensity all year in preparation for this tournament and has a legitimate opportunity to put Notre Dame Polo on the national map. Please come out to some of the matches this weekend. If nothing else, you will likely leave with a newfound appreciation for a sport usually known only for the microscopic speedos worn by the guys. Go Irish, and good luck!!

Zach Working
senior
Keough Hall
Nov. 18

EDITORIAL CARTOON



Campus music groups present

A schedule of upcoming concerts from various Notre Dame ensembles

ND Chorale: Handel's "Messiah"

Dec. 2 & 3

8 p.m.

Leighton Concert Hall

ND Glee Club Christmas Concert

Dec. 4

6 p.m. & 8:30 p.m.

Leighton Concert Hall

ND University Band

Dec. 5

3 p.m.

Leighton Concert Hall

ND Jazz Bands

Dec. 5

7 p.m.

Leighton Concert Hall

**Advent Lessons and Carols:
featuring all of the Basilica Music
Ensembles**

Dec. 5

7:15 p.m.

Basilica of the Sacred Heart

ND Collegium Musicum

Dec. 8

8 p.m.

Leighton Concert Hall

**Celebration Choir Christmas Benefit
Concert for Catholic Relief Services**

Dec. 11

7:30 p.m.

Coleman-Morse Student Lounge

Asian Allure is back

The increasingly popular show highlighting diversity at Notre Dame gears up for another quality performance

By MOLLY GRIFFIN

Assistant Scene Editor

Asian Allure combines a diverse range of entertainment elements, including dancing and fashion, from a variety of different Asian cultures into one exciting and popular event. The show has been put on once a year since it first began in 1997, and has been growing in popularity ever since. The show serves to unify not only the variety of Asian clubs at Notre Dame, but also hopes to unite other minority groups and promote diversity on campus.

The Asian American Association of Notre Dame will perform its annual show, Asian Allure, on Saturday at 7 p.m. The Asian American Association unites a diverse group of clubs, including the Filipino American Student Organization, Hawaii Club, India Association, International Student Organization, Japan Club, Korean Student Association and the NAACP. The show aims to tweak traditional cultural ideas with a modern twist, all while helping to unite a variety of groups together.

"It helps to distinguish one Asian culture from one another, but it brings them all together," set designer Colin Macasieb said.

"The theme is fusion; trying to combine traditional perspectives through clothing and dance with modern Western ideas for people our age," publicity coordinator Lisa Nguyen said.

The idea of fusion is supposed to reflect some of the changes in the atmosphere on campus.

"Now that diversity at Notre Dame has increased over the past years, Asian Allure gives students an opportunity to not only embrace each of our own cultures but other peoples' cultures as well," president Sarah Liu said.

Events at the show have included such things as drag-on dancing, martial arts demonstrations, Bhangara dancing and fan dances. There are also a variety of models who will be showing not only traditional Asian clothing but will also be sporting examples of how Asian dress has fused with Western clothing to create the trends of today.

Preparing for the annual show takes a lot of work: coordinating the wide variety of groups involved, practicing dances and skits and creating sets and clothing.

"It takes a lot of work to organize an event like this, and executive board members [Dave Zhang and Yuko Mari] as well as the whole team have worked a lot since the beginning of the semester," Sarah Liu said. "They have devoted almost all of their time to putting this together." The show has been a major group effort on the part of all of the different clubs involved, and the final show will be the result of a lot of collaboration and hard work.

The goal of Asian Allure is to unite not only the variety of Asian clubs on campus, but also to promote diversity and solidarity among all of the minority groups on the Notre Dame campus. "It's a good way to showcase the culture, to keep everyone aware of what we stand for and to promote diversity because it enriches lives," executive board member Dave Zhang said.

The show seeks not only to form a bond among the different groups, but also to promote an awareness and sense of community for all minority groups.

"It's a great event for minority students to bond through. We're all heading toward the common goal of diversity," executive board member Yuko Mari explained.

Tickets for the show have been in great demand, but the Asian American Association has made sure to extend the goals of the event to not only the campus but the local community. They have donated passes to the show to the Robinson Community Center's Take Ten Program, which teaches local school children about managing anger.

Saturday night's performance of Asian Allure will be a rewarding event for not only all of the clubs and individuals involved, but it will benefit the campus and surrounding community as well.

Contact Molly Griffin at mgriffin@nd.edu

Son of Glam returns to Notre Dame

Promising hits from Metallica, Bon Jovi, Poison and others, the popular 80s cover band will perform at Legends tonight

By MARIA SMITH
Scene Editor

There aren't too many social occasions when you can dress in the best of 80s clothing and not cause a scene. Tonight will be one of the few nights on which you might actually stick out if you don't tease your hair, pull out the Bon Jovi T-shirt and put on the leg warmers.

Son of Glam, the favorite imitation 80s hair band of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's alike, will return to Legends with all the tops hits of the decade. And if a night of 80s rock isn't enough to tempt students to the concert, Legends will also be handing out free slap bracelets to the first 200 audience members.

Last year's concerts at Legends and the Saint Mary's library green were a hit with students.

"They looked authentic — they looked like an 80s hair band and sounded like an 80s hair band," Saint Mary's senior Michelle Fitzgerald said. "They sounded exactly like the original performers of each band when they played."

"They really get into songs, and do a great job," Saint Mary's junior Kristen Vokaty said. "Everyone that went to the concert loved it."

"They rock like rock is supposed to rock," Notre Dame junior Michel Quisao said.

The concert will begin at 10 p.m. and is free and open to all Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and Holy Cross students. Fans can expect to hear hits like "Livin' on a Prayer," "Enter Sandman" and "Pour Some Sugar on Me."

"Son of Glam was the best trip to the 80s I ever took," Notre Dame senior Matthew Houlihan said. "If you don't go, it's the biggest mistake you ever made regarding Legends."

Contact Maria Smith at msmith4@nd.edu



Photo courtesy of www.sonofglam.com

Everything about Son of Glam is characteristically 80s, even down to the drums.



Photo courtesy of www.sonofglam.com

From the hair, to the clothes, to the sunglasses, Son of Glam plays the hits of the 80s, as well as performing every aspect of the decade.

Welbilt comes to Legends Saturday

Washington D.C.'s finest independent band finally makes a stop in South Bend

By BECCA SAUNDERS
Scene Assistant Editor

Called Washington D.C.'s "most promising independent [band] in the region" and with a reputation of a terrific live show, the four-piece rock quartet Welbilt is moving up in the music industry. After releasing its first full-length album "A Beautiful Mass" in December 2003, Welbilt has been touring heavily throughout 2004. Saturday night at 10 p.m. Welbilt will be making a stop at Legends.

The band, composed of Nathan Ihara on lead vocals and guitar, Buddy Speir on backup guitar and vocals, Nick Briscoe on bass and Bill Ledbetter on drums, formed only shortly after 2002. Two of the members played in high school together, but otherwise the formation of the band is generally recent.

It has not taken long for Welbilt's popularity to rise in the D.C. area and was called, "a tight quartet playing high-energy melodic rock infused with reggae, a sound not that surprising because the 22-year-old Ihara lists Sting and The Police, Sublime, The Wailers, Squeeze and Elvis Costello as influences," by the Washington Post.

Welbilt may not be necessarily well-known currently, but with a solid fan base forming and a strong reputation, Welbilt promises to earn the promising reviews it has already received from big names and many fans.

Contact Becca Saunders at rsaunders@nd.edu



Photo courtesy of www.welbiltmusic.com

Welbilt has been together since 2002, but only released its first full-length album at the end of 2003.



Photo courtesy of www.welbiltmusic.com

Known for the quality of its live performance, Welbilt promises to entertain any fan who enjoys rock with a reggae twist.

NCAA FOOTBALL

Michigan, Ohio State renew age-old rivalry

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, OHIO — Michigan quarterback Chad Henne has never played against Ohio State, but he has already used the word "hate" to describe the historic rivalry between the Wolverines and Buckeyes.

Henne and the seventh-ranked Wolverines (9-1, 7-0 Big Ten) will have a Rose Bowl berth and conference championship on the line when they visit the Buckeyes (6-4, 3-4) in the continuation of one of college football's most storied series.

"It's the biggest tradition in college football," Henne said. "They hate us and we hate them."

Michigan coach Lloyd Carr didn't agree with Henne's description.

"Hate, I guarantee is not part of this rivalry," Carr said. "And I think when he's through he would not characterize it that way. They probably have guys that say the same thing."

"I think if you're at Michigan, you hate to lose to Ohio State. And I think if you're at Ohio State, you hate to lose to Michigan. I think that's what Chad Henne meant, so print it that way."

Henne has been a key to the Wolverines' success, throwing for 2,188 yards and 19 touchdowns.

His favorite target has been Braylon Edwards, who has 76 catches for 1,049 yards and 11

touchdowns.

This is the 101st meeting between the schools, with Michigan leading the all-time series 57-37-6. There is no question that the Wolverines have much more at stake in this encounter as the teams conclude the regular season.

A win would assure the Wolverines, seventh in the Bowl Championship Series standings, of a spot in the Rose Bowl and a record 17th outright Big Ten title.

Michigan controls its postseason fate because it got the help it needed when previously unbeaten Wisconsin lost at Michigan State on Saturday. After the Wolverines beat Northwestern 42-20 — their seventh straight win this year, and 13th consecutive Big Ten victory — many of them huddled around televisions to root for their in-state rivals.

Though the Wolverines will come into Columbus as favorites, "The Game" has produced many season-wrecking upsets.

Ohio State was undefeated in 1993, '95 and '96 before losing to Michigan, and last year, the Buckeyes were second in the BCS rankings when they lost a return trip to the national title game with a 35-21 setback at Michigan.

The Buckeyes are drawing strength from what happened in the Michigan game three years ago during coach Jim Tressel's

first season.

Ohio State had lost four games and was coming off a loss — just like this year — when it went to The Big House to play 11th-ranked Michigan. The Buckeyes pulled off a 26-20 upset, knocking the Wolverines out of a share of the Big Ten title and denying them a trip to the Sugar Bowl.

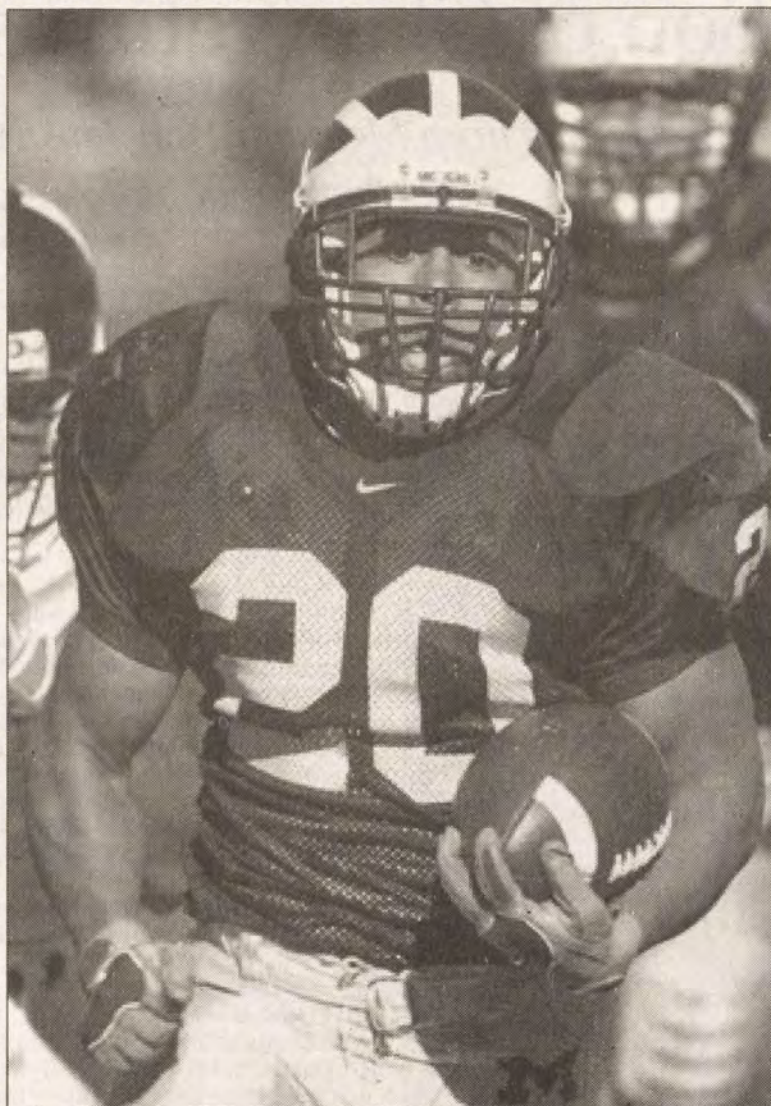
"I don't think we come into this game with nothing to lose because we're playing here at Ohio State, we're playing against Michigan and that pretty much speaks for itself," Buckeyes wide receiver Antonio Holmes said.

"Everything that they have right now is on the line, like going for a big BCS bowl. We have an opportunity to spoil those chances. That's our main focus right now."

If the Buckeyes win, they'll end a disappointing season with a satisfying victory. An Ohio State win would also drop Michigan into a first-place tie and possibly a second-tier bowl in Florida.

Ohio State knows it is going to a bowl, but whether it heads to a favorable destination remains to be seen. Right now, the Buckeyes appear limited to the Alamo or Sun Bowls.

Neither is on New Year's Day and both are far removed from the spotlight the team has grown accustomed to after spending the last two holiday seasons at the Fiesta Bowl.



Wolverines running back Mike Hart scores on a 34-yard touchdown run in Michigan's victory over Northwestern Saturday.

MLB

Owners delaying vote on Expos' move to Washington

Associated Press

CHICAGO — The Montreal Expos remain in limbo, already out of one home but not quite ready to move into a new one.

Instead of rubber-stamping the Expos' proposed move to Washington as expected Thursday, Major League Baseball owners made the surprise decision to table the vote. Commissioner Bud Selig said the move will still take place, with a vote by owners coming by Dec. 6.

"We will get this done," Selig said. "We just weren't quite ready with a lot of details. We like to have all the details done before we vote. Nothing more than that."

Baseball officials are so confident the team will be in Washington for its April 15

home opener, in fact, that alternatives weren't even discussed. Season tickets went on sale Thursday morning, and the team announced that manager Frank Robinson had agreed to a one-year contract extension through next season.

"We didn't consider any contingencies, we didn't consider any other options," said Bob DuPuy, baseball's chief operating officer. "We fully expect to play in RFK next year, and we're planning on it."

The Expos' agreement with Washington calls for funding for a new stadium to be in place by Dec. 31. But the District of Columbia government has delayed approval of the financing, expressing concerns about costs of building the ballpark along the Anacostia River, about a dozen blocks south of the U.S.

Capitol.

The agreement estimates the cost of refurbishing RFK Stadium, land acquisition and ballpark construction at \$435 million. The money would come from a new tax on the city's largest businesses, a tax on baseball-related income and lease payments by the team's new owners.

But some D.C. council members have claimed costs would be far higher, though, perhaps \$600 million or more. District of Columbia Council Chair Linda Cropp postponed a Nov. 9 vote on the deal, saying the District should spend two weeks seeking private financing.

Approval requires two votes by the council. The first is now scheduled for Nov. 30, with the second vote likely coming on Dec. 14.

"Baseball is watching what is taking place here in the District, and if I were them, I wouldn't vote either," said Councilman Jack Evans, chair of the council's Finance and Revenue Committee.

"I've said all along that if the district fails to act, baseball will go elsewhere," Evans added. "Their action, by delaying their vote, only reinforces the fact that if we fail to act, baseball will go somewhere else."

But baseball officials insisted the City Council had nothing to do with the decision.

"The mayor believes he has the votes to pass, and we expect that to happen," DuPuy said.

