

THE OBSERVER

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Limits on freedom of religion?



AP
The Ground Zero memorial site remains under construction as the ninth memorial of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks approaches. The proposal for an Islamic center and mosque two blocks from Ground Zero has raised debate on campus.

Students reflect on mosque near Ground Zero

By SARAH MERVOSH
News Editor

Sophomore Kerri Whelan has only seen her dad cry twice — once on Sept. 11, 2001 and another time when he was describing the horrific events he experienced that day.

Whelan's father worked in the World Financial Center and was looking out his office window when the second plane crashed into the World Trade Center.

"He saw people jumping, people on fire," Whelan said. "What he's described to me was immense panic in the city."

Though Whelan was fortunate enough to get through

the attack without losing a loved one, family friends and many of her father's coworkers were not as lucky.

It is her sympathy to those families and reverence for those who lost their lives that makes her uneasy about the proposal for an Islamic center, which would include a mosque, to be built two blocks from Ground Zero.

Whelan said she recognizes that the majority of Muslims are peaceful people, but her concern is about sensitivity to those who lost family or friends in the attacks.

"I'm all for building mosques all across Manhattan. I'm all for religious freedom," she said. "I

see MOSQUE/page 7



AP
Police officers stand guard by protestors near the location for the proposed Islamic cultural center at Ground Zero.

Pep rallies refocused on students



SARAH O'CONNOR/The Observer
Students surf the crowd during the pep rally on Irish Green before last season's USC game.

By MEGAN DOYLE
News Writer

The student body will help launch a new era of pep rallies when it marches down Notre Dame Avenue and into the Irish Green tonight in preparation for the Michigan game Saturday, student body president Catherine Soler said.

"The morale and student perception of pep rallies last year was low and negative," Soler said. "All of us in student government knew that

pep rallies were an important part of life here and wanted to make that a priority this year."

Soler and Bell approached Game Day Operations last spring to present the idea of a student walkover and to emphasize the need for more student-oriented pep rallies, Mike Seamon, director of Game Day Operations said.

Student government teamed up with the Athletic Department, Game Day Operations and Hall

see RALLIES/page 7

University remembers 9/11 attack

By EMILY SCHRANK
News Writer

Saturday marks the ninth anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, and the University community will remember the tragedy that claimed nearly 3,000 lives in a variety of ways throughout the weekend.

Former United States Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge will be on campus today to deliver a lecture titled "A Conversation with Tom Ridge."

Edward Conlon, professor and associate dean in the Mendoza College of Business, said that one of the College's advisory board members, who is also a friend of Ridge,

see 9/11/page 8

Lennon to retire in June

By LAURA MCCRYSTAL
News Editor

Charles "Chuck" Lennon Jr., executive director of the Notre Dame Alumni Association, will retire in June after 30 years in



Lennon

his current role, according to a University press release.

Under Lennon's leadership, the number of Notre Dame clubs

around the world grew from 151 to 276. He earned the Alumni Association a national reputation for its programming, such as those in continuing education, and oversaw the creation of black, Hispanic, Asian-Pacific and Native American alumni groups.

In the last 30 years he worked under three University presidents: Fr. Theodore Hesburgh, Fr. Edward "Monk" Malloy and

see LENNON/page 9

THE OBSERVER

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POLICIES

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

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

Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor-in-Chief Matt Gamber

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Caitlin Housley	Scene
Graphics	Ankur Chawla
Melissa Kaduck	Viewpoint
Photo	Michelle Maitz
Suzanna Pratt	

CORRECTIONS

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT ARE YOUR PREDICTIONS FOR THIS WEEKEND?



Alayna Calabro
junior
Pangborn

“I don’t even know. I’m just excited to be in the question of the day!”



Alexa Craig
junior
Pangborn

“I think we’re going to be in beast mode on Saturday.”



Katie Schwab
sophomore
Holy Cross

“Victory.”



Natalie Achonwa
freshman
Cavanaugh

“Notre Dame will win.”

Have an idea for Question of the Day? E-mail observer.questions@gmail.com



TOM YOUNG/The Observer

The ladies of Welsh Family Hall once again held their Block Party event on South Quad Thursday. The event this year raised funds for Touching Tiny Lives, an organization that provides support to children and families that struggle with HIV/AIDS.

OFFBEAT

Hand-cuffed burglary suspect steals patrol car

SEATTLE — A police officer had his patrol car stolen Thursday by a handcuffed burglary suspect who had been put in the back seat. “It’s very embarrassing for the officer,” police spokeswoman Renee Witt said. “We’re just lucky the shotgun and none of the other equipment was taken.”

The patrol car was abandoned shortly after the suspect took off about 2 a.m. He was recaptured - still in handcuffs - about four hours later near his home in south Seattle. The 33-year-old suspect, who name was not released, had been caught with elec-

tronics during a break-in at Wing Luke Elementary School, police said.

He was cuffed behind his back and placed in the patrol car. He managed to maneuver his hands in front of him then slide through a partition to the front seat of the car while the officer was away for a minute, police said.

Man uses lawn to propose to girlfriend

CHIPPEWA TOWNSHIP, Mich. — Extra water, some fertilizer and a lot of patience was all one Michigan lawn service owner needed to convince his lady to say “I do.”

Tommy Dafoe tells the Morning Sun of Mount

Pleasant that he spelled out “Will U Marry Me” with fertilizer a few weeks ago in the lawn of the home he shares with girlfriend in Chippewa Township, about 120 miles northwest of Detroit.

The 24-year-old Dafoe watered his words more frequently and the fertilizer helped the grass grow greener. When the grass grew long enough, he used a mower to carefully cut around the letters.

Then on Friday, Dafoe asked 25-year-old Kristi Volz how the lawn looked — and got down on one knee.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Roy Robinson, CFO, senior VP of finance and treasurer of Best Buy will be giving a speech **today** in **Jordan Auditorium** of the Mendoza College of Business from **10:40 a.m. to 12:10 p.m.** The speech is part of the **Boardroom Insights Executive Speaker Series**.

Tom Ridge, president and CEO of Ridge Global LLC and former secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security will be giving a lecture **today** in **Jordan Auditorium** at **3:30 p.m.** The lecture is free and open to the public.

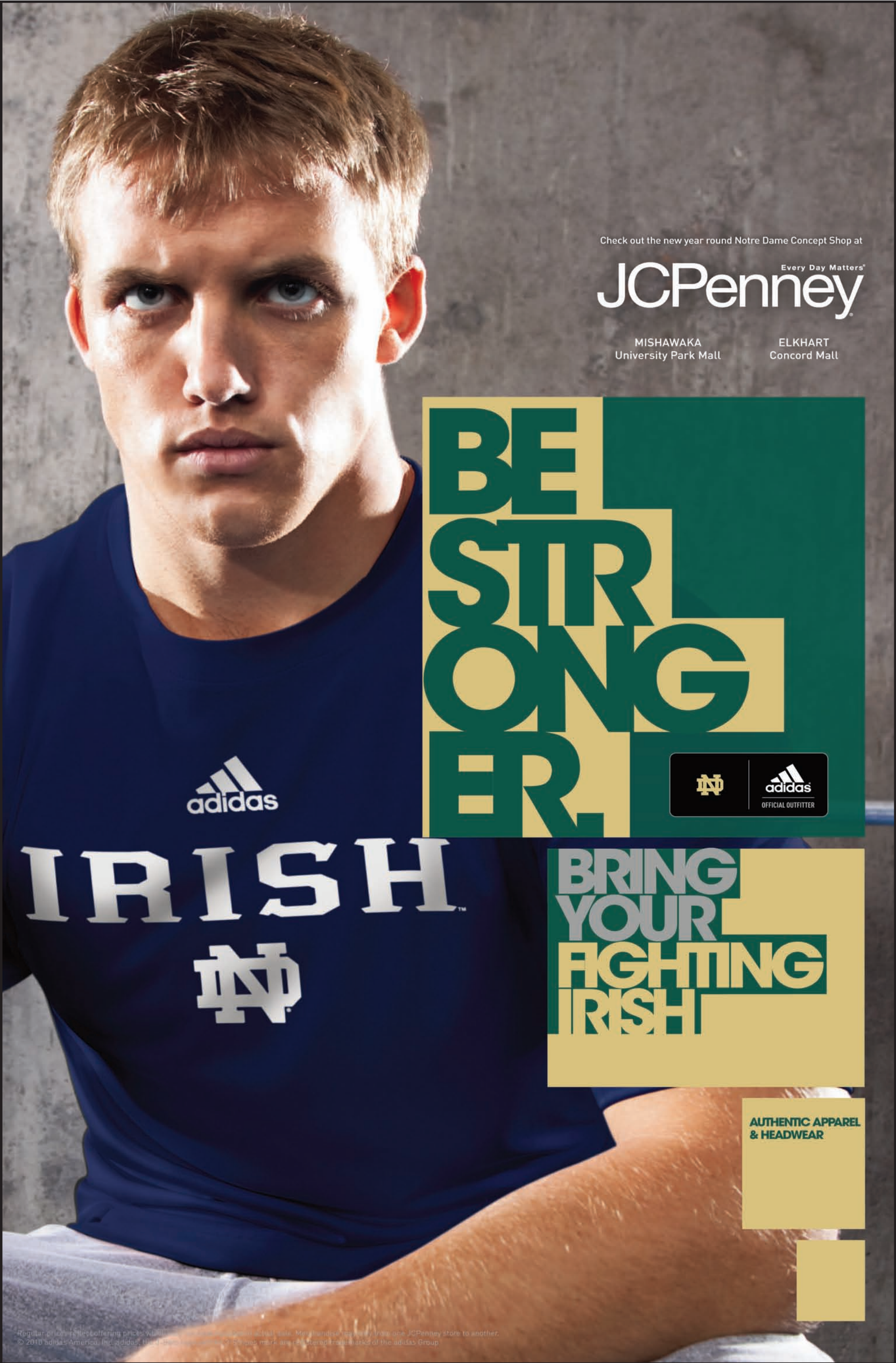
The College of Arts and Letters will present its **Saturday Scholar Series: “Religion and American Public Life: The 50th Anniversary of JFK’s Houston Speech on the Separation of Church and State”** on **Saturday** at **noon**. The event will include a discussion with some Notre Dame faculty. Faculty, students, staff and public welcome.

David Bennett of the Department of Physics will present the **Saturday Science Exploration Series: “The Search for Extra-Solar Planets and Signs of Extraterrestrial Life”** on **Saturday** at **1 p.m.** The event will take place in room 101 of the **Jordan Hall of Science**.