Selig said the issues that delayed the vote were "internal," describing them as "housekeeping" matters. He declined to be more specific, but

one could be baseball's negotiations with Baltimore Orioles owner Peter Angelos.

Angelos had previously objected to having a team move just 40 miles from his Camden Yards stadium, but he gave his blessing in September after reaching an understanding with baseball that protects him financially.

Selig refused Thursday to discuss negotiations with Angelos. But a baseball official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said previously that an appraiser would value the Orioles franchise and the commissioner's office would guarantee its value for a period of time. The commissioner's office also would guarantee Baltimore's locally generated revenue for a period of time and assist in the creation of a regional sports network.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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SMC BASKETBALL

Belles open season at annual Tip-Off Classic tournament

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Writer

After a disappointing 5-18 campaign in 2003-04, the Saint Mary's basketball team is looking to take the first steps toward becoming an MIAA power this season. The first hurdle in achieving that goal will come this weekend, as the Belles play Franklin and Hanover on back-to-back days in the annual Tip-Off Classic.

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology is also scheduled to play in this weekend's tournament, but is not scheduled to play the Belles.

The Hanover Panthers hail from Southern Indiana. They finished last season with a 13-13 mark, led by 15.4 points per game from Angela Newkirk. They skirted by the Belles with a 68-65 win in last year's tournament, which was hosted by Rose-Hulman.

"We're excited," Belles coach Suzanne Bellina said of the Hanover game, which will tip off at 6 p.m. tonight at the Angela Athletic Center. "It was three-point game last year, a game we could have won."

The Franklin Grizzlies are the defending champions of the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference and finished last sea-

son with a 23-5 record, including a 55-48 win over the Belles. Led by Lindsay Roberson, the Grizzlies advanced to the second round of the Division III tournament before losing to Wilmington 75-50.

This year's edition of the Belles will look different than past years. Bellina has made tactical changes, including changes to the offense and the use of more full-court press.

"We've gained a lot of quickness in our guard positions," she said. "We're going to use that to pressure full court."

Saint Mary's lost only one major contributor, point guard Katie Miller, off last season's

squad. According to Bellina, team leadership will not be a problem this year.

"We have four seniors who, along with the rest of the team, are really focused on making this a good season," she said.

One of the biggest factors in making this a successful season will be the play of senior forward Emily Creachbaum. Creachbaum was selected as an all-MIAA player each of the last two seasons, making her the first Belle to be so honored. Bellina expects Creachbaum to be a vocal leader in the locker room.

"Emily is a very focused player," Bellina said. "She has a

hand on what everyone on this team is doing and she's keeping them focused."

Creachbaum is not the only Belle that earned hardware last season. Senior guard Katie Boyce earned the MIAA Defensive Player of the Year award, a feat made more impressive by the fact that she is only 5-foot-2.

The Belles also expect to have major contributions from their three freshmen, guards Alison Tessler and Bernadette Broderick and forward/center Abbey Baum.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

LPGA

Sorenstam on top of her game and in the lead

Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Annika Sorenstam was hitting the ball so well she knew exactly where it was going. Combine that with an unusually calm day in south Florida, and her name atop the leaderboard was no surprise.

Sorenstam birdied four of the last five holes Thursday, twice with a 7-iron into greens surrounded by trouble, giving her a 6-under 66 and a one-shot lead after the first round of the season-ending ADT Championship.

Cristie Kerr had a 67, while Karrie Webb was among those

at 68.

It was the lowest opening round in the ADT Championship since it moved four years ago to Trump International, a tough course with a few waterfalls for decoration and plenty of water hazards for intimidation.

Sorenstam, going after her eighth victory of the year, was oblivious to both.

Despite another dominant year, she made sure her swing was right before showing up for the final tournament of the year. Sorenstam spent a few days with swing coach Henri Reis, and just like that she looked tough to beat.

"Now I know where the ball is going," Sorenstam. "I can be more aggressive with these pins if they're tucked in the corner or just behind the bunker. I'm not afraid of being a little more aggressive because I have a better feel."

That was evident on the par-4 16th, which has two bunkers to the right and a two-tiered green that slopes severely to the right toward the water.

Sorenstam had 149 yards from — where else? — the middle of the fairway, and hit a soft 7-iron some 9 feet below the cup for the only birdie among the 30 players in the field.

Then on the 18th, with the pin all the way back, Sorenstam hit another 7-iron that stopped pin-high about 8 feet to the right. She made that to take the lead by herself.

"The conditions were as good as they could get," Sorenstam said. "But I must say, I thought the pins were very tough. I didn't think it was that easy. I told my caddie that it seems like there are ridges in the front or the back. So, in that case, I thought it was difficult."

"Then again, I felt like I was hitting the ball well."

That wasn't the case for Grace Park, No. 2 on the money list and paired in the first round with Sorenstam.

She nearly had a lost ball on the par-5 sixth — someone found it as she was walking back to the fairway to drop and take a two-shot penalty — but still made bogey. She failed to birdie the next two par 5s, but still managed to scratch out a 71. Lorena Ochoa of Mexico had a 75, giving Park a good start toward winning the Vare Trophy.

"I just didn't have anything today," Park said.

As for her partner? Park

smiled, looked over her shoulder and said, "Oh, her."

"I feel even more horrible on a day like this when I'm playing with Annika," she said. "She just hits every fairway and every green. That's why she's No. 1."

Sorenstam wasn't perfect. She did miss one green and one fairway. And the 34-year-old Swede will be the first to remind anyone that the tournament is just getting started.

A year ago, Sorenstam had a three-shot lead going into the final round when Meg Mallon rallied on the back nine and beat her by one shot.

Mallon was happy just getting to the first tee today, having suffered a lower back injury two weeks ago. She opened with a three-putt bogey and finished by dumping two tee shots into the water on No. 18 and having to hit a great approach into 8 feet to save triple bogey.

It wasn't too bad in between, and Mallon walked off with a 74.

"I felt very good today," she said. "I don't think I've had a big number in two years. I was due for one."

University of Notre Dame Department of Music Presents

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Alexander Blachly, Director

2004 Fall Concert

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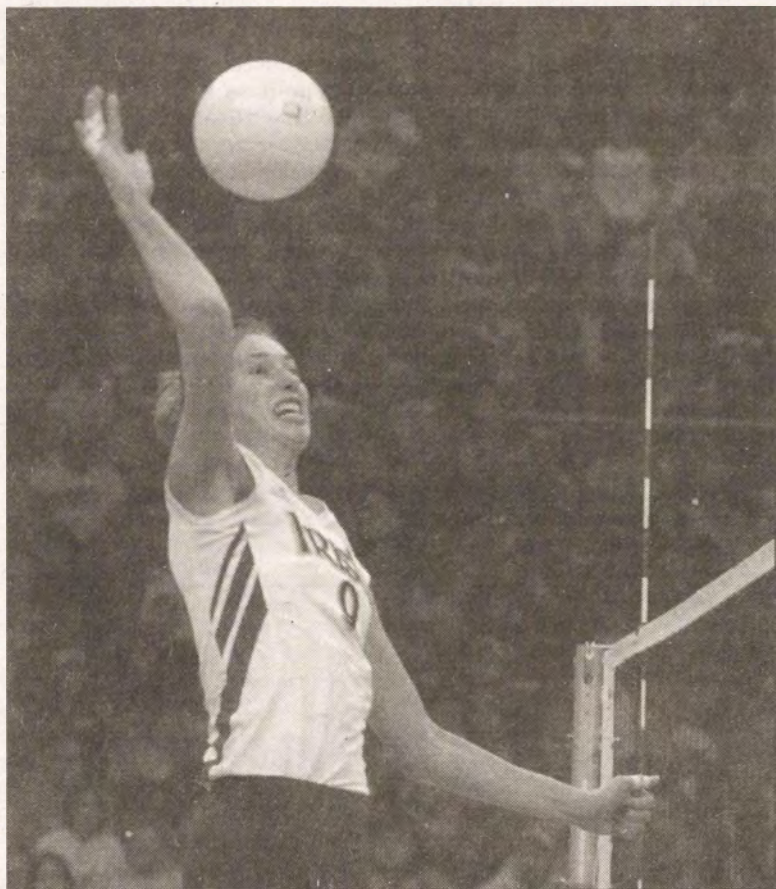
Free and Open to the Public



Annika Sorenstam acknowledges the gallery after sinking a birdie putt on the final hole during the first round of the Mizuno Classic.

ND VOLLEYBALL

Irish ready to meet BC in Big East semifinals



Junior Carolyn Cooper jumps and spikes the ball in Notre Dame's 3-0 victory over Pittsburgh Nov. 12

CLEMENT SUHENDRA/The Observer

By ANN LOUGHERY
Sports Writer

After claiming the conference regular season title, the Irish look to check another item off their wish list — a Big East Championship.

The team (16-8, 9-1 in the Big East) travels to Pittsburgh in hopes of collecting its eighth Big East Championship title this weekend. Notre Dame, seeded first in the tournament, will first face fourth-seeded Boston College (20-11, 6-4) in the semifinals Saturday at 1 p.m. The winner will take on the victor of the Pittsburgh and Syracuse game Sunday at 2 p.m. for the championship.

This weekend's significance goes beyond a championship title and bragging rights, however. The winner of Sunday's match will claim an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament.

Coach Debbie Brown says the Irish expect to walk off the courts with a Big East Championship — nothing less is acceptable.

"We're going in really focused and determined to win," Brown said. "We want to

step on the court and make a statement."

Brown added the team anticipates Saturday's match, looking to redeem itself after losing to Boston College earlier this season.

The Eagles upended the Irish in three games 30-14, 30-22, 30-28, handing the team its only conference loss this season. Further, the loss snapped Notre Dame's streak of 58 consecutive home regular-season victories in Big East competitions since 1995.

Boston College averaged 4.67 blocks and 20.33 digs per game, limiting Notre Dame to a .080 hitting mark. Sophomore libero Allison Anderson and middle blocker Shardai Davis led the Eagles' defensive efforts, with Anderson notching a match-high 21 digs and Davis recording 14 blocks.

Notre Dame's offensive standouts of the match included freshman Ellen Heintzman, who replaced an injured Lauren Kelbley, Lauren Brewster and Carolyn Cooper. Heintzman and Brewster each tallied 11 kills, while Cooper almost tied her career high with seven kills and a team

best .211 on hitting.

Brewster also teamed up with junior Meg Henican to lead the Irish defense. Henican totaled 15 digs to lead the floor defensive effort, while Brewster took part in four of Notre Dame's blocks.

Since that game, the Irish have won two of the last three matches they have played, defeating Pittsburgh 3-0 and West Virginia 3-0, but dropping a match to Northern Iowa Tuesday night 3-2.

Brown described the Northern Iowa match as the perfect form of preparation for the Big East Championship this weekend. She added that despite all of the hype built around this weekend's matches, the team will be able to keep its nerves in check.

"They're trying to stay in the right frame of mind going into this weekend so they can play relaxed and enjoy the game," Brown said. "It's going to take a combined and inspired team effort, but we are expecting to bring the title back to Notre Dame."

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MEN'S SWIMMING

Not satisfied with historic victory, Irish push forward

Team looks to build on first win over ranked opponent this weekend at Louisville

By RYAN DUFFY
Sports Writer

In the minds of the Irish swim team, the historic win over Pittsburgh on Nov. 12 wasn't the culmination of the season — it was just the beginning.

The victory over the No. 17 Panthers marked the first time in the 47-year history of the program Notre Dame has beaten a ranked team.

"We want to build on Friday, but we also want to start over. We don't want to rely on it," Irish coach Tim Welsh said. "We want to go out there and earn it all over again. We know what we want to do for the year, and we're making great progress. But anyone who's watched Notre Dame athletics this fall knows that you can't take any success for granted until it's final."

The Irish will get their first chance to follow up Friday's performance when they travel to Louisville this weekend for a meet that will last two days and contain three sessions. Rather than participating in the same standard events as the previous four weeks, the teams will swim the same events as the NCAA championship meets, including three new races — the 200 freestyle, the 500 freestyle and the 400 medley.

"This meet is valuable to us, because we swim all the

events that we would at the NCAA championships, and in the same order," Welsh said. "We're in preparation for our own invitational meet here at ND the weekend after Thanksgiving, so this will also be a dress rehearsal for that."

The Notre Dame Invitational will be held Dec. 2-4 and will represent one of the most crucial tests of the season for the Irish prior to the Big East Championships.

"This weekend's meet will be an additional tune-up for the Notre Dame Invitational, because it will act as championship preparation for everyone," Welsh said. "This unifies the squad, from a team point of view. From an individual point of view, it prepares each individual for their event in the upcoming invitational meet."

Though the Irish have next week in mind as well, they will look forward to taking on a strong Louisville squad.

"Louisville is a much improved team this year, and we're starting to build a good conference relationship," Welsh said. "We are larger and deeper, though, and that should be to our advantage."

It has been that depth that has provided the Irish with an extra edge in all their meets this year.

"What has allowed us to beat Pittsburgh, to beat Iowa, to challenge every team we face, has been the depth of this team," Welsh said. "We scored 22 guys in Friday's

"We want to build on Friday, but we also want to start over. We don't want to rely on it."

Tim Welsh
Irish coach

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meet, and we'll be taking the whole team down to Louisville and looking for a complete team performance."

The recent success by the Irish has them ranked No. 21 in the latest College Swim Coaches poll, marking the first time in 47 years that the team has been ranked.

"It's a giant step for the program, and it's very exciting," Welsh said. "It's a measurement of our progress, but it

also acts as an incentive. We know the only way we can stay ranked is to make it to the national championships and score in the top 25, something that has never been done in school history."

"By itself, the ranking means nothing, but as an inspiration to progress, it's fantastic."

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rduffy@nd.edu

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HOCKEY

Irish to face U.S. Under 18 team in exhibition

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Associate Sports Writer

The Irish will take a break from regular season action tonight as they face the U.S. National Team Developmental Program's Under-18 team at 7:35 p.m. in the Joyce Center.

This is the second year in a row that the Irish have played the Under-18 team in an exhibition, with the Irish coming away with a 4-0 win over Team USA on Nov. 14, 2003.

Notre Dame and the Under-18 team have always had a good relationship, and several recent Irish players were once members of the National Developmental Program.

Current Notre Dame junior Noah Babin and sophomore Tim Wallace were members of Team USA's 2001 squad, and recently-signed incoming freshman Jordan Pearce was the starting goalie in last year's 4-0 game. Pearce will join the Irish as a freshman in 2005.

Sophomores Michael Bartlett and Josh Sciba were also one-

time members of Team USA, although their squad never faced the Irish in an exhibition.

Notre Dame comes into the exhibition on perhaps its best stretch of the young season. The Irish tied Western Michigan 2-2 Nov. 12, then came back and picked up their first conference win with a 3-2 victory over the Broncos. The three points on the weekend moved Notre Dame from last in the CCHA to eighth.

"At least we don't have the entire week off; I'm happy we're at least playing a game [tonight]," Irish coach Dave Poulin said. "We're pretty banged up right now — Cory McLean, Evan Rankin, Matthew Williams-Kovacs and Dan VeNard are all trying to heal from various things, so hopefully we can use this as a chance to get some of those guys healthy."

"We'll also get a chance to try some things with our special teams, maybe play Victor Oreskovich and Tim Wallace some more on the power play and give the younger guys a chance to do something."

Team USA comes into the Joyce

Center on a tear, having recently won the Four Nations Tournament in Ann Arbor, Mich., defeating Under-18 teams from Switzerland, Sweden and Finland.

They have not been a pushover against their collegiate opponents this year, either, amassing a respectable 3-2-2 record against Division I teams. Team USA owns a win over Michigan Tech (6-2) and a tie against Northern Michigan (3-3), both teams are on the Irish 2004-05 schedule.

"[Team USA] is a very good hockey team," Poulin said. "Guys on our team like Michael Bartlett and Josh Sciba have been in that other locker room, and they know how it feels to be young kids playing against big college programs, so you know they're going to be fired up and ready to play."

Following the exhibition tonight, the Irish travel to Alaska Fairbanks for a two-game series with their conference rival on Nov. 26-27.

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TIM LUEBBERT/The Observer

Right wing Tim Wallace waits for the puck in Notre Dame's 4-4 tie against Bowling Green Nov. 5.

ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING

BG not expected to pose a threat

By ERIC RETTER
Sports Writer

Against an un-intimidating opponent, the Irish head into a very important event.

The team travels to Bowling Green, Ohio where it takes on Bowling Green in a Saturday meet at 1 p.m. The Irish are looking for a strong showing, especially coming off their big wins against Michigan State and Pittsburgh last weekend at the Rolfs Aquatic Center.

However, where the Irish swimmers will hope to impress will not be in their strongest events.

Against a mid-level opponent like Bowling Green, the team's

swimmers are trying to work on events that may not be their specialty.

"[This weekend] is important to see where we stand in our third and fourth events," Irish coach Bailey Weathers said. "The breaststrokes might work on their IMs, and the sprinters might race in the 200, for instance."

One of the swimmers who will try to work on some of her other events will be sophomore Jessica Stephens.

Last weekend, in addition to her success in the relays, Stephens won both the 200 individual medley and the 200 breaststroke.

This weekend, she will also try to pick up the 100-meter breaststroke, an event she was beaten

in by less than one-tenth of a second a week ago.

Conversely, senior diver Meghan Perry-Eaton will go into this weekend with her routine pretty much locked in.

She has dominated both the 1- and 3-meter events, winning five of six events she has entered this year.

To be sure, Stephens, and other Irish swimmers who have been hot of late, will not abandon their successes.

"Everyone will compete in their good events," Weathers said.

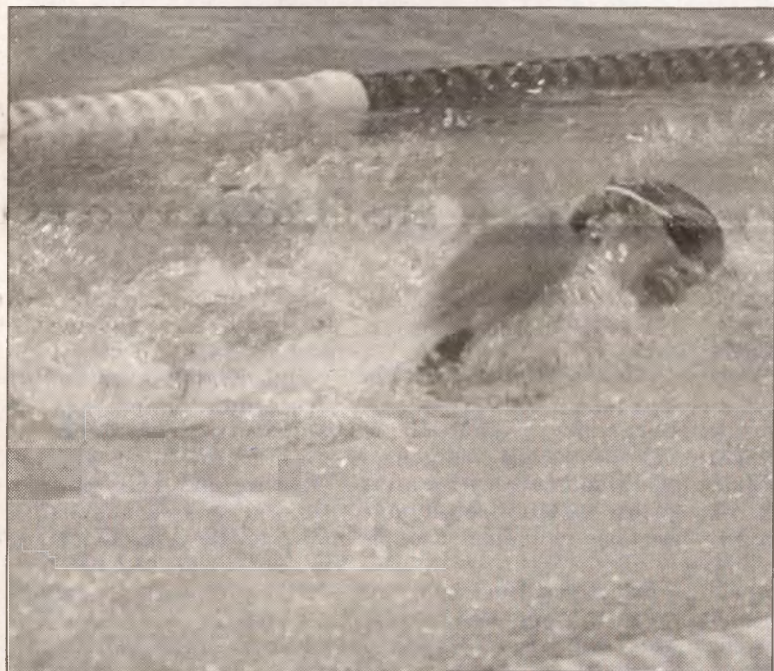
Another reason this event could be pivotal for the Irish is the fact Weathers plans on looking at and evaluating some of the swimmers beyond his star individuals.

"We are going to try to look at some different people for our relays," Weathers said.

Though this weekend is not a make-or-break for the Irish as far as the win-loss columns, the way events take place could give some indication as to what the Irish need to work on for later tournaments and their hopeful NCAA run.

"The third and fourth events are real important for us because a lot of times, that's what it comes down to in big championship meets," Weathers said.

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SOFIA BALLON/The Observer

Sophomore Ellen Johnson swims in the Dennis Stark Relays Oct. 1 at the Rolfs Aquatic Center.



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AROUND THE NATION

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COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Men's CCHA Hockey Conference

team	CCHA	Overall
Ohio State	7-1-0	9-3-0
Michigan	5-1-0	7-2-1
Alaska Fairbanks	4-2-0	5-3-0
Nebraska-Omaha	4-4-0	6-4-0
Bowling Green	3-2-1	5-2-1
Northern Michigan	3-2-1	5-3-2
Michigan State	3-3-0	5-4-1
NOTRE DAME	1-4-3	2-5-4
Western Michigan	2-5-1	4-5-1
Lake Superior	2-4-0	2-6-0
Miami	2-4-0	4-6-0
Ferris State	1-5-0	4-8-0

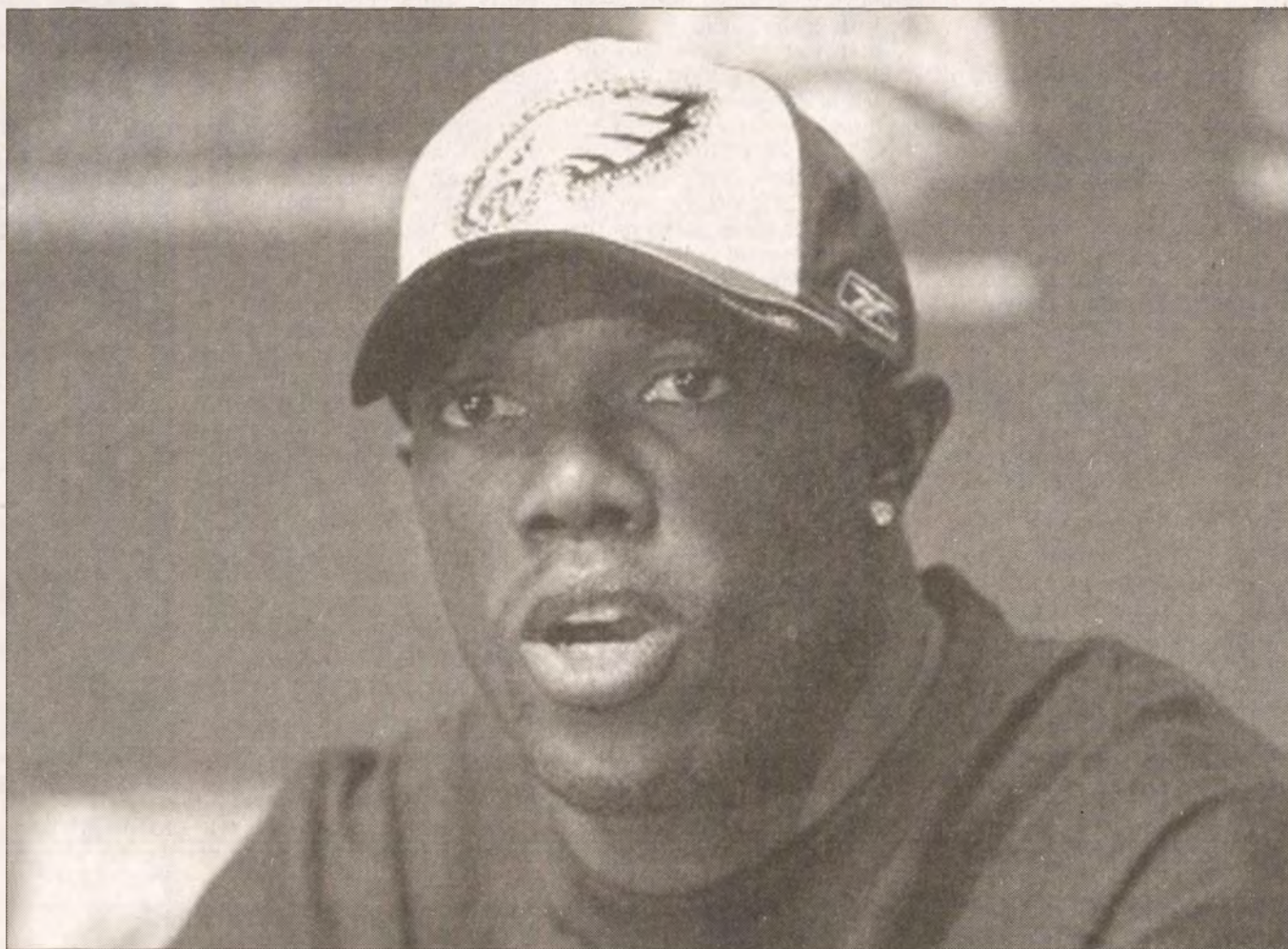
Women's Basketball NCAA Top 25

team	points
1 Tennessee (22)	1,092
2 Texas (6)	1,061
3 LSU (11)	1,059
4 Connecticut (6)	1,008
5 Georgia	888
6 Duke	871
7 Stanford	825
8 Baylor	780
9 North Carolina	744
10 Ohio State	705
11 NOTRE DAME	678
12 Texas Tech	624
13 Vanderbilt	550
14 Minnesota	506
15 Michigan State	442
16 Purdue	426
17 Rutgers	372
18 Boston College	356
19 Kansas State	340
20 DePaul	277
21 Oklahoma	209
22 Arizona	193
23 Penn State	150
24 Maryland	146
25 Louisiana Tech	104

Men's Basketball NCAA Top 25

AP Poll	Coaches Poll
1 Kansas	Kansas 1
2 Wake Forest	Wake Forest 2
3 Georgia Tech	North Carolina 3
4 North Carolina	Georgia Tech 4
5 Syracuse	Illinois 5
6 Illinois	Syracuse 6
7 Oklahoma State	Connecticut 7
8 Connecticut	Oklahoma State 8
9 Kentucky	Kentucky 9
10 Arizona	Michigan State 10
11 Duke	Arizona 11
12 Mississippi State	Duke 12
13 Michigan State	Louisville 13
14 Louisville	Mississippi 14
15 Maryland	State 15
16 Texas	Texas 16
17 Pittsburgh	Maryland 17
18 Alabama	Pittsburgh 18
19 North Carolina State	Alabama 19
20 NOTRE DAME	North Carolina 20
21 Wisconsin	State 21
22 Washington	Wisconsin 22
23 Florida	NOTRE DAME 23
24 Memphis	Florida 24
25 Gonzaga	Memphis 25

NFL



Philadelphia Eagles' Terrell Owens answers questions from reporters Thursday after apologizing to anyone offended by the provocative introduction to this week's "Monday Night Football," which generated many complaints.

Owens apologizes for role in MNF skit

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — While Terrell Owens would never say he's sorry for his flashy touchdown celebrations, he did apologize Thursday to anyone offended by his role in a steamy segment with actress Nicollette Sheridan for the intro to "Monday Night Football."

"I felt like it was clean, the organization felt like it was a clean skit and I think it just really got taken out of context with a lot of people and I apologize for that," Owens said. "Personally I didn't think it would have offended anyone and, if it did, I apologize."

ABC and the Eagles also apologized this week, with the team saying it wished the titillating segment "hadn't aired."

The opening, which has generated complaints to ABC and the Federal Communications Commission, showed Sheridan [of the hit show "Desperate Housewives"] wearing only a towel and provocatively asking Owens to skip the game for her as the two stood alone in a locker room. She drops the towel and jumps into Owens' arms.

Owens had no idea the intro would create such outrage.

"I thought it was a fun skit and that was it," Owens said.

Owens, known for his outrageous touchdown celebrations, seemed to believe the skit was generating controversy because of his participation, not because of simulated nudity.

"Anything I get involved with, I'm obviously a target," he said. "It happened."

The sexually charged promo goes way beyond Owens, however. Reaction — are you ready for some controversy? — has ranged from amusement to anger.

Indianapolis Colts coach

Tony Dungy found it racially offensive; Owens is black and Sheridan is white.

Philadelphia quarterback Donovan McNabb wasn't quite as vocal, saying he didn't find the segment offensive and believed people were overreacting. Michael Powell, chairman of the FCC, questioned ABC's judgment in airing the scene.

Even Rush Limbaugh, who made a racially charged critique of McNabb last season, chimed in on his radio show, saying he was "shocked" by the content, which was "too close to this Kobe Bryant situation for comfort."

IN BRIEF

Greek sprinters charged with dodging doping test

ATHENS, Greece — Greek sprinters Kostas Kenteris and Katerina Thanou and their coach were charged Thursday with avoiding a drug test on the eve of the Athens Olympics and faking a motorcycle accident hours later.

Chief prosecutor Dimitris Papangelopoulos, announcing the results of a two-month investigation, issued charges against the two athletes and coach Christos Tzekos. The coach was also charged with illegally importing and selling banned substances.

Twelve others — including seven doctors at the state-run hospital where Thanou and Kenteris were treated after the alleged motorcycle crash — were charged with making false statements.

No trial date was set, though it is not expected to go to trial for at least a year.

There was no immediate from the

sprinters or their lawyer. The sprinters have repeatedly denied any wrongdoing and argued they were not properly informed by testers. But Kenteris fired Tzekos as his coach after withdrawing from the Olympics.

Kenteris, 31, won gold in the 200 meters at the Sydney Olympics in 2000, and Thanou, 29, won silver in the 100 meters.

On the eve of the Aug. 13 opening ceremony in Athens, the pair could not be found at the Olympic Village for a doping test. Hours later, they said they were involved in a motorcycle accident that happened because they were rushing back to the Olympic Village to be tested. They spent four days in the hospital and later withdrew from the Olympics.

Bender out indefinitely with knee injury

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana Pacers forward Jonathan Bender's chronically injured left knee has taken yet

another turn for the worse.

Bender will be out indefinitely to allow scar tissue to heal, the latest in a series of injuries.

"It's not good," Bender said after practice Thursday. "The doctor's re-evaluated it and I'm going to sit out for [a while]."

Bender played 11 minutes in Wednesday night's win over the Atlanta Hawks, the first time he'd played since the season opener against Cleveland.

Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said he didn't have a specific timetable for Bender's recovery, but the team will "have to consider sitting Jonathan out for an extended period of time to allow him to really rehab this knee right."

Bender has been plagued by the injury for years, missing huge chunks of time, then coming back for a few games, only to miss more time.

"We're at a point where it doesn't make sense to yo-yo him in and out and for him to keep having the setbacks he's having," Carlisle said.

around the dial

NBA

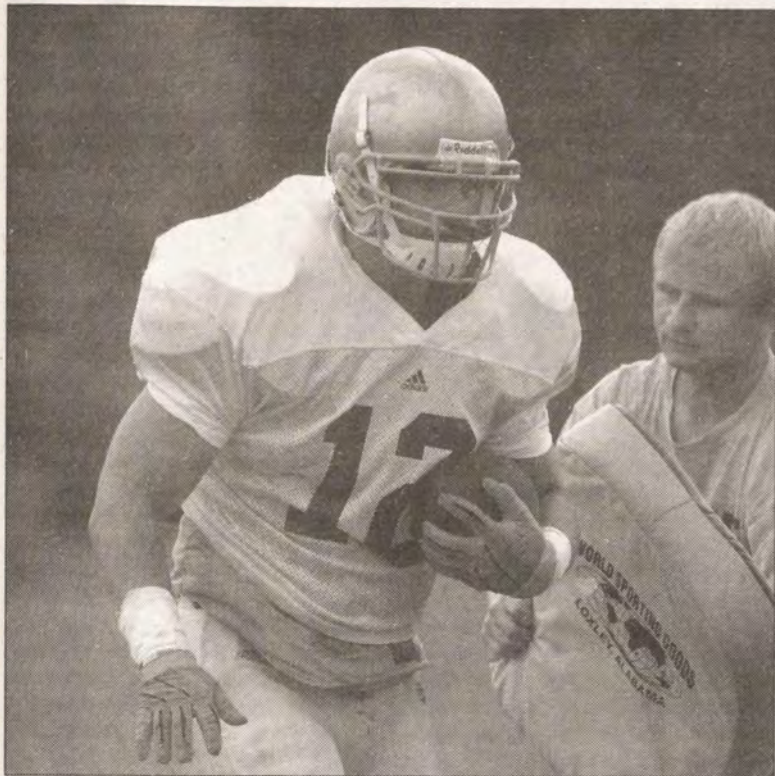
San Antonio at Boston 7:30 p.m., FOX

Indiana at Detroit 8 p.m., ESPN

Memphis at Sacramento 10:30 p.m., ESPN

PGA TOUR

World Cup Second Round 1:30 p.m., ESPN



Senior Josh Schmidt runs with the ball during practice earlier this season. Schmidt is not returning for a fifth year.