The exhibit **“Documenting History, Charting Progress and Exploring the World”** will be shown **Sunday** from **1 to 5 p.m.** in the **Snite Museum of Art**. Faculty, students, staff and public are welcome to attend.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	GAME DAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 75 LOW 71	HIGH 62 LOW 58	HIGH 67 LOW 58	HIGH 72 LOW 58	HIGH 74 LOW 54	HIGH 63 LOW 50



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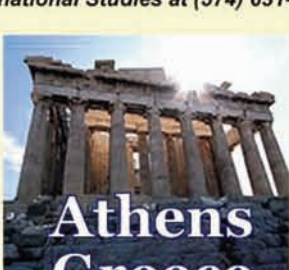
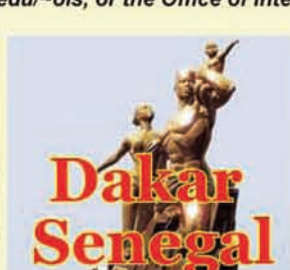
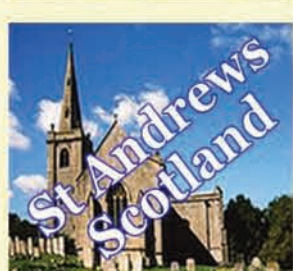
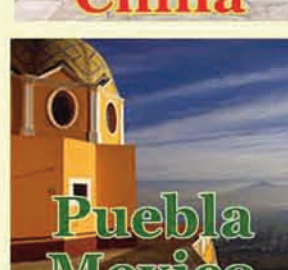
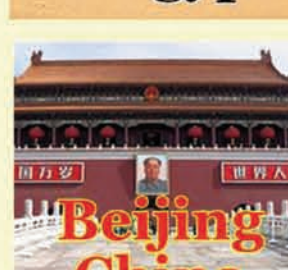
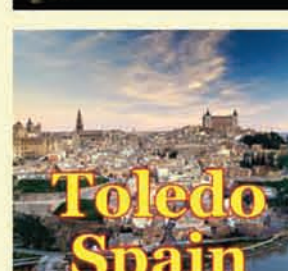
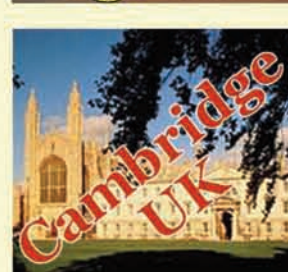
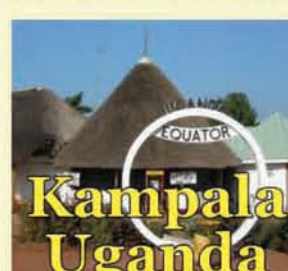
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Office of International Studies Information Sessions



ANGERS, France	September 15, 2010	5:30 p.m.	Montgomery Auditorium, LaFortune
	October 13, 2010	7:00 p.m.	129 Hayes-Healy Center
ATHENS, Greece	September 30, 2010	5:30 p.m.	117 DeBartolo Hall
BEIJING, China	September 22, 2010	7:00 p.m.	129 Hayes-Healy Center
	October 6, 2010	5:30 p.m.	127 Hayes-Healy Center
BERLIN, Germany	October 5, 2010	6:00 p.m.	127 Hayes-Healy Center
	October 13, 2010	6:00 p.m.	125 Hayes-Healy Center
BOLOGNA, Italy	September 22, 2010	5:30 p.m.	125 Hayes-Healy Center
	September 28, 2010	5:30 p.m.	125 Hayes-Healy Center
	September 27, 2010	7:00 p.m.	116 DeBartolo Hall
CAIRO, Egypt	By Invitation		
CAMBRIDGE, U.K.	September 28, 2010	5:30 p.m.	117 DeBartolo Hall
NEW DAKAR, Senegal	October 4, 2010	5:30 p.m.	116 DeBartolo Hall
DUBLIN, Ireland	September 22, 2010	6:00 p.m.	141 DeBartolo Hall
	October 7, 2010	6:30 p.m.	127 Hayes-Healy Center
	October 12, 2010	6:30 p.m.	127 Hayes-Healy Center
FREMANTLE, Australia	September 27, 2010	5:30 p.m.	136 DeBartolo Hall
HONG KONG, China	September 22, 2010	7:00 p.m.	129 Hayes-Healy Center
	October 6, 2010	5:30 p.m.	127 Hayes-Healy Center
JERUSALEM Summer	September 27, 2010	5:30 p.m.	207 DeBartolo Hall
	October 5, 2010	7:00 p.m.	117 DeBartolo Hall
KAMPALA, Uganda	October 5, 2010	5:30 p.m.	207 DeBartolo Hall
LEUVEN, Belgium	Contact OIS Office:	ois@nd.edu	(574) 631-5882
LONDON, U.K.	September 21, 2010	6:30 p.m.	101 DeBartolo Hall
	October 27, 2010	5:30 p.m.	127 Hayes-Healy Center
NAGOYA, Japan	September 22, 2010	5:30 p.m.	129 Hayes-Healy Center
	October 6, 2010	7:00 p.m.	127 Hayes-Healy Center
OXFORD, England	By Invitation		
PARIS, France	September 30, 2010	5:30 p.m.	116 DeBartolo Hall
	October 11, 2010	5:30 p.m.	119 DeBartolo Hall
PERTH, Australia	September 28, 2010	5:30 p.m.	127 Hayes-Healy Center
PUEBLA, Mexico	September 23, 2010	7:00 p.m.	141 DeBartolo Hall
ROME, Italy	September 22, 2010	5:30 p.m.	116 DeBartolo Hall
	September 28, 2010	5:30 p.m.	120 DeBartolo Hall
ROME, Italy (Classics)	September 29, 2010	4:00 p.m.	Hammes Lounge, Coleman-Morse
RUSSIA Programs	Contact OIS Office:	ois@nd.edu	(574) 631-5882
NEW SAINT ANDREWS, U.K.	September 29, 2010	6:00 p.m.	Hesburgh Library, 7th Floor, Medieval Studies
SALVADOR DA BAHIA, Brazil	September 23, 2010	7:00 p.m.	141 DeBartolo Hall
SANTIAGO, Chile	September 23, 2010	7:00 p.m.	141 DeBartolo Hall
SAO PAULO, Brazil	September 22, 2010	7:00 p.m.	129 Hayes-Healy Center
SHANGHAI, China	October 6, 2010	5:30 p.m.	127 Hayes-Healy Center
	September 22, 2010	5:30 p.m.	129 Hayes-Healy Center
TOKYO, Japan	October 6, 2010	7:00 p.m.	127 Hayes-Healy Center
	September 23, 2010	7:00 p.m.	141 DeBartolo Hall
TOLEDO, Spain	September 20, 2010	5:30 p.m.	120 DeBartolo Hall
WASHINGTON, D.C.	October 5, 2010	5:30 p.m.	117 DeBartolo Hall



September Information Sessions

September 15, 2010	Angers
September 20, 2010	Washington, D.C.
September 21, 2010	London
September 22, 2010	Beijing, Bologna, Dublin, Hong Kong, Nagoya, Rome, Shanghai, Tokyo
September 23, 2010	Puebla, Salvador da Bahia, Santiago, São Paulo, Toledo
September 27, 2010	Cairo, Fremantle, Jerusalem
September 28, 2010	Bologna, Dakar, Perth, Rome
September 29, 2010	Rome (Classics), Saint Andrews
September 30, 2010	Athens, Paris

All Information Sessions are subject to change in date, time, and location. Refer to posted flyers, the Calendar page at www.nd.edu/~ois, or the Office of International Studies at (574) 631-5882 for updates.

SMC objects to violence

New office will raise awareness about abuse against women

By ALICIA SMITH
Associate Saint Mary's Editor

In 2009, Saint Mary's College received a three-year grant valued at \$299,893 from the U.S. Department Justice's Office on Violence Against Women, which the College used to create Bells Against Violence Office (BAVO), a program that addresses the various forms of violence women may encounter. According to Assistant Director for BAVO Connie Adams, the program strives to educate women about violence. "The aim of the Belles Against Violence Office is to increase the College's capacity to appropriately and effectively respond to violence students might experience and head off future incidents by educating students on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking," Adams said. Adams said one in every six women will be sexually assaulted during their lifetime, and college-aged

women are four times more likely to be sexually assaulted. Adams said BAVO concentrates on the issues of sexual assault, relationship violence and stalking in a three-part method. "Professional staff provide support and advocacy for students in a confidential environment," Adams said. "Students who experience violence or abuse are able to find a listening ear and discuss options and resources with BAVO staff." According to Adams, BAVO strives to educate women about these issues. "Events are offered throughout the year to raise awareness of violence against women issues and provide opportunities for students to take a stand against violence and abuse," she said.

BAVO will also provide training opportunities for students to learn how to handle violent situations that may arise in their lives. "With the aim to enhance the response of the Saint Mary's College community to violence and abuse, training sessions are offered to students, staff and faculty," Adams said. On Sept. 2, BAVO hosted a kick-off event where over 100 students had the opportunity to decorate t-shirts to take a "stand against violence." "BAVO also plans to start one-day training sessions that will provide an opportunity for students to find actions which they can realistically incorporate into their lives," Adams said. Adams said students should contact BAVO directly for more information at 574-284-4081 or BellesAgainstViolence@saintmarys.edu.

"Events are offered throughout the year to raise awareness of violence against women issues and provide opportunities for students to take a stand against violence and abuse."

Connie Adams
Assistant Director
BAVO

"Students who experience violence or abuse are able to find a listening ear and discuss options and resources with BAVO staff."

Connie Adams
Assistant Director
BAVO

Contact Alicia Smith at
asmith01@saintmarys.edu

Saint Mary's alumnae share stories of success

By BRIANNE CARROLL
News Writer

The Saint Mary's Alumnae Board of Directors collaborated Thursday evening at the Student Center for the unveiling of a yearlong project, which aims to create a sense of unity among students and alumnae of Saint Mary's College. The project, called "One Book, One Saint Mary's," invites the Saint Mary's alumnae, students, faculty, and staff to read and discuss Nicole Krauss' novel, "The History of Love." The event has received positive feedback with nearly 900 students and alumnae joining the Facebook group of the same name. Thursday night's event also included a seminar for juniors and seniors put on by the Alumnae Board. The seminar focused on giving the girls professional advice for obtaining a successful career after graduation from the College. "I went into the seminar hoping to have a better feel for the application and interviewing process in the professional world," junior Bridget Meade said. Alumnae sat down with the students for an advice session about the job search process and post-graduate opportunities. Afterwards, the girls broke off into small group sessions where alumnae members facilitated discussions regarding entrepreneurship, career paths, graduate school, resume skills and interview

etiquette. The alumnae who spoke at the seminar stressed the importance of pursuing a career by building relationships with companies, thinking strategically, being creative and being willing to take risks. "It was great conversing with successful, professional Saint Mary's graduates. They were not only great examples for current students, but also great mentors," Meade said. Meade said the alumnae also addressed the girls' fears about their undecided future or not knowing what career path to pursue at the present time. "They were so friendly, helpful and also encouraging of the fact that we may not know exactly what we want to do right at this moment," Meade said. "Some of the women that spoke to us ended up in careers completely different from what they intended as college graduates — that was definitely comforting." With just under 100 students in attendance, Meade said the event was a success, and she left with a renewed sense of motivation. "I definitely feel more prepared for the professional world," she said. "It's much less frightening knowing we have such great alumnae to help us." To learn more about upcoming events visit www.saintmarys.edu/alumnae-friends or join the Facebook group "One Book, One Saint Mary's."