Schmidt

continued from page 20

ious" University of Tennessee fans in Knoxville, Schmidt knew he was looking for a good business school in his college choice. Combining that career path with always being a football fan and Notre Dame would seem like a natural fit.

When he got to campus, it was exactly that.

"Once I got here it was like, 'Wow, this place is amazing. This

is where I want to spend my four years,'" Schmidt said.

After playing football in high school, it was always in the back of Schmidt's mind that he could walk on to the Irish. Schmidt felt comfortable with the academics after his first semester, and with the coaching change, knew this was his chance.

He sent Willingham and the coaching staff tapes of his high school days and went to talk with them. Joining the team a few weeks before spring practice started, Schmidt was able to start working out with the team and

build on his freshman frame of "200 pounds soaking wet."

That small frame left the new fullback at a major disadvantage compared to the other fullbacks on the team, sending Schmidt onto the practice field turf time and time again.

But he kept getting up and each time he got up, Schmidt's confidence that he could hang with Division I football players grew.

"I'm sure [his confidence] probably came from having his head knocked off a couple of times," Irish offensive coordinator Bill Diedrick said. "[You have to] keep getting up and coming back at it and pretty soon, instead of getting rejected in the hole you are starting to move the hole a little bit, that just comes with a number of repetitions."

That confidence has allowed Schmidt to rise to second on the Irish depth chart at fullback. He mainly comes into the game to either open a hole or catch a pass out of the backfield. He's now someone the coaching staff can rely on when they call his number.

"If you look back a couple years ago, he was very inconsistent, not real confident," Diedrick said. "Now I think he's very, very confident with his ability and his play, and I think he's a little more physical which a fullback definitely has to be — it comes with the territory with that position."

Marriage and a scholarship

Schmidt and his wife Lisa have been together since middle school. When Schmidt decided to come to South Bend, their relationship became long-distance for three years.

That was too long for Schmidt.

"When I came here, we did the

long-distance thing for three years and I was like, I'm not doing another year of this," Schmidt said. "We're getting married, and you're coming up here with me."

The couple was married on May 15. Lisa moved to South Bend and took a year off from school so they could live together.

"It's the best thing that's ever happened to me," Schmidt said. "It's really been the best thing in the world not having to go back to an empty apartment, but a gorgeous wife."

Not only did Schmidt get married over the summer, but also he was awarded a scholarship.

When that happened, it wasn't about the money for Schmidt, but more about the dedication he put in and the coaching staff recognizing and acknowledging it.

"I guess when you first walk on and see guys like Timmy O'Neill and guys that have gone before you and been awarded a scholarship, that group of guys have been walk-ons that earned a scholarship, just from the standpoint that you earned a scholarship as well to be put in that category of that type of guy, first of all was just the biggest award more than money — more a thanks," Schmidt said. "All the hard work you put into it is just blows your mind that they would reward you with that. I never expected that."

Coming to an end

Schmidt played in his final home game six days ago. He had a talk with Willingham last week and the two came to the conclusion Schmidt wouldn't return for a fifth year.

There are no hard feelings.

"His thoughts were with the tilt of the offense switching to the

tight end, away from the fullback, there really wasn't a place on the team for me anymore," Schmidt said. "I guess coming into the season and into my joining the team, my intentions were really not to come back for a fifth because I guess from the start, I looked at the fifth year for guys that were either starting or trying to go to the NFL or that type of thing."

"That's not me, I came here for the academics and school was my main focus and looking to get a job next year so that was my decision."

Running out of the tunnel for the last time against the Panthers, Schmidt described his feeling as weird. When he came to South Bend, only in his wildest dreams did Schmidt believe he would be on the field for Senior Day.

"I came here with no expectations of playing football," Schmidt said. "When I walked on to the team, I really didn't think I would make it. When I joined the team, I never thought I would be asked back to camp. When I was asked back to camp, I never thought I would play. It's really exceeded all my expectations."

"Not to say I didn't come in with the work ethic I'm going to do everything I can to get on the field, that's definitely what my mindset was, but I didn't come in expecting to play."

Four years later, he will have two monograms, one scholarship and a dream come true to show for his efforts.

Not bad for someone who almost couldn't make his interhall team.

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Recruits

continued from page 20

in several areas, starting with pitching.

He said four of the five pitchers are hard-throwers, all with fastballs clocked in the 90s, while the fifth, Jeremy Barnes is, as Mainieri said, "a very productive pitcher."

"In my opinion, those five pitchers we've recruited have a chance to be as dominating a staff as we've recruited here, and we've recruited some pretty good staffs," Mainieri said.

Mainieri said the lefthander,

Sam Elam, "has as good an arm on a lefthander as you're going to see."

Elam is ranked as the 18th best player in the nation by Team One Baseball and posted 54 strikeouts in just 26 innings last season.

He also finished his junior season with a 2.20 ERA.

Righthander Brett Graffy was 6-1 with a 3.28 ERA for Joliet Catholic High School last season, helping his team to a state runner-up finish. He is the No. 2 prospect in Illinois.

Kyle Weiland was 6-2 with a 3.34 ERA as a junior and had an impressive summer ball season, finishing with an 8-1

record and 1.66 ERA.

David Phelps is the No. 1 player from Missouri and posted a 2.65 ERA, while striking out nearly 16 batters per nine innings.

Barnes, who played shortstop as well in high school rounds out the group as the most versatile pitcher.

While he doesn't hit 90 on the radar gun, Barnes still managed to record a 1.36 ERA, thanks in large to part to a nasty slider.

The other three players give the Irish not only solid defensive skills, but also outstanding hitters.

Mainieri said bringing in play-

ers who could hit the ball well was critical for this year's class.

"We don't know what we're going to lose this year," Mainieri said. "A major core of our team is our junior class."

"When you have guys that are eligible for the draft and they're good players, you have to assume you're going to lose a number of them because of the nature of the way it works now."

Notre Dame lost three underclassmen to the draft a season ago in pitchers Grant Johnson and Chris Niesel, and infielder Matt Macri.

Third baseman Eddy Mendiola and left-handed hit-

ting catcher David Hum should help give the Notre Dame lineup more power.

Mendiola is the nation's third-ranked prospect at third base and hit .406 with 27 RBI, eight doubles and 12 steals in 20 games as a junior.

Hum hit .476 and could be one of the top hitting catchers in the country. He also added six home runs to lead all players in the state of Arkansas.

"Both of them are bats," Mainieri said. "That was the important thing."

"We wanted a couple of guys who could really swing the bat."

Rounding out the eight recruits is utility player, Ryan Connolly. Connolly tallied a .439 average with four home runs and 20 runs scored a season ago.

Mainieri said assistant coaches David Grewe and Terry Rooney had a significant impact with helping to bring in such a talented class.

"I think all the credit really goes to my two assistants."

"They worked so hard all summer and really they didn't leave a rock unturned," Mainieri said.

Despite the difficulties of recruiting at Notre Dame, Mainieri is pleased with the eight players the Irish will bring in as freshman for the 2006 season.

"There's a lot of challenges in recruiting for us and I think we really succeeded this year."

"I think we're bringing in a great class."

Notes

♦ The players hail from seven different states, with two coming from Texas.

♦ Mainieri said Notre Dame is unlikely to sign any other recruits for this class.

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SEEKING WITNESSES

to an incident outside the Joyce Center and Notre Dame Stadium before the Notre Dame v. Pittsburgh football game Saturday, November 13, 2004 involving a NOTRE DAME SECURITY OFFICER, a blonde female student, and an injured male student. Please call 800-328-7171 and ask for Brad or Glen. Possible rewards offered.

Godfather

continued from page 20

early-season battle. "I love the fact we're going there," Foster said after Ohio State's victory Wednesday. "I love that we're seeing where we are. It's only Nov. 20. We couldn't ask for a better situation."

"We got off to a good start at home, and we earned a shot to go and play for a championship in somebody else's gym."

Jessica Davenport leads the Buckeyes with 16 points and six rebounds per game. Teammate Caitly Matter, who's averaged 14.7 points and three rebounds in the team's first three contests, dropped 20 against Arizona on Wednesday.

The Buckeyes have shot the ball especially well, while playing stifling defense. Ohio State has connected on 52.9 percent of its shots and held opponents to just 30.8 percent.

On the other bench, Notre Dame has played pretty well in its own right. The Irish have won three games, including the impressive victory against a top-10 Duke team. All-American Jacqueline Batteast has been her

usual self, leading the Irish in scoring and also piling up high assist totals. She's averaged 18 points and 5.3 rebounds.

The real surprise for Notre Dame has been the play of freshman Charel Allen.

Allen poured in 16 points against Duke, hit two crucial second-half 3-pointers and played nothing like her class. Notre Dame will likely rely on Allen again Saturday, especially with fellow freshman Tulyah Gaines sitting out with a neck injury.

The Irish have also received solid minutes from Courtney LaVere and Teresa Borton. Those two are averaging 24 points and 12 rebounds per game this season.

McGraw gave Notre Dame Thursday off, before practice and game-planning tonight. The Irish won't get much rest after Saturday's game, either. They face Colorado State on Monday at the Joyce Center.

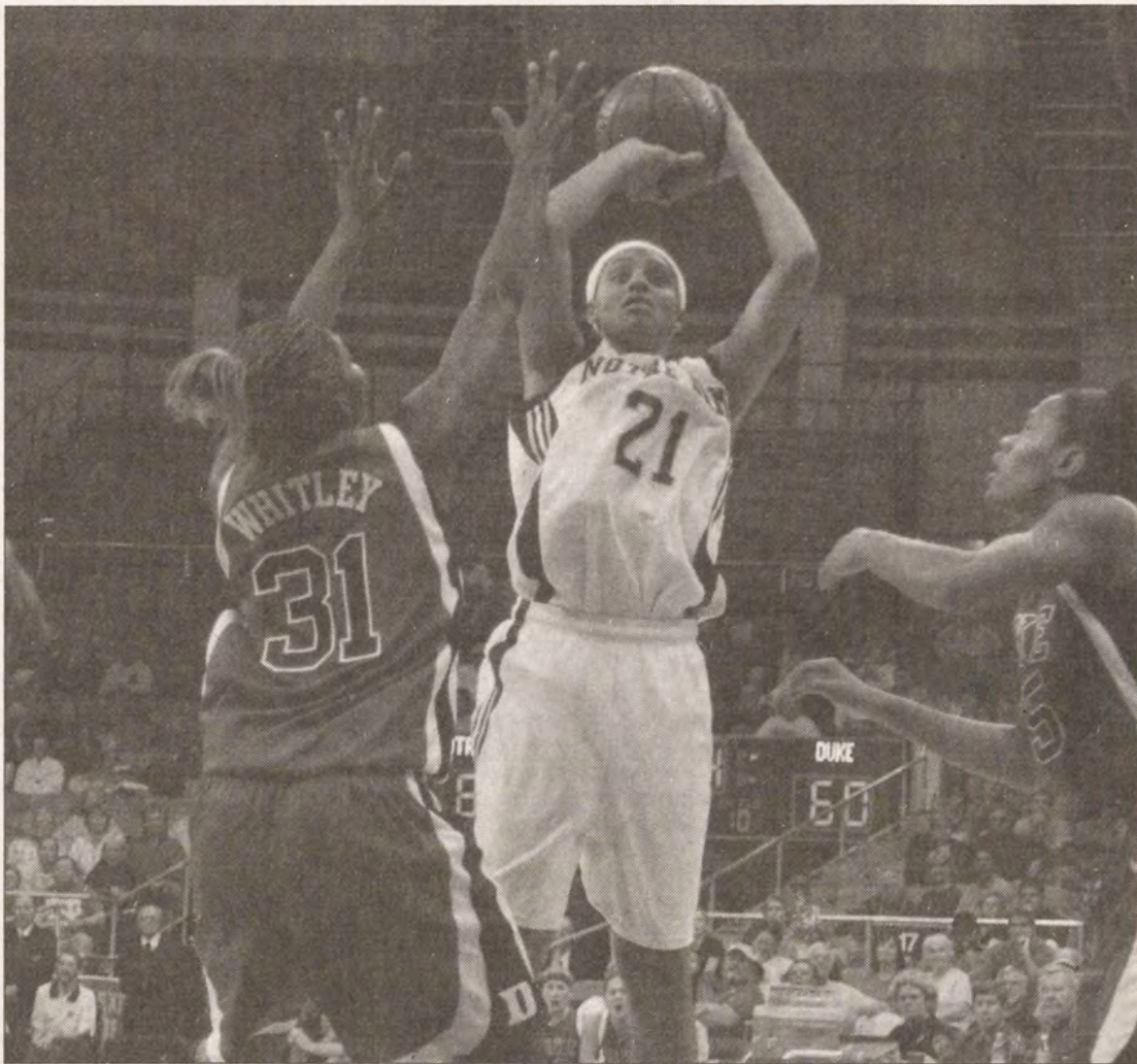
Notes

♦ Tickets for Saturday's game are on sale now and will be \$7 for students. Any student interested in attending can purchase tickets at the Joyce Center during regular business hours.

Contact Joe Hettler at jhettler@nd.edu

"We got off to a good start at home, and we earned a shot to go an play for a championship in someone else's gym."

Jim Foster
Ohio State coach



RICHARD FRIEDMAN/The Observer

Senior forward Jacqueline Batteast soars above two Duke players to shoot a basket in Wednesday night's game. Batteast led the team with 17 points.

UConn

continued from page 20

"They're anxious to play," Irish coach Randy Waldrum said. "After playing UConn, we felt like we just gave that one away."

According to Waldrum, one of the deciding factors during the Big East Championship was being focused throughout the entire match.

"We just need to stay focused for 90 minutes. It wasn't anything tactically that we broke down," Waldrum said. "We just lost track of some of their key players. And we got punished for it."

Despite losing the Big East Championship, the Irish remain confident in how they've played throughout the season and expect Saturday's match to be no different.

"When we go back and evaluate the season, we have been good all year except for the last 30 minutes of the Big East Championship game," Waldrum said. "We spent this week to make sure that we come out the same way and not let that one game deflate us. I don't think it did, so I would look for us to be very good on Saturday."

In addition to their confidence, the Irish believe they will be prepared for the style of play they are expecting from Connecticut.

"We got a really good handle on UConn. We have played them so often the past few years that I'm not looking for them to come up with anything to surprise us," Waldrum said. "[During the postseason] you try to put your players in the best ways to exploit your opposition and I think that is

what they will do if they make any changes."

However, the Irish have two individual players they are hoping will challenge the opposition of the Huskies and who have significantly added to the team's success during the post-season.

Freshman Ashley Jones and junior Annie Schefter are two players Waldrum feels should receive more attention for the contributions they give the Irish offensively.

"Those are two kids we don't praise or talk about enough," Waldrum said.

One of the notable performances Jones has had during the postseason came when she scored her first goal scored of the season during the Big East Championship game. However, for Schefter it has been her guidance and knowledge of

the sport that makes her a vital asset to the team's success.

"She has a better understanding [of the game] than most players and she sees the game two or three passes ahead and raises [her talent] to another level during this stretch of the playoffs," Waldrum said. "She is going to be such a big factor for the organization of the team [throughout the playoffs]."

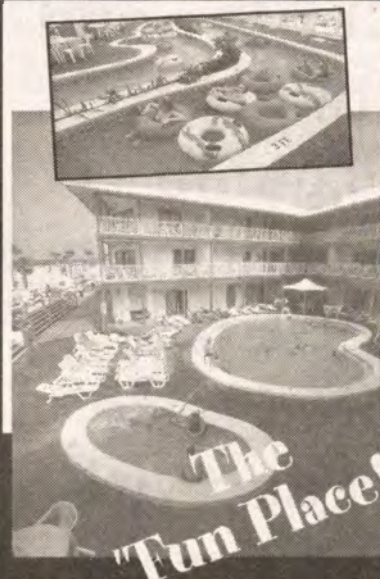
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JUMBLE

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

KAFLE
TACCH
DOPAME
HALVIS

Answer: A
Yesterday's Jumbles: DECRY MOUND CANNED BAMBOO
Answer: What the fireman inherited from his rich uncle — MONEY TO BURN

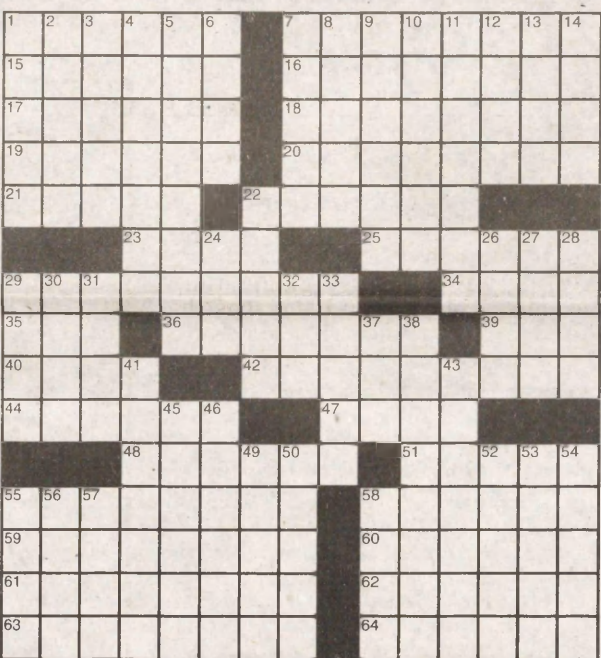
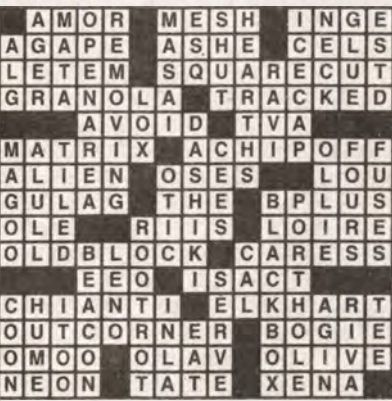


CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS
- 1 Voters' problem
 - 7 Top on pop
 - 15 Five iron
 - 16 "Can you believe that guy?!"
 - 17 Backward
 - 18 Brainiac
 - 19 Puts away
 - 20 Decorative skill
 - 21 Modern part of the ancient Hittite empire
 - 22 Animal with lyre-shaped horns
 - 23 Identical
 - 25 Physics particle with no strong force
 - 29 Lost at laser tag, maybe
- DOWN
- 1 Conglomerate
 - 2 Far from tan
 - 3 Place in Manhattan
 - 4 Luxury hotel, familiarly
 - 5 Steal, as employees
 - 6 Itches
 - 7 If you're tired, you've lost it
 - 8 Wake-up call?
 - 9 13-Down offering
 - 10 Lay in, on the farm
 - 11 Alternatives to finger bowls
 - 12 Onetime buffalo hunter
 - 13 Airport counter name
 - 14 Set on a desk
 - 22 Opinions
 - 24 Yahoo! had one in 1996: Abbr.
 - 26 Definitely not the sound of success
 - 27 Some mud
 - 28 Film
 - 29 About 15 grains
 - 30 Cairo's river

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



Puzzle by Joe DiPietro

- 31 Dead center?
- 32 The Wild West was one
- 33 Dig
- 37 It may be heard before charges
- 38 Almost
- 41 Posters
- 43 Wi-Fi components
- 45 City on the Tagus
- 46 Member of the weasel family
- 49 Kind of paint
- 50 Not moving
- 52 Cant
- 53 It won't hold water
- 54 Laid off
- 55 Smart
- 56 Priest
- 57 One there in the first place
- 58 "You, there"

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.20 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554. Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS. Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 2,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$34.95 a year). Share tips: nytimes.com/puzzleforum. Crosswords for young solvers: nytimes.com/learning/xwords.

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jameson Parker, Owen Wilson, Kirk Lee Hammett, Elizabeth Perkins

Happy Birthday: You will have a creative edge this year, so don't waste it on something that will bring you little return. Focus on what's important and turn some of the negatives that you have experienced in the past into positives. Take on the world and show everyone your capabilities. Your numbers are 2, 8, 24, 31, 36, 39

ARIES (March 21-April 19): An opportunity to form a partnership is present. With your quick response and your partner's practical outlook, you will be successful. Grants or other assistance look promising. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Avoid personal problems and concentrate on getting ahead at work. It will be important not to let anyone steal your thunder or take credit for what you do. **

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will discover a host of opportunities if you travel. Dreams can be turned into a reality. Creative ideas will reign supreme. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Make some alterations that will allow you to work in the comfort of your own home. A creative seminar or physical fitness program will do you good. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will have a lot on your plate today. If you can pull off all the promises you've been making, you will stand out in the crowd and gain the respect and admiration of your peers. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your high energy will assist you at work, resulting in monetary gains. You will have some unique ideas that will help you exceed anyone who is trying to outdo you. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can do anything you put your mind to. Decide what changes you want to make. Once you've made up your mind, the rest will be easy. Love is all around you. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Someone will not be totally honest with you. Ferret out secret information before you make a decision. Personal problems can be dealt with if you are practical and well-informed. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Something special is just around the corner. Accept the inevitable and put your energy into what is working for you. A relationship will turn out to be extremely beneficial. ****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your added discipline and responsible nature will enable you to accomplish the impossible. You will be offered an opportunity that will result in more power and cash. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Explore the possibilities available to you. The more you discover about yourself and your background, the better equipped you will be to make the right decision. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You have plenty to think about today. Consider your obligations and what you can do to adjust your position. Help will be made available. ***

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The godfather comes to town

Muffet McGraw's son's godfather coaches preseason WNIT final opponent Ohio State

By JOE HETTLER
Sports Writer

Muffet McGraw's son, Murphy, will get to see his godfather Saturday. That's because Jim Foster happens to coach Ohio State's women's basketball team.

No. 11 Notre Dame looks to finish off an impressive start to its season with a victory in the preseason Women's National Invitation Tournament final against No. 10 Ohio State at the Joyce Center at 7 p.m. Saturday. The Irish are fresh off a 76-65 victory against No. 6 Duke on Wednesday night, while the Buckeyes have cruised through three opponents, winning by an average score of 81-38. Ohio State has wins over Bowling Green, St. Joseph's and Arizona this season.

For McGraw, the game is especially exciting. She and Foster are so close, McGraw and her husband, Matt, named Foster the godfather of the couple's only child, Murphy.

"We go back a long way," McGraw said. "Last year we went down there and spent some time with him and his staff. He's doing a great job with his team this year so it's going to be another great game."

Foster is also looking forward to seeing the McGraw family, and facing Notre Dame in an

see GODFATHER/page 18



Junior guard Megan Duffy dribbles past a Duke player during Wednesday night's game. Duffy had 15 points in the No. 11 Notre Dame's 76-65 upset of No. 6 Duke.

RICHARD FRIEDMAN/The Observer

BASEBALL

Recruits showing promise

By JOE HETTLER
Sports Writer

Another November, another top recruiting class for the Notre Dame baseball program.

The Irish inked eight players Tuesday from across the country during the early-signing period. The class has four right-handed pitchers, a left-handed pitcher, a third baseman, a catcher and a utility player.

"I think it's a really outstanding class. I'm really excited about this group," Irish coach Paul Mainieri said.

Student Sports has ranked the class 21st in the nation. Notre Dame has consistently had top recruiting classes, including a No. 1 ranked group in 2002, as Mainieri and his assistants continue to build the Irish program into one of the elite in college baseball. The Irish have compiled 195 wins during the last four seasons, while Mainieri has a 399-160-1 record during nine seasons in South Bend, including a College World Series berth in 2002.

Mainieri said the Class of 2009 should help Notre Dame

see RECRUITS/page 17

ND WOMEN'S SOCCER

Team thriving on momentum



Freshman Amanda Cinalli battles for the ball during Notre Dame's 1-0 win over Wisconsin in the NCAA tournament Sunday.

HILLARY THORNTON/The Observer

Irish anxious to redeem themselves after losing to UConn in the Big East Championship

By DAN TAPETILLO
Sports Writer

With just a week passing since the thrilling 1-0 victory over Wisconsin, the Irish prepare to face conference rival Connecticut in the third round of the NCAA tournament.

The two teams are set to meet Saturday at 7 p.m. at Alumni Field in a rematch of the Big East Championship finals where the Huskies upset the top-seeded Irish 2-1.

see UCONN/page 18

FOOTBALL

Schmidt's storybook journey comes to end

Walk-on turned scholarship senior fullback not returning to team for fifth year

By MATT LOZAR
Sports Writer

Forget about wearing the blue and gold in Notre Dame Stadium on Saturdays — senior Josh Schmidt had trouble making the Zahm interhall football team as a freshman.

Spraining his ankle while "messaging around" in a pickup game, Schmidt couldn't make the dorm's tryouts but was able

to convince the captains he could be a contributor as a tailback.

Four months later, Schmidt was doing some more convincing — to new Irish head coach Tyrone Willingham.

"There's a coaching change right now, everybody's starting from scratch," the walk-on turned scholarship player said. "There's not going to be a better time than right now to walk on, so let's give it a shot."

Now with one regular season game left in his Irish career, Schmidt can't believe where his four years at Notre Dame have taken him.

Walking on

Growing up around "obnox-

see SCHMIDT/page 17

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

NFL

Terrell Owens apologizes for his role in the steamy introduction to Monday Night Football.

page 16

HOCKEY

The team is set to take on the U.S. National Team Development Program's Under-18 team tonight.

page 15

MEN'S SWIMMING

The Irish hope to build on their success from last weekend's historic win against Pittsburgh.

page 14

ND VOLLEYBALL

Notre Dame travels to Pittsburgh, looking to bring home a Big East Championship title.

page 14

SMC BASKETBALL

The Belles are hoping to start the season strong, taking on Franklin and Hanover in the Tip-Off Classic.

page 13

MLB

Baseball owners have postponed their decision regarding the Expos' move to Washington D.C.

page 12

IRISH INSIDER

Friday, November 19, 2004

THE
OBSERVER

Men's Basketball 2004-05 Preview:

POINT TAKEN

Behind senior point guard Chris Thomas and a deep roster, Notre Dame begins its campaign to validate high preseason expectations



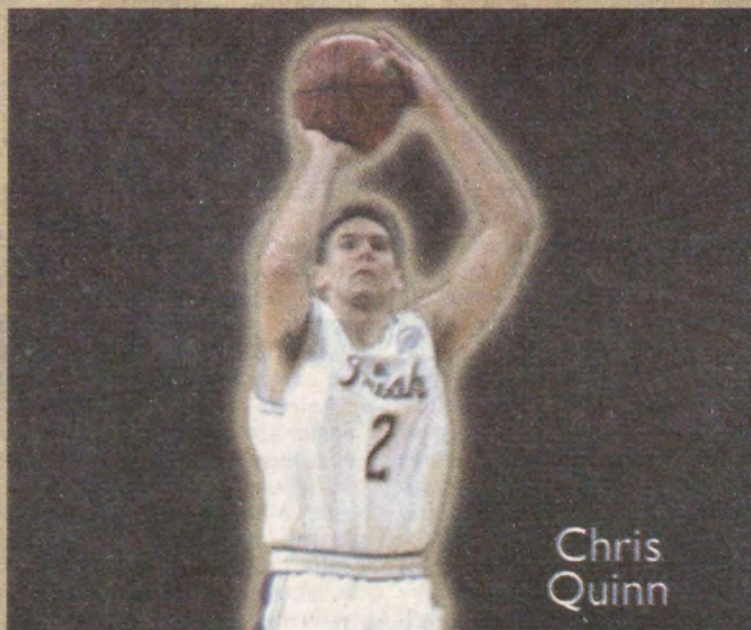
Chris Thomas



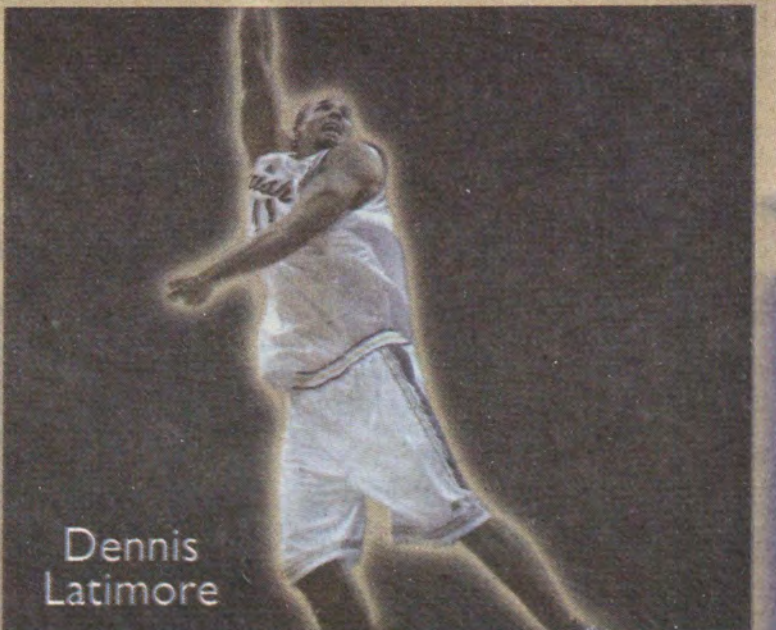
Jordan Cornette



Torin Francis



Chris Quinn



Dennis Latimore

Preseason expectations mean talk ends tonight

Chris Thomas has talked about winning 30 games.

Jordan Cornette mentioned Wednesday about being undefeated heading into the Big East schedule; just over a month after saying the letters "NIT" aren't in Notre Dame's vocabulary anymore.

SI.com's Stewart Mandel and ESPN.com's Andy Katz both predicted the Irish to be in St. Louis in April for the Final Four, with Mandel projecting Thomas as the national player of the year.

In the locker room, in the student body and in experts' minds, expectations for the 2004-05 Irish are about as high as a team could have, and they should be.

Right now it's all talk.

This team and its fifth-year coach know that.



Matt Lozar

Sports Writer

"Our group is dreaming some big dreams, and I don't want to dampen them. I just want to remind them we're certainly not there yet," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "We're a work in progress. This is a marathon, not a sprint."

"If we do want to do those things they talked about, we're really going to have to listen and understand [that] it's going to be difficult and not just pay it lip service."

That's why tonight's game against Harvard is so important.

It might not seem obvious. The first three games on Notre Dame's schedule leading up to the showdown in Ann Arbor on Dec. 4 should be three easy wins. The combined 2003-04 record for these teams was 13-70.