Contact Brianne Carrol at
bcarro01@saintmarys.edu

STUDENTS

Transportation Services will be offering two Driver Training Sessions in September.

If you have not attended a Driver Training session conducted by Transportation Services, and you plan on driving a University owned, leased, or rented vehicle, you must attend a Driver Training session BEFORE you operate a vehicle.

Sessions will be held on Sunday, September 12th and Sunday, September 19th, at 7:00pm in Geddes Hall (CSC Building) in B001 Andrews Auditorium.

The sessions will last approximately 45 minutes.

Please bring your driver's license and a pen.

Transportation Services rents vehicles to students, faculty, and staff who are in need of transportation while on official University business.

See our website at: transportation.nd.edu

If you have any questions on the Driver Training sessions or the Motor Pool you may contact Transportation Services at 631-6467

Green is my favorite color.

Please recycle me.

'Rent-a-text' becomes a bookstore reality

Student body president's idea for book borrow is implemented; meets students' need for more affordable books.

By JOHN CAMERON
News Writer

One of the primary platforms student body president Catherine Soler ran on last year was a planned "Rent-a-text" program, which became a reality for students at the beginning of this semester.

A follow-up survey distributed to users in the Notre Dame Hammes Bookstore indicated the program was a success in helping students meet their textbook

needs at a more affordable price, but the surveys also showed that students believed the number of titles available to rent could be expanded.

"Overall we found that students said they would rent more books if they could, if there were more titles available, which was something we expected to be a problem," Andrew Bell, student body vice president, said. "Going in, that was one of our biggest concerns, that the number would be too low to keep the program

sustainable. Not from a business standpoint, but in the eyes of the students."

Currently, 35 percent of the textbooks at the Bookstore can be rented. Despite a large portion of titles not being included in the program, Notre Dame's renting program contains the eighth highest volume of any university bookstore in the nation.

Bell said the reason more titles aren't available for rent is because professors were uncertain of whether the program would be a success, so many did not to commit to in the program's debut semester.

"For a textbook to be rentable, it has to be used for a certain number of semesters," Bell said. "Professors wouldn't just switch over to a program and commit to a book if they weren't sure the program would work."

While Bell's primary goal is getting more professors participating in the program, he said the priority remains providing students with the best academic resources and overall education.

"Professors wouldn't just switch over to a program and commit to a book if they weren't sure the program would work."

Andrew Bell
student body
vice president



SARAH O'CONNOR/The Observer

Students gather around the rental table to print their schedules and register for the new "Rent-a-Text" program offered at the Hammes Bookstore. Rentals began at the start of this semester.

"We're going to collaborate [with the Bookstore] to encourage professors to consider rentable textbooks," he said. "By no means do we want them to consider books that would lower the academic quality of the class, that wouldn't be worth it."

In addition to the original paper survey, an electronic survey will soon be sent to the stu-

dent body in an e-mail. Bell said student government and the Bookstore are continuing to seek student feedback to further improve the program.

"We're still open to input on things that worked, but especially to things that didn't," he said. "We want to make it better and take steps toward providing cheaper textbooks, and we think this is one of the great new

ways we've found to do that."

Bell considers the Rent-a-text program an imperfect success and a work-in-progress.

"It was an achievement getting it into the bookstore, but it is by no means the end of our involvement in the program," Bell said.

Contact John Cameron at
jcamero2@nd.edu

A different game plan for autumn weekends from the College of Arts and Letters

You are invited to experience an intimate discussion with Notre Dame's most engaging faculty speakers on some of the most pressing and fascinating issues of our times.

Free and open to the public. No tickets required.



"Religion and American Public Life: The 50th Anniversary of JFK's Houston Speech on the Separation of Church and State"

Richard Garnett
Professor, Law School

Cathleen Kaveny
John P. Murphy Foundation
Professor of Law, Law School

John T. McGreevy
Professor, Department of History;
Dean, College of Arts and Letters

Vincent Phillip Munoz
Associate Professor,
Department of Political Science

Michael Zuckert
Nancy Reeves Dreux
Professor of Political Science,
Department of Political Science



12 Noon
Saturday, September 11, 2010
Annenberg Auditorium
Snite Museum of Art

September 12, 2010, marks the 50th anniversary of Senator John F. Kennedy's famous speech to the Houston Ministerial Association on the separation of church and state. This Saturday Scholars panel brings together some of the University's leading experts on religion and American politics to reflect upon the legacy of this speech by the man who would become America's first Roman Catholic president.

SATURDAY SCHOLAR SERIES

FALL 2010 SCHEDULE

- 📅 **9.4.10 (vs. Purdue University)**
"Plagiarism and College Culture"
Susan Blum, Professor, Department of Anthropology
- 📅 **9.11.10 (vs. University of Michigan)**
"Religion and American Public Life: The 50th Anniversary of JFK's Houston Speech on the Separation of Church and State"
Richard Garnett, Professor, Law School
Cathleen Kaveny, John P. Murphy Foundation
Professor of Law, Law School
John McGreevy, Professor, Department of History;
Dean, College of Arts and Letters
Vincent Phillip Munoz, Associate Professor,
Department of Political Science
Michael Zuckert, Nancy Reeves Dreux
Professor of Political Science,
Department of Political Science
- 📅 **9.25.10 (vs. Stanford University)**
"Mercifully Eradicating the Irish: The Strange Case of Lord Macaulay"
Robert Sullivan, Associate Professor, Department of History
- 📅 **10.9.10 (vs. University of Pittsburgh)**
"American Politics at the Breaking Point"
Robert Schmuhl, Walter H. Annenberg-Edmund P. Joyce Professor of American Studies and Journalism, Department of American Studies
- 📅 **10.16.10 (vs. Western Michigan University)**
"The Rise of the Ku Klux Klan: Enduring Consequences of Extremism"
Rory McVeigh, Professor and Chairperson, Department of Sociology
- 📅 **10.30.10 (vs. University of Tulsa)**
"Tradition and Identity in Contemporary Church Music: Three Case Studies"
Margot Fassler, Keough-Hesburgh Professor of
Music History and Liturgy, Department of Theology
- 📅 **11.13.10 (vs. University of Utah)**
"What Race Is, and What It Is Not: Why This Is Important"
Agustín Fuentes, Professor, Department of Anthropology



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saturdayscholar.nd.edu.

Rallies

continued from page 1

Presidents' Council (HPC) to coordinate pep rally changes, Soler said.

"The groups that are our biggest focus are the team and the student body," Seamon said. "With a new coach and a new era starting, we thought it was a perfect time to reengage the student body."

Seamon said the walkover could be the "newest Notre Dame student tradition."

"We wanted to make students a bigger focus of the pep rallies," Seamon said. "What a better way to do that than announce their arrival and have them march down the avenue into a huge reserved space for them?"

The University will close Notre Dame Avenue for 15 minutes while the student body follows a procession consisting of the Notre Dame Security Police, the Notre Dame Fire Department, the cheerleading and pom squads, the leprechaun and the marching band into a designated student section next to the stage at Irish Green, Seamon said.

"We are very excited about the idea of the walkover," Bell said. "It will eliminate dorms just standing around with a huge group of alumni waiting for the pep rally to start."

Bell said pep rallies should be a time for the students and the football team to share their enthusiasm about the upcoming game.

"Residence halls have a huge role in the success of the pep

rally because of the walkovers when they coordinate students going to the pep rallies," Bell said.

HPC co-chairs Alexa Doyle and Mike Oliver said the student body powers the football team's spirit during the season.

"When the team comes to the pep rally and see thousands of students there, they will be electrified," Oliver said. "They will see how much the students are behind them."

"With a new coach and a new era starting, we thought it was the perfect time to reengage the student body."

Mike Seamon
Game Day Operations
director

A priority for the pep rallies should be bringing the team and the student body together before the game, Oliver said.

"We are trying to reinforce the relationship between students and the football program that makes Notre Dame so special," Soler said.

HPC arranged a competition for the most spirited residence hall during each pep rally. As an extra incentive, the winning hall will win a visit from head coach Brian Kelly.

Seamon said Kelly was excited about the new attitude about pep rallies from the start of the discussions between the football team, Game Day Operations and the Athletics Department.

"Coach Kelly totally gets Notre Dame," he said. "His enthusiasm is contagious, and

"We are trying to reinforce the relationship between students and the football program that makes Notre Dame so special."

Catherine Soler
student body president

it rubs off on everybody."

Kelly will host each pep rally in order to deliver his message from the week of practice, and to take the entire team before the student body to introduce the captains to the fans, Seamon said.

This year's pep rallies will be "short but with high intensity and lots of spirit," Soler said.

"We made sure pep rallies will have no lag time now," Doyle said. "When the students arrive the pep rally will start."

The first pep rallies of the year will be hosted in a number of different locations including Irish Green, the Purcell Pavilion and Stepan Center to test the benefits and drawbacks of different campus venues, Bell said.

"This is the year where students can prove which pep rally locations they like the most so we hope students embrace this chance," Bell said. "It will be hard to persuade those involved in planning the pep rally to go to a certain location if there was not a huge student showing."

Seamon said 25 to 30 thousand fans are expected for the Michigan pep rally.

"We were very pleased with the opportunity given to us by the athletic department in hearing our ideas for restructuring," Bell said. "We appreciate their openness."

Soler said the student walkover will begin at 5:45 p.m. from Main Circle.

Contact Megan Doyle at
mdoyle11@nd.edu

Mosque

continued from page 1

think they have every right to practice their religion. I just don't know why it has to be two blocks [away from Ground Zero.]"

Mahan Mirza, assistant professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies, said the Muslims proposing the center are not foreigners. They are people

who have been members of the community for years and people who were also victims of the terrorist attacks, he said.