But this team needs confidence from the opening tip. And the easiest way to gain that confidence is to win — convincingly.

The Irish closed out their opening night win last season over Northern Illinois in ugly fashion and beat Mount St.

Mary's by 14 in game two.

Then came three games that really hurt.

The blowout loss to a Marquette team looking for some payback, the buzzer-beater stunner to RPI-killer Central Michigan and just flat-out disappointment to Indiana sent Brey to his first losing record at home.

All season, the Irish had to battle back from that three-game stretch along with other tough losses in every big game until the three-game win streak over Connecticut, Seton Hall and Syracuse in mid-February brought them to the NCAA tournament bubble.

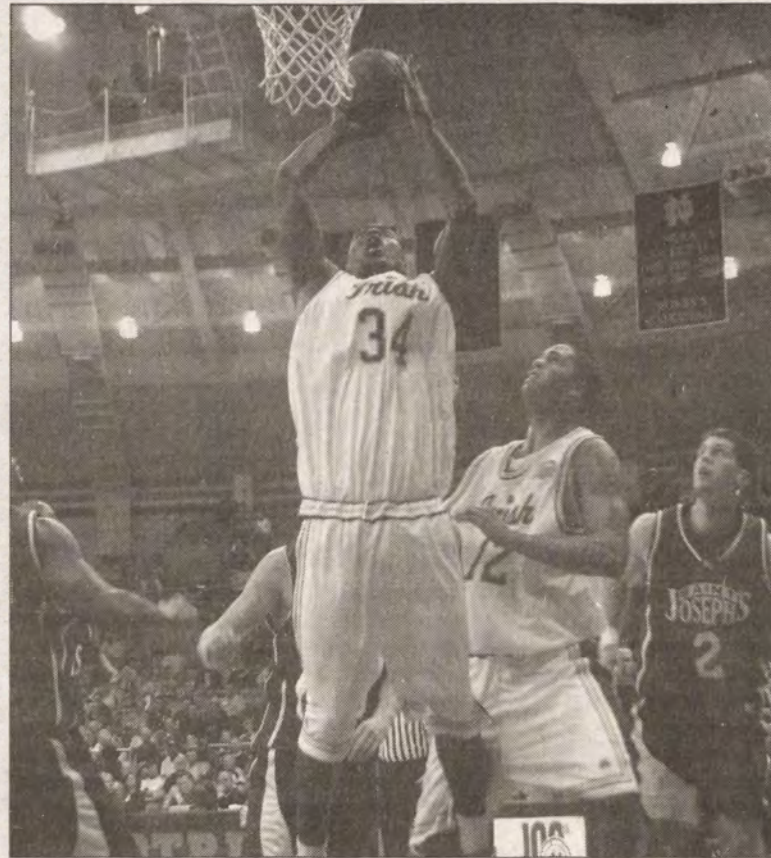
Losing focus for even just one game can create a hole you have to dig out of for the rest of the year, like last season's 2-3 start.

An early-season home loss to any of the teams before Big East play starts would do just that for the Irish again this year.

"Expectations are high, but if you watch a couple of the teams we play, like Providence against Niagara, you can't look past teams," Cornette said. "Harvard is going to be a tough team. They are going to go after us. You can't have any letdowns. That's a big part of college basketball is avoiding the letdowns, and it starts [today]."

All summer in the weight room, all off-season scrimmaging blue and white, all preseason against the feisty Division II teams, this team has had more than just getting back to its fourth NCAA tournament in five years on its mind, because it feels it can do more than that.

It's talked about playing the



GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

Torin Francis and Jordan Cornette, right, are two prominent members of a team exciting a campus and an entire fan base.

type of defense that takes teams past the first weekend in March. It's talked about utilizing the suddenly deep 10-man bench. It's talked about being unselfish to utilize all of that talent.

All of that leads to this team not being groundless for having big-time program expectations.

"I think I'm along with Chris in having lofty goals for this team, only for the simple fact that I think we can achieve them, but at the same time

that's how he likes to look at goals," Cornette said. "By no means do I think we can't

achieve that."

At a school dying for a big-time sport winner, just look at the student tickets selling out in fewer than three hours, men's basketball has been talked about for months.

In the 100th season of Notre Dame basketball, this team wants to hang its own banner along the rest in the Joyce Center.

Not just a Big East title banner. Not just another year under NCAA tournament bids or Sweet 16 appearances. But a banner next to the one that says NCAA Final Four — 1978. It all starts tonight.

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

Please contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu.



GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

Senior point guard and captain Chris Thomas said Notre Dame wants 30 wins in the program's 100th anniversary season.

"Our group is dreaming some big dreams ... [but] we're a work in progress. This is a marathon, not a sprint."

Mike Brey
Irish head coach

NOTRE DAME'S 25-MAN ALL-CENTURY BASKETBALL TEAM

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LaPhonso Ellis
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Collis Jones
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Results from summer-long voting conducted on www.und.com

Kurz ready to make impact

By PAT LEONARD
Associate Sports Editor

Fans may not have to wait until next season to see just how fruitful Notre Dame's recruiting efforts have become.

Rob Kurz is already here.

The 6-foot-9, 219-pound freshman out of Philadelphia is the lone member of the incoming class, in contrast to the four big names who signed letters of intent Nov. 10 to play for the Irish next season.

But Kurz, who averaged 18.5 points, 12 rebounds and 4 blocks during his senior year of high school, showed his new teammates this summer that he can make an immediate impact.

"In the summer he had really earned the respect of the older guys playing pick-up, [but] I [still] didn't know if he'd be part of things this year," coach Mike Brey said. "But in talking to coach [Martin] Inglesby, who's able to watch because he can't coach, with our older guys Rob Kurz is going to compete for it."

Kurz played two seasons at Germantown Academy before transferring to finish his high school career at Penn Charter with Virginia recruit Sean

Singletary.

Brey used his freshman a good amount in Notre Dame's two preseason exhibitions, substituting Kurz into the power forward position.

Against St. Joe's, Kurz played 15 minutes, shot 3-for-6 from the field and hit all three of his foul shots to total nine points. He also grabbed four rebounds and committed just one turnover.

Brey increased Kurz's minutes to 20 against Quincy, playing him more than all but five players on the roster. Kurz turned the ball over three times, but those can be attributed to freshman jitters. The first-year player scored four points, had five rebounds and four blocks in the win.

Kurz, who is as old as most current sophomores, exhibits maturity by redirecting focus off his individual potential and onto the team's potential.

"You always want to start the season strong, and we want to set a tone early on how we are going to play for the season," Kurz said. "[We must] start out playing unselfishly and playing really hard, start building that momentum now so when the conference season starts, we are playing at a high level."

As a freshman, Kurz is inexpe-



GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

The lone freshman can bang down low or step out to shoot.

rienced. But he bangs down low and can step out to shoot the 15-foot jump shot. Kurz's quick development will give Brey another option with three low-post threats in Torin Francis, Dennis Latimore and Rick Cornett already established.

Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu

Mapping the road

Five key elements will guide Notre Dame back to the NCAA Tournament

By PAT LEONARD
Associate Sports Editor

Mike Brey was angry.

In his fourth year as Notre Dame's head basketball coach, Brey watched the NCAA selection committee deny his Irish a 2004 tournament bid.

Notre Dame won 16 of 27 regular season games and then one in the Big East tournament. The Irish finished over .500 in the conference, arguably the best or second-best in the nation, at 9-7. And then the selection committee wagged a big, Dikembe Mutumbo-sized finger at Brey that said only one word — "No."

"Certainly, on Selection Sunday I think I was a gentleman on national TV," Brey said. "But as the summer went on, I was a little more pissed off about not making the tournament. We did everything we were supposed to do."

Brey was more than unsatisfied with missing the NCAA tournament for the first time in his Irish coaching career, having joined the field of 64 in his first three seasons.

So as Notre Dame opens its 2004-05 season with Harvard at the Joyce Center tonight, a campaign begins to return to the much-hallowed bracket.

"The theme for me has been we need to play in this thing out of five years," Brey said of returning to the NCAA tournament. "We need to get back in it."

Staying healthy is imperative to the Irish post-season hopes, as it is for any team. But to make its coach happy and to validate the pre-season hype, No. 20 / 21

Notre Dame must take care of five major elements on the court.

Managing depth

A deep bench benefits a team when players get in foul trouble or when they tire. Coaches dream of substituting three of five starters and watching their

teams not miss a beat. This season, Brey may have that luxury.

"We do have more able bodies to pick from," Brey said. "We have 10 guys, and the 10 guys we have ... will all get a shot at this thing before it's over."

Brey said just Wednesday that he still has not been able to narrow down the lineup from those 10. But that is where Brey's job becomes more difficult.

"Somebody said to me on the road this summer, 'Coach you got all these guys, all this depth.' I said now does that mean Thomas and Quinn are only going to play 22 minutes a game?" Brey said. "You do the math."

Brey must play his best players, but the possible combinations on the court for the Irish are numerous. Brey has the option of playing Francis and Arizona transfer Dennis Latimore in the frontcourt together, or Francis and Rick Cornett, or Latimore and Cornett. If all else fails, Notre Dame's coach can call on converted swingman Jordan Cornette to jump down low and fill the four spot. Or, Brey may just insert the capable freshman, Rob Kurz.

Any questions?

"They're really keeping me on my toes," Brey said.

Playing defense

Notre Dame ranked second in the Big East in scoring last season with 70.2 points per game. But the Irish also surrendered a ninth-ranked average 68.2 points per outing.

"I think defense is extremely important because ... you'll usually find more teams that can score than teams that can defend," Rick Cornett said. "That really determines a good team from a great team — defense and communication."

If Notre Dame defends well this season, it will be as a team.

Scoring machine Russell Carter [30 points per game in high school] did not play much last season due in part to defensive struggles. And as Brey said about

Arizona transfer Dennis Latimore, "He's got to get better on the defensive end ... but he's not the only one on that end of the floor."

The four recruits who signed with Notre Dame Nov. 10 often cited the "free-flowing" Notre Dame offense as a major reason for their decision. But the Irish know that at some point, the breakdown is simple — offense sells recruits, and defense wins.

"I really think we'll be close to unstoppable on offense [this year]," Cornett said. "But hopefully our defense will lead us. We've really been working on defense in the off-season because defense wins games."

Winning at home

Brey cringed at missing the Big Dance, but he knew his team had noticeable flaws. Perhaps the most evident: the Irish were not winning at home.

Notre Dame lost seven of its 18 home games last season, including a 66-63 loss to a mediocre Indiana team and a buzzer-beating defeat at the hands of Central Michigan.

"That's definitely another goal — establishing home-court advantage," Jordan Cornette said. "[We have to] win at home consistently ... That starts with Harvard."

Among the lofty Irish goals for the early season, team members spoke of going 10-0 into Big East play, winning all of their non-conference games on the schedule save a date with UCLA Feb. 27.

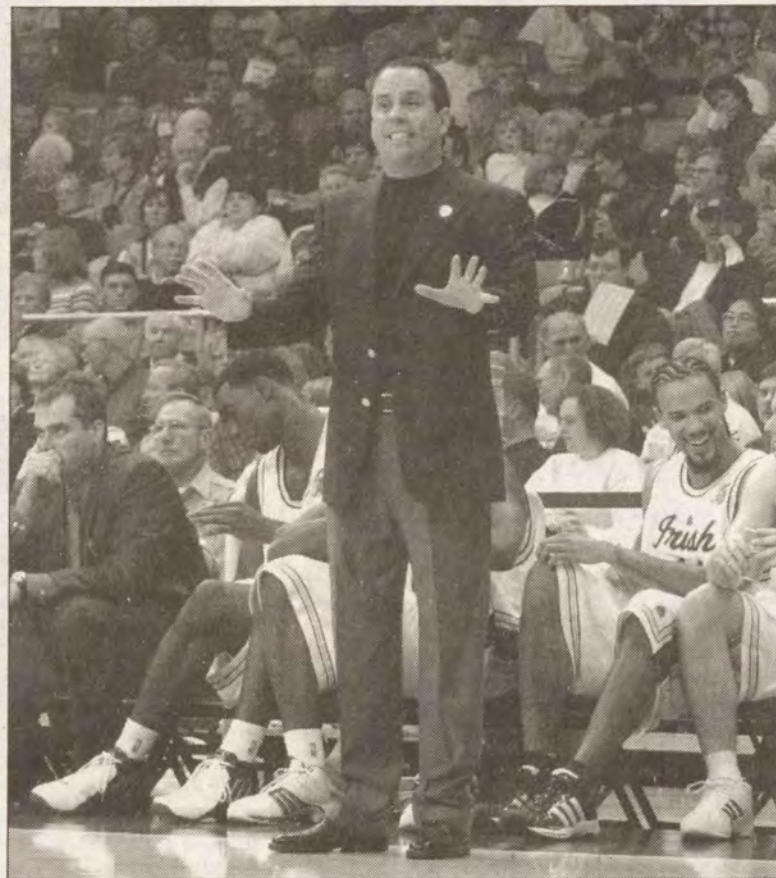
But that goal will not become a reality if Notre Dame does not take care of a three-game homes stretch to start the season and a five-game streak after returning from Bloomington Dec. 8.

"Exhibition games are over," Cornette said. "We have to see how we are going to perform at home in front of our crowd in a regular season setting, and I'm curious to see how we are going to handle that challenge."

Creating chemistry

Latimore's addition to the frontcourt gives Francis a 6-foot-9 body to compliment his 6-foot-11 frame.

Though Latimore did not play much at Arizona, his experience on a Summer Australian tour



GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

Fifth-year head coach Mike Brey has affirmed only one goal thus far for his 2004-05 Irish: return to the NCAA Tournament.

with the Wildcats and his observation of the Irish system last season will help him fit into the game plan in a hurry.

"Dennis is a great addition to our front line and I just think we have positive things coming in the future," Rick Cornett said. "We all work hard even though Torin and I are coming back from injuries. It's kind of rough, and it's really good to have somebody else to depend on down in the post. I'm really looking forward to this season."

Latimore looked rusty in an exhibition game against St. Joseph's, scoring just six points and committing four turnovers in 23 minutes. But the senior corrected himself quickly against Quincy, scoring 12 points and committing no turnovers in just 20 minutes.

The improvement for Latimore, and for the Irish frontcourt, are there for the taking.

Establishing a leader

The Irish must follow Chris

Thomas. The guards are the strength of the team. And while Chris Quinn is just as important a player to this team, Thomas is the man with the ball most of the time.

The senior point guard is Notre Dame's career assist leader, and last season he became the first player to lead the Irish in scoring (19.7 points) and assists (4.7) in the same season since David Rivers did so in the 1987-88 season.

"I think he's very focused on his team having a heck of a year, which is where his mind needs to be," Brey said. "If minds stay in that department, not only his, then we've got a chance."

Thomas' poise and decision-making will be the determining factors between whether or not Notre Dame is good this season, or if they are great.

Contact Pat Leonard at
pleonard@nd.edu

Irish main concern: get injured players healthy

Injury Prone

Six of Notre Dame's fourteen players (11 not counting walk-ons) have had significant injuries in the past year. Surgery is noted with an asterisk and the surgery's date in parentheses.

Rick Cornett

left foot stress fracture* (July 23)

Jordan Cornette

sprained ankle

Torin Francis

herniated disk in back* (Mar. 8)

Omari Israel

torn ACL* (Feb. 2003)

Rob Kurz

broken jaw

Chris Thomas

left knee* (Apr. 9, arthroscopic)

Observer Graphic by MIKE HARRIS

By PAT LEONARD
Associate Sports Editor

Notre Dame was just as busy in the spring even though the team missed the NCAA tournament.

Injuries kept the Irish on their heels.

Torin Francis had back surgery March 8. Chris Thomas had arthroscopic knee surgery April 9. In the summer, Rick Cornett had a stress fracture in his foot repaired July 23.

Notre Dame's preseason expectations are lofty, but the team's health could be a major determining factor in how far the Irish go.

Thomas, a preseason Wooden Award candidate and the team's leading scorer, is a particular concern.

"I don't think Thomas is 100 percent yet but I think he's very close," Brey said before the first preseason game. "We have plenty of time for him to play his way back to that level. If he was a younger guy I'd be worried. That he's an older guy, he'll play his way back in a couple weeks."

Thomas said he is not 100 percent, but he feels better now than he did at any point last season, when he played through the injury over the final weeks of the season.

His teammate and fellow

Wooden Award candidate, Francis, had an earlier surgery and a quicker recovery.

"I feel very good about the two major surgery guys,

Francis and Thomas," Brey said. "I think Francis is 100 percent. Of course, he's had plenty of rehab. I think we did that surgery in March so he's looked very good in individual workouts and in the conditioning. I feel good about him."

Brey said Notre Dame is not alone as a team with a long list of injuries.

"There's a lot of programs in our boat right now, just talk-

ing to [Michigan coach] Tommy Amaker the other day," Brey said. "But we did add more walk-ons to make sure we had more bodies to pick from ... We'll be fine, we'll get there."

Senior Greg Bosl joins the roster for his second straight season as a walk-on point guard. Notre Dame added junior forwards Ben Nickol and Chris Murphy to fill the roster and help with practice matchups.

Rick Cornett, who strained his back as well just before the preseason games, is expected to play tonight against Harvard. Brey said Cornett should be 100 percent by game time.

Contact Pat Leonard at
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MEN'S OUTLOOK

GREG BOSL

GUARD
6'1", 198 lbs.
No. 55 — SR

High school stats

Points 10.0
Assists 6.0
Rebounds 5.0

2004-05 expectations

Bosl will not play much, but the second-year walk-on will push Notre Dame's guards in practice. His brother, Mike, played for Villanova in 1998-99.



JOHN CARLSON

FORWARD
6'5", 248 lbs.
No. 4 — SO

2003-04 stats

Minutes 0.3
Points 0.7
Rebounds 0.3

2004-05 expectations

Carlson, also a tight end for the football team, joined the roster midseason last year to add size after Torin Francis got hurt. He won't play much.



RUSSELL CARTER

GUARD
6'4", 223 lbs.
No. 43 — SO

2003-04 stats

Minutes 2.1
Points 0.8
Rebounds 0.4

2004-05 expectations

Carter brings instant offense. He gained 25 pounds of muscle over the offseason. The only step remaining for Carter to get minutes: defense.



RICK CORNETT

FORWARD
6'8", 256 lbs.
No. 11 — JR

2003-04 stats

Minutes 10.9
Points 4.5
Rebounds 3.4

2004-05 expectations

Cornett was productive in the low-post in Francis' absence last season. If he stays healthy, Cornett should be the first man off the bench this season.



JORDAN CORNETTE

FORWARD
6'10", 236 lbs.
No. 12 — SR

2003-04 stats

Minutes 30.7
Points 5.8
Rebounds 6.0

2004-05 expectations

Cornette moves outside on offense with the presence of Latimore down low. His athleticism will help Notre Dame match up with big guards on defense.



COLIN FALLS

GUARD
6'5", 204 lbs.
No. 15 — FR

2003-04 stats

Minutes 15.6
Points 4.6
Rebounds 1.3

2004-05 expectations

Falls was Notre Dame's best three-point shooter last season. He will look to increase his role on the team, making key baskets in a backup role.



TORIN FRANCIS

FORWARD
6'11", 252 lbs.
No. 34 — JR

2003-04 stats

Minutes 31.6
Points 14.2
Rebounds 8.8

2004-05 expectations

The team's biggest body returns to the lineup with low-post compliments in Latimore and Cornett. All of the factors point to the junior having a great year.



OMARI ISREAL

FORWARD
6'9", 233 lbs.
No. 5 — FR

High school

Points 18.5
Rebounds 9.0
Blocks 3.0

2004-05 expectations

Isreal is fully healed from his 2003 ACL surgery and brings an athletic, Cornette-esque body to the lineup with the potential for defensive dominance.



ROB KURZ

FORWARD
6'9", 219 lbs. No. 31 — FR

2003-04 stats

Points 18.5
Rebounds 12.0
Blocks 4.0

2004-05 expectations

Kurz will play right away off the bench at the small forward position. Kurz poses a step-back offensive threat and gives Brey another big body down low.



DENNIS LATIMORE

FORWARD
6'9", 238 lbs.
No. 41 — SR

2003-04 stats

Minutes 12.0
Points 3.2
Rebounds 3.1

2004-05 expectations

The Arizona transfer adds another scoring threat to the Notre Dame frontcourt, giving Brey an inside-out offense that will score easily and often.



CHRIS MURPHY

FORWARD
6'6", 210 lbs.
No. 24 — JR

High school stats

Points 15.8
Rebounds 8.5
Assists 3.0

2004-05 expectations

Murphy played at Benet Academy and hails from Downers Grove, Ill. The Irish need big, skilled forwards like Murphy to improve team practices.



BEN NICKOL

FORWARD
6'5", 218 lbs.
No. 21 — JR

High school stats

Points 12.0
Rebounds 8.0

2004-05 expectations

Nickol played at Gonzaga Prep and hails from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. He has good moves that will keep Irish players alert on defense in practice.



THE SCHEDULE

2004-05 Schedule

Nov. 19	Harvard
Nov. 23	IPFW
Nov. 26	Charleston So.
Dec. 4	at Michigan
Dec. 8	at Indiana
Dec. 11	DePaul
Dec. 19	Army
Dec. 22	Marist
Dec. 28	Western Illinois
Dec. 30	Samford
Jan. 5	at Seton Hall
Jan. 8	Villanova
Jan. 10	Syracuse
Jan. 15	St. John's
Jan. 19	at West Virginia
Jan. 23	at Georgetown
Jan. 26	at Villanova
Jan. 30	Connecticut
Feb. 5	at Syracuse
Feb. 8	Boston College
Feb. 12	at Pittsburgh
Feb. 16	Georgetown
Feb. 19	at Providence
Feb. 21	at Connecticut
Feb. 27	UCLA
Mar. 2	Rutgers
Mar. 5	Pittsburgh
Mar. 9-12	Big East Tournament
Mar. 17	NCAA Tournament Begins

The Stretch - December
Notre Dame hits national television for three of its 13 scheduled games on ESPN, ESPN2 and CBS. Brey and Michigan coach Tommy Amaker are good friends and know each other's style.

Syracuse - Jan. 10, 7 p.m.
Coaches predicted Gerry McNamara and Hakim Warrick to lead the Orange to the Big East regular season crown.

Georgetown - Jan. 23, 12 p.m.
With the exception of last season, the Hoyas and Irish have had some legendary games the past few years. Georgetown at home is almost always a tough game.

Villanova - Jan. 26, 8 p.m.
Notre Dame plays the Wildcats for the second time in one month, but this time it's in Philadelphia on Nova's home court.

Connecticut - Jan. 30, 3:45 p.m.
Defending national champion. In the Joyce Center. On CBS.

Pittsburgh - Feb. 12, 12 p.m.
The Irish march into the Petersen Events Center to try and avenge a 74-71 loss last season before the Oakland Zoo student section.

Providence - Feb. 19, 12 p.m.
Niagara almost beat the Friars. But make no mistake, Niagara is good and well-coached. Providence is better. Ryan Gomes was named Big East preseason player of the year.

UCLA - Feb. 27, 2 p.m.
Any time Notre Dame plays UCLA, it's a big game. The 75-60 tune-up the Irish gave the Bruins last season might make things interesting.

CHRIS QUINN

GUARD
6'2", 185 lbs.
No. 2 — JR

2003-04 stats

Minutes 35.8
Points 14.3
Assist/TO 2.8/1

2004-05 expectations

Quinn compliments Thomas as a point/shooting guard and does not turn the ball over. He adds outside shooting and backcourt leadership.



CHRIS THOMAS

GUARD
6'1", 190
No. 1 — SR

2003-04 stats

Minutes 38.3
Points 19.7
Rebounds 4.2

2004-05 expectations

Thomas was Notre Dame's leading scorer last season. He returns for his fourth and final year to lead Notre Dame with fellow senior Cornette.



Men's Preseason Polls

Coaches Poll	
1. Kansas	1. Kansas
2. Wake Forest	2. Wake Forest
3. North Carolina	3. Georgia Tech
4. Georgia Tech	4. North Carolina
5. Illinois	5. Illinois
6. Syracuse	6. Syracuse
7. Connecticut	7. Oklahoma State
8. Oklahoma State	8. Connecticut
9. Kentucky	9. Kentucky
10. Michigan State	10. Arizona
11. Arizona	11. Duke
12. Duke	12. Mississippi State
13. Louisville	13. Michigan State
14. Mississippi State	14. Louisville
15. Texas	15. Maryland
16. Maryland	16. Texas
17. Pittsburgh	17. Pittsburgh
18. Alabama	18. Alabama
19. N.C. State	19. N.C. State
20. Wisconsin	20. NOTRE DAME
21. NOTRE DAME	21. Wisconsin
22. Florida	22. Washington
23. Memphis	23. Florida
24. Washington	24. Memphis
25. Stanford	25. Gonzaga

Big East Conference

Men's Preseason Coaches Poll

1. Syracuse
2. Connecticut
3. Pittsburgh
4. NOTRE DAME
5. Boston College
6. Providence
7. Villanova
8. Seton Hall
9. West Virginia
10. Rutgers
11. Georgetown
12. St. John's

WOMEN'S OUTLOOK

CHAREL ALLEN

GUARD
5'11"
No. 2 — FR

High school stats

Points 26.1
Rebounds 10.5
Assists 5.0

2004-05 expectations

Allen brings a long, athletic body to the backcourt. Her speed will add a threat to Notre Dame's fast break and her reach will help on defense.



JACQUELINE BATTEAST

FORWARD
6'2"
No. 21 — SR

2003-04 stats

Minutes 32.9
Points 16.0
Rebounds 8.6

2004-05 expectations

Arguably the best player in the nation, Batteast can beat opponents in numerous ways. Opposing defenses will double-team the senior often.



JACQUELINE BATTEAST

Preseason Awards

- Associated Press preseason All-American
- Naismith Trophy top-50 players to watch
- Basketball News preseason National Player of the Year
- State Farm/WBCA Wade Trophy preseason player to watch
- John R. Wooden Woman's Award preseason top-30 watch list
- Lindy's preseason All-American
- Street & Smith's "Terrific 10" list
- Wooden's women's preseason All-American

Observer Graphic by KELLY MACDONALD

TERESA BORTON

CENTER
6'3"
No. 12 — SR

2003-04 stats

Minutes 19.8
Points 5.8
Rebounds 4.0

2004-05 expectations

McGraw expects Borton to make her presence felt in the paint. The senior already has shown a more aggressive style of low-post play this season.



MELISSA D'AMICO

FORWARD/
CENTER, 6'5"
No. 33 — FR

High school stats

Points 20.7
Rebounds 9.1*
Blocks 3.5*

2004-05 expectations

The big freshman should make an impact early. She is playing behind solid veteran post players, but with time, D'Amico should see the court.



MEGAN DUFFY

GUARD
5'7"
No. 13 — JR

2003-04 stats

Minutes 33.3
Points 9.9
Assists 3.9

2004-05 expectations

The general for the Irish, Duffy can handle the ball, shoot the three and lead her teammates. She is on the verge of being an elite Big East player.



CRYSTAL ERWIN

FORWARD
6'1"
No. 34 — SO

2003-04 stats

Minutes 11.0
Points 3.3
Rebounds 2.1

2004-05 expectations

Erwin has calmed down from her fouling last season. She will be a solid Irish post player off the bench who can rebound and score this year.



TULYAH GAINES

GUARD
5'6"
No. 1 — FR

High school stats

Points 20.5
Assists 4.0
Steals 3.8

2004-05 expectations

Gaines is a quick, athletic point guard who can pass and score. She loves to run the ball, and her energy ignites the Irish. She will see time at guard this year.



BREONA GRAY

GUARD
5'7"
No. 32 — SO

2003-04 stats

Minutes 11.4
Points 2.2
Rebounds 1.6

2004-05 expectations

Gray is a very good defender and will be used primarily in that role during the 2003 season. Gray's jumpshot and overall offense have improved.



COURTNEY LaVERE

FORWARD
6'3"
No. 41 — JR

2003-04 stats

Minutes 22.2
Points 8.6
Rebounds 4.5

2004-05 expectations

LaVere has the skills to drop 15 points and 10 rebounds a night for the Irish. The junior and Borton must take pressure off Batteast.



SUSIE POWERS

GUARD
5'10"
No. 3 — SO

2003-04 stats

Minutes 5.9
Points 0.6
Rebounds 0.9

2004-05 expectations

Powers saw limited playing time last season, but her perimeter game and three-point shooting threat could be valuable to stretching defenses.



AMANDA TSIPIS

GUARD
5'10"
No. 11 — FR

High school stats

Points 12.9
Rebounds 4.5
Assists 3.8

2004-05 Statistics

Tsipis joins the team as a walk-on. She was a three-time All-State selection in high school. The freshman will provide depth at the guard position.



THE SCHEDULE

2004-05 Schedule

Nov. 22	Colorado State
Nov. 26	at USC
Nov. 30	at Valparaiso
Dec. 2	Michigan State
Dec. 9	at Dayton
Dec. 11	Washington
Dec. 19	at Marquette
Dec. 30	at Northern Illinois
Jan. 2	Seton Hall
Jan. 5	Syracuse
Jan. 9	at Villanova
Jan. 12	Connecticut
Jan. 16	Purdue
Jan. 19	at Syracuse
Jan. 23	Rutgers
Jan. 26	St. John's
Jan. 30	at Connecticut
Feb. 2	Boston College
Feb. 5	at Pittsburgh
Feb. 9	at Providence
Feb. 12	Georgetown
Feb. 15	at Boston College
Feb. 19	at Rutgers
Feb. 26	West Virginia
Mar. 1	at Seton Hall
Mar. 5-8	Big East Tournament
Mar. 19	NCAA Tournament Begins

Michigan State - Dec. 2, 7 p.m.
The Spartans destroyed the Irish last year in East Lansing. This year's No. 15 squad will present a challenge but will have to play the Irish in South Bend.

Villanova - Jan. 9, 2 p.m.

The Irish narrowly defeated Villanova last year, with defense saving the day. The Wildcats are just out of the top 25, but expect them to creep back in.

Connecticut - Jan. 12, 8 p.m.

No. 4 Connecticut is always a challenge. Picked to finish first in the Big East, the Huskies lose Diana Taurasi, but will still be a top team.

Purdue - Jan. 16, 5 p.m.

The 1999 national champions are No. 16 in the country and are led by Katie Gearlds. Last year they finished the season ranked No. 3 in the AP poll.

Rutgers - Jan. 23, 2 p.m.

Star point guard Cappie Pondexter should be back by this game. She will lead a team that returns most players from last year when it knocked off the Irish in the Big East Tournament.

Connecticut - Jan. 30, 7 p.m.

This time around, it will be much harder to beat the Huskies, as this game is in Storrs, Conn. The Huskies return eight letter winners from last year's national championship.

Boston College - Feb. 15, 7 p.m.

The No. 18 Eagles made a splash last season, going to the Sweet 16. They lose just two letter winners and Jessalyn Deveny will be a force.

Rutgers - Feb. 19, 12 p.m.

Last season, the Irish were terrible on the road, and the Scarlet Knights are good at home. No. 17 Rutgers is one of four ranked Big East teams.