"There is this idea that Muslims are foreigners and they are the 'other' and they are a collective somehow attacked us," he said. "To pose it as 'they attacked us' and 'we the victims reject this' is inaccurate. They are also the victims and

they are also us. They are also the residents of the city." John McGreevy, dean of the College of Arts and Letters, was one of two faculty members who contributed a blog entry to The New York Review of Books regarding the mosque controversy.

McGreevy and Scott Appleby, director of the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, compared current fears of Muslims to fears of Catholics in the 19th century.

"That they were anti-demo-

cratic, that they didn't believe in American liberty," McGreevy said. "In fact, over time, that proved not to be the case and I think that's what will happen for Muslims as well."

He also said Americans in the 19th century had a misunderstanding of the way Catholic nuns dressed — one that's similar to the views some Americans now have of Muslim women.

"Some people in the 19th century looked at the way nuns dressed and said, 'Wow, that's strange and bizarre and women shouldn't be wearing those clothes and why are they so covered?' he said. "[Now,] most people are understanding of Catholic religious women who want to dress that way and I think over time that's what will happen with Muslims."

McGreevy said Muslims should be able to exert their religious freedom, just as Catholics did two centuries ago.

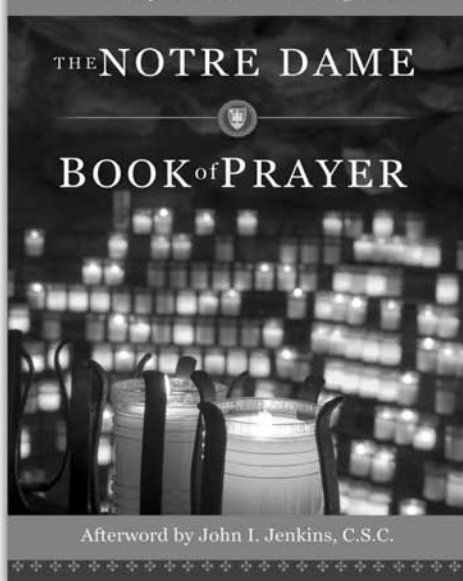
"It is a sensitive issue. I wouldn't deny that," he said. "But in the end I think we do more to honor the best American traditions by permitting the mosque than we do by forbidding it and stigmatizing Islam in a way that's just not necessary."

Contact Sarah Mervosh at
smervosh@nd.edu

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Afterword by John I. Jenkins, C.S.C.

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In a Aug. 10, 2010 file photo, Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, center, fights for an Islamic center and mosque near Ground Zero.

9/11

continued from page 1

approached Conlon and the other deans about having the former secretary speak during this nationally significant weekend.

"He indicated that he may be able to convince the secretary to come to Notre Dame for the weekend of the ninth anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, and wanted to know if the Mendoza College would be interested in hosting him," Conlon said. "Obviously, we were."

Conlon said Ridge plans to discuss his observations on how the United States has responded to the terrorist threat since 9/11. Conlon also expects Ridge will give his opinion about how he thinks the future of the United States and terrorism will unfold.

"We have asked Secretary Ridge to comment on how the threat of terrorism has impacted the economic institutions of the world, including markets and businesses," Conlon said.

There will be a question and answer session after Ridge speaks, Conlon said.

"It is truly a great opportunity for the Notre Dame community to hear Secretary Ridge's thoughts on the past, present and future of homeland security," he said. "As the first director of Homeland Security, he has a unique and well-honed perspective on the challenges we will all face in minimizing the effect that terrorism has on the way we all live our lives."

Ridge will also be recognized at the football game against Michigan Saturday.

"Secretary Ridge will stand with [University President Fr. Jenkins], be introduced to the crowd and hand our national colors to the individuals involved in the flag presentation ceremony," University spokesman Dennis Brown said.

Additionally, the Notre Dame football team will remember the anniversary of the terrorist attacks by wearing shirts with a red, white and blue interlocking ND during their early warm-ups, Brown said.

"The Army Black Daggers parachute team will bring the American flag and the game ball into the stadium in a pregame ceremony," Brown said. "We will also observe a moment of silence to be followed by a prayer by Fr. Jenkins."

Many students do not need a special ceremony to remember the tragic events that shook the country nine years ago.

"I'm from New York and knew lots who lost loved ones on 9/11," student body president Catherine Soler said. "It's definitely something that still hits home for me."

Contact Emily Schrank at eschrank@nd.edu



Observer File Photo

Members of the ROTC program honor victims of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 during a 2006 memorial.

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Recycle
The
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Lennon

continued from page 1

Fr. John Jenkins.

“Chuck Lennon embodies the spirit of Notre Dame,” Jenkins said in the press release. “As a student, athlete, alumnus, coach, administrator, and, since 1981, as the leader of one of the most extraordinary alumni associations in the nation, that spirit animates everything he does.”

Lennon earned a bachelor’s degree from Notre Dame in 1961 and a master’s degree in guidance and counseling in 1962. As an undergraduate, he played three seasons of baseball and earned a monogram. From 1961 to 1966, he worked for the University’s Athletic Department as an assistant basketball and baseball coach and an assistant ticket manager. He was also the University’s coordinator of research and sponsored programs for two years.

Outside the University, Lennon held many positions South Bend community before he began his work with the Alumni Association. He was executive director of local agencies, includ-

ing the Mental Health Association of St. Joseph County, the South Bend Model Cities Program, the Community Development Agency, the Department of Redevelopment and the Housing Allowance office.

From 1978 to 1981, he was president of the St. Joseph Insurance Agency, and was a member of the South Bend Community School Corporation Board of Trustees for 13 years.

In 1991, Lennon became assistant vice president of University Relations in addition to his role with the Alumni Association. He was promoted to associate vice president in 1999.

Lennon taught management at Notre Dame’s Mendoza College of Business for both graduate and undergraduate students.

As executive director, Lennon expanded the involvement of women, senior, young and international alumni within the Alumni Association. He also helped establish the Association’s Hesburgh Lecture Series and Excellence in Teaching program and created a career development program for graduates.

Most recently, he led the Alumni Association’s growth on the Internet through programs

such as the Pray@ND website and Irish Online, an alumni networking forum.

During his time with the Alumni Association, Lennon received several awards for his commitment to the University, including the Alumni Association’s Armstrong Award in 1989 and the Notre Dame Presidential award in 1993. The student body presented him with the Irish Clover Award in 1992. In 2001, he received the Professional Development Award for Mentoring Minorities from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

“His life is one of loving service to Notre Dame,” Jenkins said. “We will miss his leadership, insight and infectious enthusiasm but wish him the very best in this next stage in his life.”

Lennon and his wife Joan have five children and 16 grandchildren. Three of their children graduated from Notre Dame.

According to the press release, Lou Nanni, vice president for University Relations, will conduct a national search to fill Lennon’s position.

Contact Laura McCrystal at lmccryst@nd.edu



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Associated Press

He also blamed activist groups, including the Revolutionary Communist Party, for co-opting peaceful vigils and inciting violent protests. Attempts to reach an RCP spokesman were not immediately successful.

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Embryonic stem cell funding allowed for now

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The government may resume funding of embryonic stem cell research for now, an appeals court said Thursday, but the short-term approval may be of little help to research scientists caught in a legal battle that has just begun.

It is far from certain that scientists actually will continue to get federal money as they struggle to decide what to do with research that is hard to start and stop.

After U.S. District Court Judge Royce Lamberth issued a preliminary order barring the funding on Aug. 23, the National Institutes of Health suspended work on funding new research projects on embryonic stem cells. While NIH didn't immediately comment Thursday on the temporary stay from the appeals court, the government's process for approving these grants is unlikely to resume before a final court resolution.

With appeals, that could be many months off.

"No way this would be a scientific reprieve," said Patrick Clemons of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Scientists who already have received taxpayer money for stem cell experiments can continue their work until their dollars run out, but 22 projects that were due to get yearly checks in September were told after Lamberth's order that they'd have to find other money. Most of the researchers have multiple sources of funding and are working now to separate

what they can and can't continue, Clemons said.

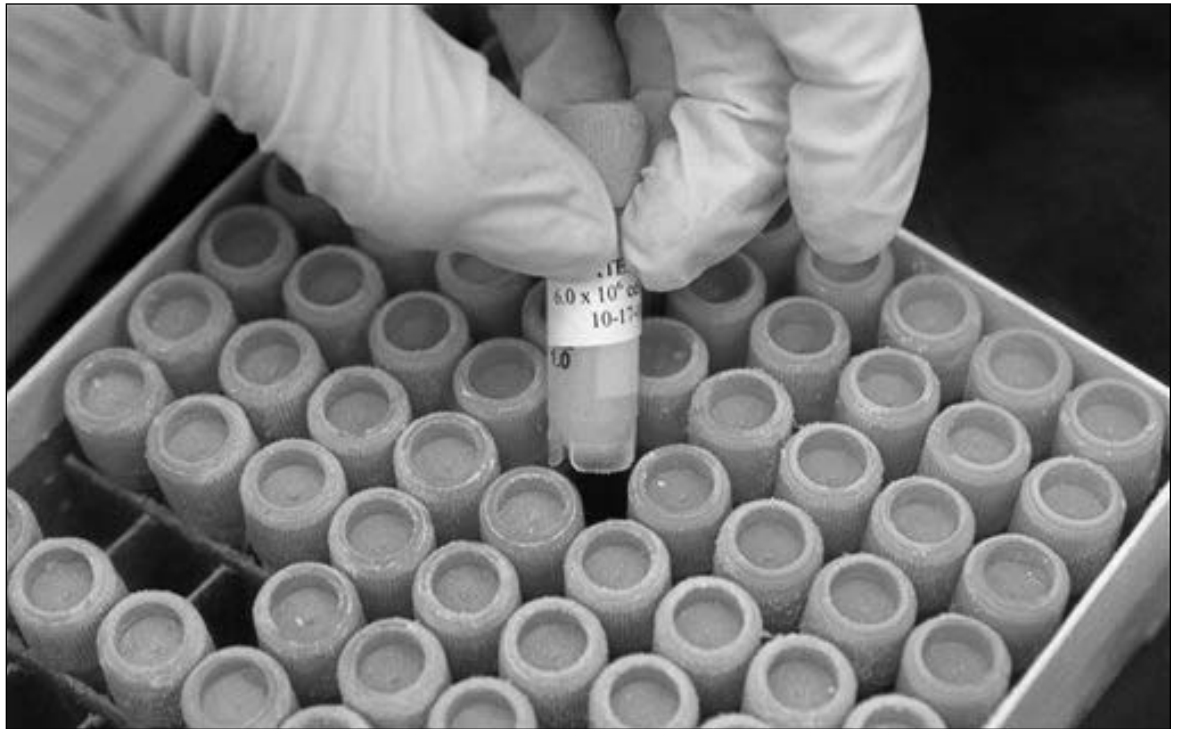
Medical researchers value stem cells because they are master cells that can turn into any tissue of the body. Research eventually could lead to cures for spinal cord injuries, Parkinson's disease and other ailments, they believe.