Women's Preseason Polls

- Coaches Poll
1. Tennessee
 2. LSU
 3. Texas
 4. Connecticut
 5. Georgia
 6. Duke
 7. Stanford
 8. Baylor
 9. Ohio State
 10. Texas Tech
 11. NOTRE DAME
 12. North Carolina
 13. Vanderbilt
 14. Minnesota
 15. Purdue
 16. Michigan State
 17. Rutgers
 18. Boston College
 19. Kansas State
 20. DePaul
 21. Penn State
 22. Louisiana Tech
 23. Maryland
 24. Arizona
 25. Oklahoma

- AP Poll
1. Tennessee
 2. Texas
 3. LSU
 4. Connecticut
 5. Georgia
 6. Duke
 7. Stanford
 8. Baylor
 9. North Carolina
 10. NOTRE DAME
 11. Ohio State
 12. Texas Tech
 13. Vanderbilt
 14. Minnesota
 15. Michigan State
 16. Purdue
 17. Rutgers
 18. Boston College
 19. Kansas State
 20. DePaul
 21. Penn State
 22. Oklahoma
 23. Maryland
 24. Arizona
 25. Louisiana Tech

Observer Graphic by MIKE HARKINS

Big East CONFERENCE

Women's Preseason Coaches Poll

1. Connecticut
2. NOTRE DAME
3. Boston College
4. Rutgers
5. Villanova
6. West Virginia
7. Seton Hall
8. St. John's
9. Syracuse
10. Georgetown
11. Pittsburgh
12. Providence

Observer Graphic by MIKE HARKINS

Preseason No. 1

Jacqueline Batteast commands national respect; has teammates to help validate it

By HEATHER
VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Editor

In the first exhibition game, Jacqueline Batteast showed everyone why she has been named the Big East Preseason Player of the Year and in Basketball News, the National Player of the Year.

In the second exhibition game, Batteast showed why this year is different than last year.

Batteast shone in the opener, putting up 23 points on 9-for-14 shooting. But in the second game, she struggled, at times forcing shots. She finished with 11 points, but on 5-for-12 shooting.

And the Irish still scored points — 80, in fact.

Against Illinois State in the preseason Women's National Invitation Tournament, Batteast picked up two fouls in just as many minutes. But the Irish didn't miss a beat, despite not seeing Batteast but for five minutes in the first half.

Batteast or bust

Last season, if Batteast didn't score against top teams, the Irish often didn't win. Take the Jan. 13 matchup with then-No. 4 Connecticut. When Batteast scored, the Irish scored. She finished with 23 points on 10-for-13 shooting. Batteast took on much of the Irish scoring load all season, especially in big games including the game against the Huskies and in the NCAA tournament.

Batteast led the Irish to second place in the Big East conference, averaging 16 points and 8.6 rebounds per game. She had 13 double-doubles, second in the Big East. In the NCAA tournament, Batteast stepped up her averages, putting up 22 points and 11.7 rebounds, good enough to lead the Irish to the Sweet 16.

But if Batteast struggled, so did the Irish. This year, both Batteast and the Irish feel that dependence will not exist.

"I think she just needs to come out every game and rebound, play great defense," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "We really don't think she needs to score 20 points every game for us to win. She certainly needs to take a big role in the offense for us to win, and she's somebody who's going to be the feature for the opponent."

A new year, a new role

Unlike last year, Batteast is

surrounded with players who are ready and willing to put points on the board. Instead of just looking for Batteast, her teammates are playing with her and putting up numbers of their own. Any player on the court has the ability to score on this year's Irish team, something that wasn't always true last season.

"I think [my teammates] are the exact same as they were last year but I think this year they're more willing to score," Batteast said. "I think they're ready to step into that role. Before, it was sit back and watch, but I think now they're ready to take action."

The Irish will look especially to three veteran players — Megan Duffy, Courtney LaVere and Teresa Borton — to carry the load. Duffy was named the Big East's Most Improved Player last season, and Borton and LaVere are forces down low. Batteast is confident that those three, among others, can score for the Irish.

"I know that I have four other people on the floor that can do something," Batteast said. "We've got people coming off the bench that can add things. So even if I'm not shooting well, I know there's other people, Megan [Duffy], Courtney [LaVere] and T [Borton], that can hurt people."

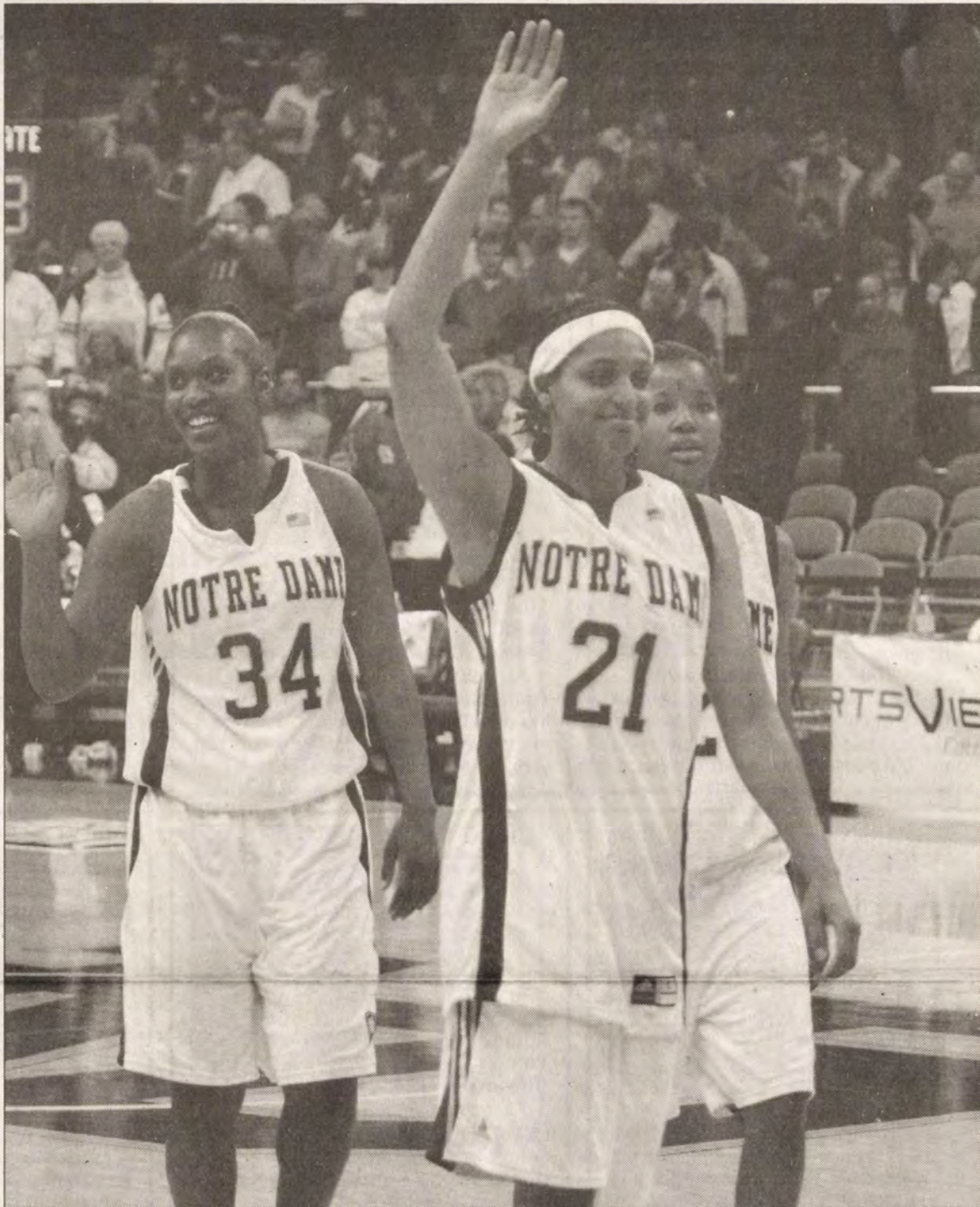
McGraw has as much confidence in the players around Batteast as she does in her star player.

"I think it's important for the whole team to feel like they have a huge part in the scoring role," McGraw said. "I think everybody has to come in and do their part. Teams are going to try to take Jackie away, and she's going to have games where she's double-teamed and not even able to get the ball so I think the more Teresa, Courtney and Megan can score, the harder it's going to be for the other teams to take her away."

"She's incredibly hard to guard now, and I think it would be a huge challenge for a team to take her away completely, but I think we have to have the other weapons ready."

Playing on the perimeter

This season, Batteast will play mostly the three-guard spot. With Borton, LaVere, Crystal Erwin and newcomer Melissa D'Amico, the Irish have plenty of depth at the power forward and center



RICHARD FRIEDMAN/The Observer

Crystal Erwin, left, and Charel Allen, right, are two members of a strengthened supporting cast for Big East Preseason Player of the Year Jacqueline Batteast.

positions. So the best possible Irish lineup includes shifting Batteast to play the third guard position.

Batteast is a versatile 6-foot-2 and can face-up or back down defenders. Despite her versatility, Batteast said it's been an adjustment to play as more of a guard — especially on defense.

"[Guarding guards] is really tiring," Batteast said. "I have to run a lot. I'm not used to that playing post defense. [Now,] I'm chasing someone through screens and trying to get the rebound and be the first one down on offense, so that's a lot of running. It takes some adjusting, and if I keep practicing I should get into shape."

Batteast also worked on her outside shot this summer to prepare for her new position.

"I knew this year I would be playing a little more guard and on the perimeter, so I worked on my outside jumpshot and quickness trying to guard guards on defense," Batteast said.

But even with her new position, Batteast wants to keep a high field goal percentage. Last season, she shot 45.2 percent from the field. She said she wants to get that number closer to 50 percent this season.

"I want to try to come in, rebound well and score," Batteast said.

More than just a scorer

Although Batteast is known as a scorer, she means much more to this Irish team. With three talented freshmen on the roster in D'Amico, Tulyah Gaines and Charel Allen, Batteast is a player they can look up to.

"[Batteast] absolutely makes people better," McGraw said. "And I think [this team] loves to play — we're trying to be a little more creative and not run so many

plays just let them go and see what we can get in transition. And I think that they really enjoy playing with [Batteast]."

Batteast also serves as a role model for the freshmen, all of whom should see significant

playing time this season.

"We love watching her when she's having fun and things are going well," McGraw said. "And it's great for the younger players to look up and see how she got to where she is with all the hard work she's put in."

McGraw said sometimes the Irish find themselves watching the Batteast.

"It's fun to watch," McGraw said. "We sometimes have to stop sometimes at practice and almost high-five each other because we're so excited at what she can do. She's so talented. She's just really gifted. And she enjoys playing."

But Batteast won't let the hype of all the preseason awards get to her. In fact, she is trying to put them out of her head so she can focus on the tasks ahead.

"It's a lot of pressure to be considered one of the best players in the country and one of the best players in the Big East," Batteast said. "There are a lot of expectations but I'm trying not to take those awards as seriously because they're preseason."

"I think if I do what I'm supposed to do and I've reached my goals, there's no stopping this team. Everyone else is ready to step up."



RICHARD FRIEDMAN/The Observer

Batteast and the Irish opened the 2004-05 schedule by scorching Premier Sports in a preseason exhibition game, 84-52.

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McGraw, Irish inching closer to top

If the 2004-05 Irish make a serious run at the national title — and they can — people may look back to a game during the 2003-04 regular season as the starting point.

Against No. 4 Connecticut at the Joyce Center in mid-January, Irish forward Jacqueline Batteast showed the country just how good she could be.

Taking the spotlight away from National Player of the Year Diana Taursi, Batteast poured in bucket after bucket en route to 23 points, 11 rebounds and a crucial block of Taursi that sealed Notre Dame's 66-51 upset victory.

Just like that, Batteast found an intangible asset that makes good players great and great players unstoppable — complete confidence.

With Batteast leading the way, Notre Dame assaulted many of its remaining opponents and turned a 7-6 start into a 21-11 season, culminating with a trip to the Sweet 16 and a near-upset of No. 1 seeded Penn State.

Now, with a confident and dominating player in Batteast — and nearly all of the 2003-04 team returning — Notre Dame knows this year could be very special.

For the Irish to play on the first weekend in April, the team must continue to execute well in

several areas and improve in others from last season.

Batteast must be the best

She was as dominant as any player during the second half of last season. Now, the spotlight shines even brighter on the senior from South Bend. The expectations are sky-high for Batteast, and her team will rely on her during the crucial periods of every game. She is the No. 1 reason this team can be in the Final Four. Other teams will be forced to double-team her, which should free up shots and opportunities for the rest of the Irish.

Winning on the road

The Achilles heel for last season's squad, coach Muffett McGraw has already mentioned winning away from the Joyce Center as a top goal this season.

The Irish are dominant at home — winning 23 straight games — but they couldn't find consistency on the road at all a year ago. There's no excuse for not seeing improvement this season. The Irish are a veteran team, returning players like Teresa Borton, Megan Duffy, Courtney LaVere and Batteast who have all been through the battles. It'd be disappointing for Irish fans if this group couldn't figure out its previous road woes.

Playing aggressively

It's no secret during the past several seasons that Notre Dame has been pushed around in the paint. McGraw has preached to her team about playing more aggressively in terms of rebounding and taking the ball

to the basket. She went out and recruited players like sophomore Crystal Erwin and freshman Melissa D'Amico — two players who aren't afraid to mix it up inside. For the Irish to truly make a title run, Batteast — and to a greater extent LaVere, Borton, Erwin and D'Amico — must play aggressively in the paint.

Already this season, the Irish have shown improvement in this area. Borton banged her way to 13 points and 11 rebounds during Notre Dame's 73-57 victory against Nebraska in the quarterfinals of the preseason Women's National invitation Tournament Nov. 14. Erwin, LaVere and Borton all played aggressively against No. 6 Duke in Notre Dame's upset Wednesday. If the Irish can continue that tough, resilient play for the remainder of the season, they should be a difficult matchup for any opponent.

Freshman contributions

McGraw has to be secretly patting herself on the back for bringing in a group of freshmen that are not only ridiculously talented but also fill the voids Notre Dame had last season.

Tulyah Gaines, Charel Allen and D'Amico should all see quality minutes from the start of the season. Gaines and Allen give Notre Dame two flashy, quick and athletic guards, and both can score and handle the ball. Early this season, Allen has shown an ability to mix it up with the bigger players and find rebounds. She was second on the team with eight against



Irish coach Muffett McGraw has all of the pieces in place this season to have a banner year behind senior Jacqueline Batteast.

Nebraska in the team's second game.

Both Gaines and Allen will also give Duffy some more help in the backcourt. Last season the Irish were thin at the point, with Duffy playing along side graduated senior Le'Tania Severe and only guards Jeneka Joyce and freshman Susie Powers as back-ups.

But with the addition of Gaines and Allen, the Irish have four guards, including a more experienced Powers, who can contribute when needed.

D'Amico has an incredibly soft touch on her jump shot for a 6-foot-5 18-year old. She clogs up the paint, has the ability to knock down the 15-foot jumper and should rebound well thanks to her tall frame and long arms.

Luck of the Irish

Along with those areas, the

Irish will need what every championship team needs — a little luck. This team has the pieces in place. They've filled weak areas from a season ago. They've got the arguably the best player in the nation. And they're experienced, talented and fairly deep at all positions.

It's been four years since McGraw and Notre Dame cut down the nets to celebrate the program's first-ever national title.

If things fall into place this season, the Irish may have their scissors out once again in early April.

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

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THE
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Women's Basketball 2004-05 Preview:

At Their Fingertips

With a potent scorer and a strong supporting cast, the Irish have the weapons to make a run at the national championship



Big East Preseason
Player of the Year
Jacqueline Batteast

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