The Obama administration is asking the appeals court in Washington to strike down a preliminary injunction by Lamberth that blocked the funding. Lamberth left little doubt that he is inclined to issue a final order barring that funding, but he has yet to issue that ruling, which inevitably will set off a new round of appeals.

Lamberth concluded that those who challenged the government support had demonstrated a strong likelihood of success in their lawsuit. He said the clear intent of a law passed by Congress was to prohibit federal spending on research in which a human embryo is destroyed.

Steven H. Aden, senior legal counsel for the Alliance Defense Fund, which is involved with that lawsuit, said after Thursday's action, "The American people should not be forced to pay for even one more day of experiments that destroy human life, have produced no real-world treatments and violate an existing federal law."

Lamberth rejected the administration's request to let funding continue while it appealed his preliminary order, but the three-member appeals panel disagreed on Thursday. It is suspending



In this Oct. 22, 2008, file photo, a research associate pulls a frozen vial of human embryonic stem cells at the University of Michigan.

Lamberth's ruling for now.

The appeals judges pointedly cautioned that their three-paragraph order "should not be construed in any way as a ruling on the merits."

"Nothing has really changed, because all issues are still out there and still unresolved," said Dr. Norman Fost, director of the bioethics program at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, who was on the National Academy of Sciences committee that wrote the first

national guidelines on embryonic human stem cells.

Samuel B. Casey, part of the legal team representing those who filed the lawsuit, said, "We expect that when the court of appeals reviews the merits of the case, it will agree with the logic that led Judge Lamberth to issue the preliminary injunction."

He added, "We remain confident in our case against the unlawful, unethical and unnecessary federal funding of experimentation on human embryos."

Justice Department spokesman Charles Miller said the appeals court order "will allow this important, lifesaving research to continue while we present further arguments to the court in the weeks to come."

John Robertson, a University of Texas professor who specializes in law and bioethics, said Thursday's appeals court order doesn't relieve researchers working on multiyear projects of the uncertainty of whether there will be funding beyond this year.

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INSIDE COLUMN

Saint Mary's parking

To park or not to park; that is the question.

So far, I have been able to keep my record clean. No silly mistakes in high school, or instances of being in the wrong place at the wrong time. And, I hope to continue this tradition throughout my life.

This may make me sound slightly boring, or like I don't take risks, but I do try to live on the edge. However, for the sake of the future job

hunt, I try not to fall off the cliff.

There will be one thing though, tarnishing my good name when I leave Saint Mary's, and that is my inability to master the art of parking on this campus.

I have read intricate texts on marketing and sat through physics classes and grasped what was being taught. However, trying to memorize and put into the practice the contents of the Saint Mary's parking brochure has proven too difficult.

I will take to my grave a myriad of infractions, including the recent lack of the hangtag necessary to grace the College's lots as an off-campus senior.

So, even after three years of going to class, living and breathing Saint Mary's, I am apparently not welcome to park four rubber tires on its asphalt without a tiny parking pass.

I sound bitter, but honestly I do understand the reasoning. It's for safety precautions among other things. That way when suspicious cars are on campus, security will know the difference.

The problem is, I still don't know the safe place to park. (At least that's what I like to tell myself.)

I suppose the real purpose of this column is a search for camaraderie.

I know most of the women here at Saint Mary's have been weighed down with groceries on a 30 degree night and all you want to do is park a few feet closer. But, alas, the back two rows of Regina are full and you are banished to Angela. Or, if you're like me, you park anyway and pay the price in the morning.

I realize, short of paving over alumni green, there isn't a whole lot that can be done about the issue. However, a little flexibility would be nice.

I wanted to go off campus so I could have a kitchen and the washer and dryer are nice, but honestly, one of the things my roommate and I rave about most, is the fact that at the end of the day or a trip to the grocery, we get to park seven feet from our door.

I love Saint Mary's, the classes, the buildings. I love everything about the place.

There is only one thing left that would make it perfect; valet parking. I'm sure there are plenty of Belles out there who agree with me.

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

Contact Ashley Charnley at acharn01@saintmarys.edu



Ashley Charnley

Saint Mary's
Editor

Building positive momentum at the Michigan game

It's safe to say that Notre Dame fans and students have entered each of the past three seasons with at least moderately high hopes for the Irish football team. Eternal optimism, even in the face of mediocre seasons, has become one of the hallmarks of Notre Dame fandom.

The past few years, though, that optimism has come crashing back down in the form of underachieving teams.

It's gotten to the point where even that famous Notre Dame optimism was slightly tempered entering this season. Questions abounded about how new coach Brian Kelly would adapt his style, and even the most hopeful pundits penciled in the Irish for only eight or nine wins. Lou Holtz didn't even predict Notre Dame to go to the national championship game this year.

However, after a convincing, if not overpowering, win against Purdue in the opener, the hope and optimism is starting to permeate campus once again. Even if the team hasn't completely adapted to Kelly's system yet, the pieces are clearly in place.

Most have adopted a "wait and see" approach with regard to Kelly, but what he showed on Saturday demonstrated that maybe, just maybe, Notre Dame finally got this coaching hire right.

Of course, it's only one game. Brian Kelly will define his legacy at Notre Dame on a week-to-week basis, and this week's Michigan game is just another stepping stone.

Players and coaches have been talking about remaining on an even keel, and that the game against the Wolverines is just another game. No matter what they say, though, emotions will certainly be running high on Saturday. Those in the stands will remember the feeling of thrashing Michigan in the pouring rain in 2008, and the heartbreak of a last-second loss a season ago.

A loss against the Wolverines would not doom Notre Dame's season, just as a victory, no matter how decisive, would not secure the Irish a spot in a BCS bowl game. What the Irish do have a chance to do Saturday is build on the positive momentum they created against the Boilermakers.

As the student body chanted Kelly's name after the win, it was clear that the new regime has bought a certain amount of good faith. There is a difference, however, between a win against Purdue — an in-state rival, but a team that the Irish have beaten regularly in the recent past — and a victory over Michigan, arguably Notre Dame's second biggest rival. The Wolverines looked just as impressive in their first game, and have the talent to be a nationally ranked team.

With both teams knocking on the door, it's likely that Saturday's winner will wind up ranked in the top 25. If that team turns out to be the Irish, that will be just another step in the long process of turning eternal hope into tangible results.

THE OBSERVER Editorial

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Keenan is worthy

As a proud alumnus of Keenan Hall, Class of 1990, I would like to respond to Mr. Nathaniel Gotcher's letter (Sept. 7, "Stanford and Keenan") suggesting that Keenan Hall (and Stanford Hall) are not worthy of renovation.

His letter suggests that these reinforced concrete structures were meant to temporary and not built to last. He apparently bases this argument on the fact that they needed new windows and are therefore not sustainable. Yet, all the buildings he mentions in the immediate vicinity that meet his standards of acceptability have had their windows replaced and plenty of other renovations done to them. In fact, even our cherished Main Building has had significant renovations to it over the years.

If Mr. Gotcher believes that sustainable means that regular upkeep and maintenance is not required, he has a lot to learn about architecture and how buildings are put together. Mr. Gotcher suggests that a dorm should be easily navigable, sturdy and pleasing on the eyes. Keenan (and Stanford) certainly meet two out of his three criteria and while Keenan may not be the prettiest, it isn't the ugliest on campus, and it makes up for it in the tremendous contributions to student leadership, campus life and intramural sports it has provided over the years — not to mention it has one of the best basements on campus!

Maybe the men of Keenan are driven to excellence to make up for the apparent architectural error that they cherish living in. Please note that this is also the first and last time that I will defend Stanford Hall.

Patrick Perrella
alumnus
Class of 1990
Sept. 9

'The Cinderblock Palace of Love'

In his Sept. 7 letter ("Stanford and Keenan"), Mr. Gotcher advocates the demolition of Stanford Hall because it lacks the "strength, utility and beauty" embodied by the other dorms on campus that are "navigable, sturdy and pleasing on the eyes".

As to the first charge, Stanford Hall is four floors with hallways running North-to-South and East-to-West, and a basement — a layout only a Michigan fan would have trouble navigating. As to the second, I doubt you'll find any cinderblocks on campus sturdier than those in "The Cinderblock Palace of Love."

And as to the third, Mr. Gotcher has judged this book entirely by its cover. Had he taken the time to get past the "ugly" cover on Stanford Hall and read up on its history he would have found an inner beauty worthy of the new windows. I know I can speak on behalf of my friends that lived there with me, and most likely all alumni of Stanford Hall, when I say that some of the best years of our lives were spent living in Stanford Hall and to us it is one of the most beautiful buildings on campus. I sincerely hope the University continues to spend the money necessary to keep Stanford Hall a part of the campus for as long as possible.

However, I agree with Mr. Gotcher regarding Keenan. It is a vastly inferior dorm and, given the waste created by demolition, would best serve the campus by being converted into storage space for the glorious residents of Stanford Hall.

Go Irish! Beat Wolverines!

Mark Pfizenmayer
alumnus
Class of 2004
Sept. 9

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Contact Michelle at mmaitz@nd.edu

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If you think you can win, you can win. Faith is necessary to victory."

William Hazlitt
English essayist

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Build up your weaknesses until they become your strong points."

Knute Rockne
Former Championship-winning
Notre Dame football coach

An intoxicating Christian 9/11 remembrance

Our nation was founded one outpost at a time with each settlement promoting a variety of community ideals and freedoms as divergent as each resident's background or heritage. One need only recall the American Civil War's strife, review mid-20th Century civil rights movements or merely assess our current national political divide for proof that community standards differ drastically between neighborhoods and regions of the United States. Fortunately for Americans, our Constitution equalizes our societal rule of law by excluding extreme interpretations that may limit freedoms based upon bigotry.

Christianity, supposedly founded on the call for peaceful coexistence by Jesus, rose one martyr at a time based on tribal interpretations of biblical gospels. As centuries passed, religious sects as well fell prey to varying regional thought so that their leaders ruled in ways that eventually excluded or limited others whom they found in violation of their decrees. But unlike a nation with one high court that ultimately interprets its ruling laws, religious organizations simply split further into denominations more willing to accept whatever narrow principles guide their leaders. So it should come



Gary Caruso

*Capitol
Comments*

as no surprise that both American political and religious leaders today routinely pound their chests with all-knowing certainty as they espouse their specific agendas.

One such omnificent fundamentalist Christian Florida pastor, Terry Jones of the Gainesville 50-family member Dove World Outreach Center, has declared tomorrow an "International Burn a Koran Day" to "reveal the nature of Islam." While most Americans observe a somber, reverent day of unity tomorrow, Jones relies upon an inspiration based on past experiences to make his unique fiery 9/11 statement. Many, including General David Patraeus, top U.S. and NATO Commander in Afghanistan, urged Jones to weigh how detrimental and dangerous consequences may be on U.S. troops fighting abroad should Jones create an international Islamic outrage.

Throughout the week, Jones has acted coy, basking in his world-wide media attention. Yet, knowing his life's story may help shed light on the origins of his beliefs and inspirations. Jones worked as a missionary in Europe for 30 years after leaving a career as a hotel manager. He currently presides over a 20-acre compound where he oftentimes is seen walking with a pistol strapped to his hip. Jones recorded an online video series entitled the "Braveheart Show," based on Mel Gibson's movie "Braveheart," to preach anti-Islamic sermons to a global audience larger than his tiny congregation.

Jones authored the publication, "Islam Is of the Devil," whose title phrase also adorns several billboards on his church property. Jones admits that he first used the phrase last year, but since 2002 Jones marked 9/11 anniversaries with sermons about Islam and what he believes are the faith's inherent dangers. Earlier this week, radio programs broadcast Jones announcing his motivations. He rhetorically described Islam by saying, "We have a new way to stand up to frontierism," referring to his plan to burn Korans on Saturday. When asked about a potential Islamic global outrage images of burning Korans would incite, Jones replied, "To offend them is the lesser of two evils."

Jones' plans are reminiscent of the type of slick charlatan Burt Lancaster epitomized as the movie character, Elmer Gantry. Moreover, Jones seems to be one of those so-called "Christians" who have become too intoxicated with their own limited, personalized interpretations of the gospels. His is the rogue type of vengeful reactionary effort repeatedly seen throughout history in the name of cleansing society, but is no different than the burning of a cross, burning a witch at the stake or throughout the Crusades, burning a village to the ground.

In time, the white-hot fifteen minutes of fame enjoyed this week by Jones, who also personally describes the spotlight as "getting the word out more than we ever realized," will fade in

most quarters. However, a lingering problem will remain harbored in the hearts of many who have also fallen prey to our modern, intoxicating way of life — those who suffer a short attention span, need instant communications through exotic electronic devices, hold an unwillingness to understand another's interpretation of freedom and routinely skew others with stereotypical simplicity.

Most have routinely commemorated the heinous attacks on the World Trade Center towers each September 11th with high reverence, while some who personally suffered losses on that infamous day hold the anniversary sacred. But this year, on the ninth anniversary of the tragedy, the memory of innocent lives lost has already been marred by what should be called "Cowboy Ministering." Following the gospels means that rogue pastors must wean themselves from the intoxicating comforts and testosterone today's society promotes in favor of the pacifistic love demonstrated 20 centuries ago by a rogue profit.

Gary Caruso, Notre Dame '73, serves in the Department of Homeland Security and was a legislative and public affairs director in President Clinton's administration. His column appears every other Friday. He can be contacted at

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

American Muslims this 9/11

Three events are coming together in relation to Islam on the upcoming anniversary of 9/11: The Koran burning organized by a small Christian congregation in Florida, the ongoing controversy over the Ground Zero mosque and the annual Islamic festival of Eid to mark the culmination of the holy month of Ramadan. Each of these issues warrants a different response from Muslims. With respect to Eid, we should be flexible. Regarding the mosque (which is not really a "mosque"), we should stand firm. As for the Koran burning, we should extend forgiveness.

Eid will fall either on Sept. 10 or 11, depending on how a local community interprets the rules for "moonsighting." This could lead to the misunderstanding that Muslims are actually celebrating on 9/11. The Islamic year, based on the cycles of the moon, is 10 or 11 days shorter than our regular year, which makes the occurrence of a holiday on the anniversary of 9/11 pure coincidence. Having been overshadowed by the other two controversies, there has been little hullabaloo about this in the media.

In principle, Muslims should plan their celebrations to avoid any perception of conflict with the commemoration of 9/11. If necessary, Muslims should even consider moving public festivities (other than the ritual Eid prayer, of course) to another day. American Muslims often delay their

celebrations if Eid falls in the middle of the week. Such a move, therefore, would neither be unprecedented nor out of touch with Islamic teachings. Love of God and neighbor are common elements of the Abrahamic traditions. According to a saying of the Prophet Muhammad: "None of you truly believes unless you love for your neighbor what you love for yourself." However, Muslims should not be scrutinized above other communities. Here at Notre Dame, 9/11 is also "game day." Festive mood will abound on an otherwise somber date. We will all commemorate, but "Go Irish!" and "Eid Mubarak!"

Regarding the mosque controversy, let us consider the facts. It is not a mosque, but a cultural center that will be open to members of all faiths. The building is not on Ground Zero proper, but a couple of blocks away. There has been a mosque in the neighborhood serving local Muslims for many years. There are hundreds of thousands of Muslims living in New York, including men and women in uniform, families of 9/11 victims and first responders. The Imam of the proposed center, Feisal Abdul Rauf, represents the US State Department abroad and has a niece in the Army who has served in Iraq.

Opposition to building the cultural center is deeply offensive and hurtful to American Muslims. Like their compatriots, they pay taxes, love their country and live as law abiding citizens. Discourses that speak of Muslims as somehow violating American "sacred space" or conflate

mosques with terror and tragedy are extremely troubling. To put it in perspective, some questions that need to be asked of the detractors are: Should the mosque in downtown DC also be moved because of its proximity to the Pentagon? How far is far enough? If the Ground Zero "mosque" would be a front or symbol for terrorism, should mosques be allowed anywhere? Should Lower Manhattan be declared a Muslim-free zone, or should Muslim presence only be tolerated so long as they remain collectively invisible?

Fortunately, there has been a slew of support for Muslims and their right to build cultural centers and houses of worship, starting with the leadership of New York's (Jewish) mayor Bloomberg, and America's (Christian) president Obama. Such support, along with the voices of countless interfaith leaders and organizations, is what makes our nation great. Ultimately, what we are witnessing says less about Islam and more about America.

This brings me to the third issue at hand — the Koran burning in Florida. It is heartwarming that many Americans have condemned this deliberately provocative act. Muslims should embrace this outpouring of support and unequivocally reject rash responses that may take place in their name. This is an opportunity for Muslims to fall back on the highest of virtues to be found in their religious tradition. Contrary to popular belief, the Koran exhorts Muslims to respond to provocations with kindness, "so that enmity might transform into loving friendship." (41:34) The Prophet

Muhammad is also reported to have said: "The most virtuous behavior is to engage those who sever relations, to give to those who withhold from you, and to forgive those who wrong you."

Since the 9/11 attacks, a faulty narrative has prevailed about Islam and the U.S. led war on terror that has tacitly maligned all Muslims as guilty by association. No amount of information or serious analysis has been able to alter this perception. The fact that Muslims have been issuing condemnations of terrorism ad nauseum, or that polls have shown that Muslims (including Saudis and Iranians) are no more likely to justify the killing of innocents than "ordinary Americans," has done little or nothing to lift the shadow of suspicion from the collective body of Muslims. However, in the face of unprecedented and overwhelming support amidst the recent controversies, there is reason to believe that change is in the air. It is happening with the mainstreaming of Muslims in American society. As we mourn the losses of a decade ago, from the depths of the dark abyss that was 9/11, I see glimmers of hope.

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

Notre Dame Students like this.

By **WARD PETTIBONE**
Scene Writer

Off the top of the head, what do Notre Dame students like most? The Grotto, perhaps, or Irish flags? Whatever first comes to mind, chances are it is included in Bob Kessler's new book, "Things Notre Dame Students Like."

Kessler, a 2009 graduate of the University, has assembled a list of 100 things Notre Dame students like, ranging from the straightforward (#25 "Planning things," #35 "Making t-shirts," #71 "Viewpoint wars") to the humorous (#52 "Talking about squirrels," #78 "Feeling strongly about New Jersey," #86 "Being overly proud of their original ID"). Based on his blog, www.thingsnotredamestudentslike.com, which has been in existence since 2009, the book expands upon the idea with new sub-lists ("Things Notre Dame Couples Like," "Things Coach Brey Likes") and plenty of charts and diagrams (a map of the U.S. according to Admissions, a pie chart of the "Notre Dame Student Dress Code").

Kessler writes with a wry humor that will make any alumni or current student smile. Readers will likely nod and smile knowingly at Kessler's observations about The Shirt: "Despite the consistently ridiculous look and fit of The Shirt, Notre Dame Students will continue to wear it," Parietals: "Deep down most Notre Dame Students actually like parietals," and Rudy: "Rudy's plight doesn't really mirror the path of any current Notre Dame students."

In writing "Things Notre Dame Students Like," Kessler tried to answer four questions: "What is this thing?" "Why do Notre Dame students like it?" "How is this different from other schools?" and "Why is this an important aspect of Notre Dame culture?" His goal was to depict the things that make Notre Dame unique, and measured his success based on the response to an article – "If people respond to it, talk about it, or comment on it, then I know I did a good job," he says. "Any entry that has the capability to incite a Viewpoint war is definitely a good one."



In addition to replacing outdated references for publication in the book (for example #19, originally "The OC and other teen dramas," is now "Cable in dorm rooms"), Kessler re-wrote many of the original articles to match the style of prose that had evolved over a year of blogging. After reaching out to the authors of several Notre Dame books, Kessler received help from alumni to publish the book. He observed, "Notre Dame people are so willing to help one another."

For Kessler, the transition from blog to book was a turning point, marking the end of his experience as a Notre Dame student. As an alumnus, his advice to current students can best be summed up as: diversify.

Notre Dame has so much to offer that if one is restricted to one area of activity, they risk missing out on some of the best parts of this wonderful place. He worries that Notre Dame is losing the type of students that

are not only intelligent, but also "think winning the intramural football championship would be the highlight" of their time at Notre Dame. Dorm life is his favorite aspect about Notre Dame life and he said that most of the articles in his book are strongly influenced by the unique dorm culture. For Kessler, the relationships built here are the most worthwhile part of college.

After graduating, Kessler spent a year teaching

English in China, and now does volunteer work and freelance writing while continuing to apply for full-time positions.

Kessler considers himself "retired from writing about Notre Dame," but acknowledges "there's always a chance I'll pull a Brett Favre."

"Things Notre Dame Students Like" is a well-written, funny and sharply perceptive book about the culture of our beloved school, highly recommended for alumni, current students and anyone curious about what exactly makes our home under the Dome so special.

"Things Notre Dame Students Like"

Author: Bob Kessler
Publisher: Corby Books, 2010



Contact Ward Pettibon at wpettibo@nd.edu

A UNIQUE

Shakespeareience

By STEPHANIE DEPREZ

Scene Writer

Five Actors from the London Stage graced the stage in Washington Hall Wednesday and presented a show all their own. Without a director, costumer or choreographer, these actors epitomize the raw relationship between the writer and the stage.

Armed with nothing but the immortal words of Shakespeare, the actors work out, in their own fashion, how to put on a show. Then they travel to universities throughout the United States to educate the communities about the Bard.

When they rambled up to the stage on opening night of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” Wednesday, they brought energy. Since there is minimal costuming and props, it is the slight modifications in character — a thrust hip, a pouty lip — that indicate who an actor is playing at a given moment. The ease with which they oscillate between personas is something to be admired, even when one player is on for two characters at once. These moments are particularly amusing, because suddenly we are forced to accept the ridiculous pose of an actor having a conversation with himself (and talking to the glasses he just took off).

The selection of this semester’s play is fortunate for us, an audience that is most often comprised of students having their first Shakespeareience.

“Everyone knows ‘Midsummer,’” said Devon Black, who plays Helena (among others) in the show. “It seems to be the first Shakespeare play everyone sees.”

The show has been chosen years in advance to give universities a chance to plan for it in their curriculum, and it is our good fortune that Midsummer is coming

through now.

“It’s a great story to start with,” Black said. “It’s the original love story. Love triangles, fairies, danger and passion!”

It is with passion that these actors approach the show. The clear favorite of this troupe is its comedy, specifically the comedy of the mechanicals, the peasants within the show who decide to put on a play of their own, and its star Bottom, who ends up getting mixed into all the fairy business after being turned into a donkey.

Within these scenes the actors excel, and are unafraid to push the envelope that will have you laughing out of shock and embarrassment as much as devilish wit (which makes one realize just how clever Shakespeare’s words really are).

There are moments in the show when it seems as though we have come upon an extended actor’s game, or moments that linger a bit too long, but such moments are nearly forgotten when the next moment of comedy comes up. What’s to be admired about this troupe is that, since the actors own their actions, they relish them. The misfortune of a scene requiring six players is embraced, and turned into a prime opportunity for a vaudevillian display of physical comedy.

“We had all sorts of discussions,” Black said about how to present the show. “Midsummer has bestiality, first passions, and everything about it is raunchy.”

The show is a faithful display of all that Shakespeare revels in — physical action, visual tricks and clever interpretation. The best part, though, is the sheer joy with which the actors approach the show. They alone make the show, and they rise to the occasion. Truly Bardiful.

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A Brief Interview

By DECLAN SULLIVAN

Scene Writer

At 9:15 p.m. Friday night, I walked into a nondescript room on the 2nd floor of LaFortune, not really knowing what to expect. I was told that me and a few other students would be interviewing comedians Mike Birbiglia and Michael Ian Black here in five minutes, but I hadn’t received any other information aside from that.

I was surprised, then, when I saw a whole video camera/talk show setup going on inside the room — apparently an interviewer from Scholastic and I would be just sitting in on an NDtv interview with the opportunity — if there was time — to ask a few questions after the interview concluded.

I was bummed, but regardless I took my seat next to the camera and waited for the comedians to enter.

After what seemed like an eternity, they finally entered. Michael and Mike were both extremely friendly, introducing themselves personally to everyone in the room and asking for our names.

Not only did this ease the tension in the room — all the students were a bit nervous — but also it gave me happy moment No. 1 of the interview.

When Mike Birbiglia came over to shake my hand, I introduced myself prompting a response of “Hey ... Declan? Like D-U-C-K-L-I-A-N?” Everyone laughed, I corrected him, and then I proceed to giggle like a schoolgirl on the inside, knowing that one of my comedic heroes now has my ridiculous-sounding name ingrained into his head.

The NDtv interview started and while Mike and Michael were hilarious, playing off each other — often at the expense of the NDtv interviewers — for the most part it was uneventful for my Scholastic counterpart and me.

Our time to shine came after the NDtv interview ended. Both comedians had to get to the quad to perform, but there was enough time for each of us to ask one or two questions. Unfortunately, a disproportionate amount of this time was spent discussing the lack of microphones for the NDtv interview, the low quality of my audio recording equipment — my broken iPhone — or the possibility of including live video in The Observer newspaper —

unlikely.

But I did get the opportunity to ask one question I was proud of to Birbiglia: “You’re an interesting comedian in that your jokes aren’t usually just one liners; they’re stories. You’re also on the Moth, NPR, This American Life; do you view yourself more as a comedian or as a storyteller when you’re doing your shows?” to which he answered “I think I’m a comedian ... pretty sure. I kind of evolved into being a storyteller because I was doing a lot of college shows — like this — with an hour, hour and a half of material. What I found was that when you do that much stand-up comedy, if it doesn’t have some kind of conclusion, ark, or build to it, then it can be a little bit directionless.

That led me to tell more stories, which led me to the Moth, which led me to This American Life ... I started working with Ira Glass, and now what’s sort of developed is that I’m a storytelling comedian. It was a long way to get to that.

That’s over a hundred words for one question. Bam. Not quite the interview I imagined, but bam.

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Visit www.ndsmcobserver.com

MLB

Moreland's RBIs keep Rangers at top of AL West

Tigers hand White Sox their third loss in a row; Rockies complete four-game series sweep against Reds, 6-5

Associated Press

TORONTO — Colby Lewis won for the first time since mid-July, Mitch Moreland drove in three runs and the Texas Rangers beat the Toronto Blue Jays 4-2 on Thursday night.

The Rangers, who lead the AL West, won their second straight after losing nine of 12.

Moreland finished 1 for 2 with a sacrifice fly and an intentional walk while Vladimir Guerrero went 3 for 4 and scored twice.

Toronto's Jose Bautista hit his major league-leading 44th home run, a solo shot off Darren O'Day in the eighth. Lyle Overbay hit a solo homer off Lewis in the seventh, his 18th.

The Blue Jays lead the majors with 218 homers this season, including an ML-high 122 at home. Toronto has homered in 11 consecutive games, hitting 23 in that span.

The attendance was 10,658, the third straight game Toronto has drawn fewer than 11,000 fans.

Lewis (10-12) had gone 0-7 with a 5.07 ERA in nine starts

since beating Boston on July 16, including allowing a season-high nine runs in his last outing, a Sept. 4 loss at Minnesota.

But the left-hander, who came in 1-3 with a 12.27 ERA in four career starts against the Blue Jays, was sharp over 6 1-3 innings, allowing one run and five hits, four of them singles. He walked two and struck out eight.

Lewis left two batters after Overbay's homer. Clay Rapada pitched one inning. O'Day got two outs in the eighth and Neftali Feliz closed it out in the ninth for his 35th save in 38 chances.

Making his first start since April 25, 2009, when he was with San Diego, Blue Jays right-hander Shawn Hill (0-1) allowed four runs, three earned, and eight hits in 5 1-3 innings. He walked one and struck out two.

Hill, who was born in suburban Toronto, underwent his second elbow ligament replacement surgery last June. After being released by San Diego in October, he signed with the Blue Jays in January.

Hill survived a no-out, bases-

loaded jam in the third when Ian Kinsler struck out and Michael Young grounded into a double play.

The Rangers broke through with two runs in the fourth. David Murphy scored from second on Nelson Cruz's single to shallow left when Travis Snider bobbled the ball and was charged with an error. Moreland followed with a fly ball to center, but catcher John Buck dropped Dwayne Wise's throw, allowing Guerrero to score.

The Rangers chased Hill after Guerrero singled and Cruz doubled in the sixth. Moreland lined left-hander Jesse Carlson's second pitch off the first base bag and down the line for a two-run double.

Tiger 6, White Sox 3

Johnny Damon had a season-high four hits and scored two runs, helping the Detroit Tigers beat Chicago Thursday and handing the White Sox their third straight loss.

The White Sox fell six games behind idle Minnesota in the AL Central, their largest deficit since June 17.

Detroit has won six of eight to get back above .500 for the first time since July 31.

Rick Porcello (9-11) gave up three runs on four hits and no walks in eight innings to win his fourth straight start. Ryan Perry pitched the ninth for his second save.

Gavin Floyd (10-12) allowed six runs over six innings. He gave up 13 hits, all of which were singles.

Chicago's Alex Rios hit a two-run homer in the fourth.

The Tigers didn't hit one over the fence, or even in a gap, but methodically found holes to score twice in the first, two more in the third, one in the fourth and a sixth run in the seventh inning.

Floyd became the first pitcher to give up 13 hits — without an extra-base hit — since James Baldwin did it on Aug. 29, 2001, pitching for the Los Angeles Dodgers against the Colorado Rockies.

Damon had his first of four hits in the first as Detroit took a 2-0 lead.

Ryan Raburn and Jhonny Peralta each had two RBIs as the Tigers won for the ninth time in 10 games at Comerica Park, where they are 46-26. The Tigers trail the Twins by 12½ games in large part



Cincinnati's Brandon Phillips completes a steal as Colorado's Troy Tulowitzki attempted to tag Phillips Thursday.

because they're 19 games under .500 on the road.

Rockies 6, Reds 5

Chris Nelson stole home in the eighth inning to send the Colorado Rockies to a victory over the Cincinnati Reds on Thursday, completing a four-game series sweep and extending their winning streak to season-best seven games.

With one out and runners on the corners, Reds reliever Nick Masset (3-4) thought Colorado was going to try a double steal so he stepped off the rubber and whirled to second. Nelson broke for home on the play and scored easily, giving the Rockies a 6-5 lead.

Huston Street allowed a lead-off single to Ramon Hernandez in the bottom half, then struck out the side for his 17th save in 21 save opportunities.

Drew Stubbs hit a two-run homer in Cincinnati's four-run second, helping the Reds build a 5-0 lead. But Colorado chipped away at the deficit against starter Travis Wood then broke through against the Reds' bullpen.

Jason Giambi hit a two-run homer in the fourth. Dexter Fowler added an RBI double in the fifth and pinch-hitter Jonathan Herrera drove in a run with a grounder in the seventh, making it 5-4.

Colorado almost went in front in the seventh but left-hander Aroldis Chapman got MVP candidate Carlos Gonzalez to

ground into an inning-ending double play with the bases loaded. Gonzalez grounded a 103 mph fastball right to short-stop Paul Janish.

Masset entered to pitch the eighth and Troy Tulowitzki led off with his 18th homer and sixth in seven games. Giambi followed with a walk and was replaced by Nelson.

First baseman Joey Votto, also in the running for MVP award, then made a critical error on Melvin Mora's slow bouncer. He charged the grounder, but his underhand flip to Masset covering first was high and wide. Nelson went to third on the play, setting up the 15th swipe of home in Rockies history and first since Matt Holliday in 2006.

The Rockies have won 10 straight games against the Reds at Coors Field dating to Aug. 23, 2008, and 19 of their past 22 games overall against Cincinnati, including 14 of the past 17.

Matt Belisle (7-5) recorded two outs to get win.

Cincinnati got off to a nice start against Jason Hammel, who pitched seven innings. Brandon Phillips singled, stole second and advanced to third on a wild pitch before scoring on Votto's swinging bunt in the first.

Hernandez hit an RBI double and scored on Janish's single in the second. After Wood sacrificed, Stubbs hit his 16th homer and first since Aug. 14.



Toronto Blue Jays pitcher Shawn Hill winds up during the first inning in the Blue Jays' loss to the Texas Rangers Thursday.

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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If you or someone you care about has been sexually assaulted, we can help. For more information, visit Notre Dame's website: <http://csap.nd.edu>.

NFL

Brady left unscathed by two-car traffic accident

Associated Press

BOSTON — New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady was in a two-vehicle accident near his home Thursday morning but was unhurt and hours later practiced as usual with his team just days before the season opener.

The crash, at an intersection in Boston's Back Bay area, knocked over a light pole and sent a passenger in the minivan that collided with Brady's car to a hospital with injuries that were serious but not considered life-threatening, a police report said.

A witness told The Associated Press that the two-time Super Bowl MVP was approaching the intersection on a green light when his black Audi sedan collided with the minivan.

The 21-year-old driver of the Mercury Villager minivan, Ludgero Rodrigues, was cited Thursday for failing to stop at a red light, based on witness statements, police said. Two other people in the minivan were able to exit and had no visible injuries, they said.

The police report, which did not name Brady, said the driver of the Audi had no visible injuries and was evaluated by Emergency Medical Services. It said a 49-year-old passenger had to be freed with the Jaws of Life and was taken to a hospital.

Rodrigues' driver's license had been suspended at least five times in three years, Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles spokeswoman Ann Dufresne said. Last year,

his license was suspended for 180 days after he was arrested for operating under the influence and refused to take a blood-alcohol test, Dufresne said.

RMV records also show that Rodrigues had been charged with a number of moving and traffic violations.

A telephone listing for Rodrigues could not immediately be found Thursday.

Brady's father had just arrived in Boston from the family's California home early Thursday and found out about the accident when he got off his flight.

"I understand he's fine, but I haven't talked to him," Tom Brady Sr. told the AP outside his son's home three blocks from the accident site.

Patriots coach Bill Belichick told the team about the accident before practice and said Brady might be a bit late, linebacker Tully Banta-Cain said.

"I was hoping, obviously, that he was OK, but I saw him walking in. He had a smile on his face, no abrasions, so I think he's fine," Banta-Cain said.

The Patriots open their season at home Sunday against the Cincinnati Bengals. Brady remains in talks with the Patriots about a contract extension and is entering the final year of his current contract — a six-year, \$57.3 million deal.

During the 11-minute portion of afternoon practice that reporters were allowed to watch Thursday, Brady, in full uniform with pads and helmet, stretched as usual with

his teammates. Then, as he usually does, he threw soft passes of 20 to 30 yards to teammates.

"I want to thank the safety personnel for their service, and express our concern and support for the well-being of the occupants of the other vehicle," Brady's agent, Don Yee, said in a statement.

Police responded to Commonwealth Avenue and Gloucester Street around 6:30 a.m. after reports of an accident, police spokeswoman Elaine Driscoll said.

One of Brady's neighbors, a 74-year-old woman who asked that her name not be used for fear of being hounded by reporters, was walking her dogs when she saw the accident.

She said Brady was traveling south on Gloucester and approaching the intersection on a green light when his black Audi collided with a fast-moving red Ford Aerostar that was westbound on Commonwealth.

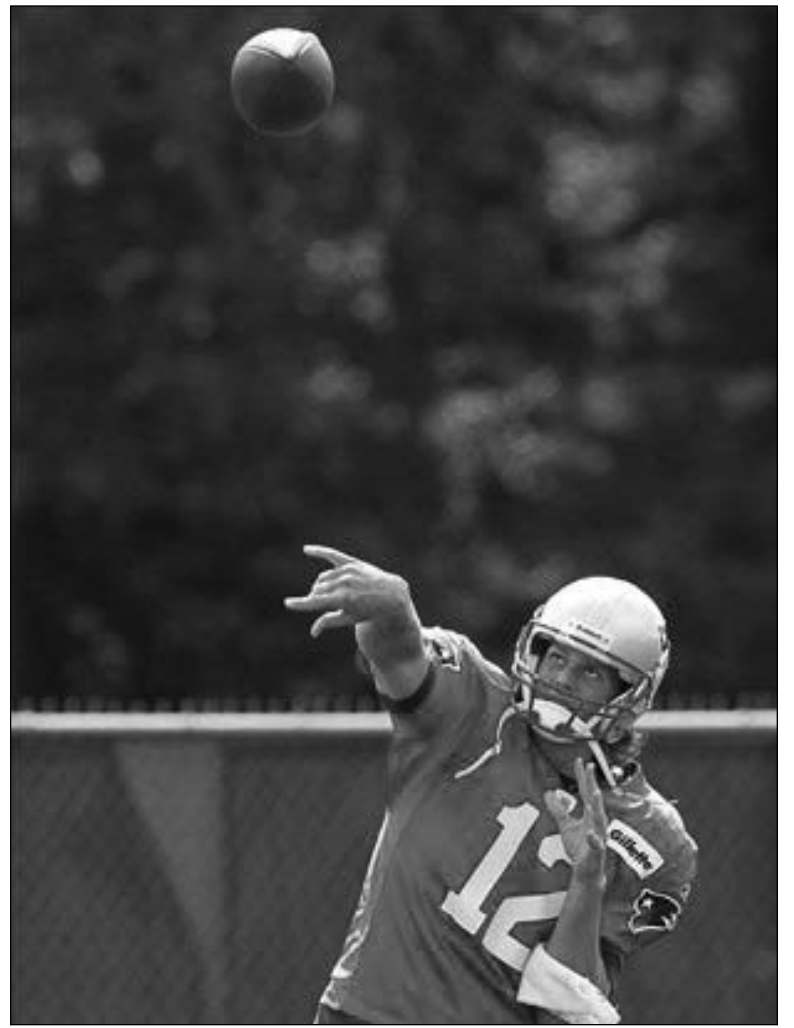
"The red car went up in the air, sideways. ... The tire was half off," the woman said.

Afterward, she said Brady immediately got out of his car.

The woman had been walking toward the intersection when she saw the cars on their collision course. She took a step backward, tripped on the curb and hit her head, she said.

She sat next to Brady in an ambulance, but neither was taken to a hospital. She said she did not realize he was the star quarterback until later.

Bill Barron said he was in his apartment overlooking the



New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady throws a pass during practice Thursday shortly after he was involved in a two-car accident.

intersection when he heard a collision that sounded like "a bolt of lightning."

When he looked out the window, he saw the driver of the car picking glass off his clothes and wiping himself off with a towel. He didn't realize until later that it was Brady.

"I thought it was some college kid who had crashed up his father's really nice car," Barron said.

Brady then retrieved some items from his car, made a series of phone calls and was picked up by another vehicle, Barron said.

ATP

No. 12 Youzhny moves on to Open semifinals

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The only other time Mikhail Youzhny reached the U.S. Open semifinals, in 2006, he got there by upsetting Rafael Nadal.

So guess who might be waiting for Youzhny now that he is back in the final four at Flushing Meadows? That's right: Nadal.

The 12th-seeded Youzhny hit fewer aces and fewer winners, needed treatment on his right foot in the fifth set — and still managed to come back and beat 25th-seeded Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland 3-6, 7-6 (7), 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 in four hours Thursday.

"Maybe I was just a bit luckier than him," Youzhny said.

On Saturday, the 28-year-old Youzhny will play in his second career major semifinal against No. 1-seeded Nadal or No. 8 Fernando Verdasco, who were scheduled to play in the first all-Spanish quarterfinal in U.S. Open history later Thursday. Nadal took a 10-0 head-to-head record over Verdasco into that match.

In the semifinal on the

other half of the draw, No. 2 Roger Federer will face No. 3 Novak Djokovic. They won their quarterfinals Wednesday.

Four years ago, Russia's Youzhny was unseeded at the U.S. Open, but he knocked off four seeded players, including Nadal in the quarterfinals, before losing to Andy Roddick in the semifinals.

Wawrinka was only the second seeded player Youzhny has faced in the tournament this year; he beat No. 18 John Isner of the United States in the third round.

Nothing seemed to rattle Youzhny on Thursday. He dealt with a deficit, a problem with his right foot, and more of the swirling wind that's plagued the tournament. The wind was gusting at more than 15 mph, there were ominous gray clouds overhead, and the temperature was in the upper 60s.

That wind made it tough to control strokes, and Wawrinka made 71 unforced errors, Youzhny 57. That helped Youzhny overcome Wawrinka's advantages in aces (13-2) and winners (48-35). Both men won 154 points.

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PGA GOLF

Kuchar, Poulter search for top spots in Lemont

Associated Press

LEMONT, Ill. — Already having his best season, Matt Kuchar got off to his best start of the year Thursday in the BMW Championship. A mystery season for Tiger Woods took another unexpected turn.

Kuchar, who won the opening FedEx Cup playoff event to position himself for the \$10 million bonus, wasted no time putting his name atop the leaderboard. He finished with an 18-foot birdie putt for a 7-under 64 and a one-shot lead over Ryan Moore.

Ian Poulter of England, who has finished in the top 10 only once since winning the Match Play Championship in February, had a 66 for the best round of the afternoon despite opening with a double bogey.

Woods also started with a double bogey, but he never got those shots back.

With one last bogey on the 18th hole, he wound up with a 73 to leave himself in a big hole as he tries to advance to the final stage of the playoffs in Atlanta. It was his highest round at Cog Hill since he opened with a 73 in the 2005 Western Open. It also ended a streak of 11 consecutive rounds in the 60s on the public course in the Chicago suburbs where he has won five times.

Woods should be used to rough

starts by now. His scoring average in the first round this year is 71.08, compared with 68.9 a year ago in the same tournaments.

Even so, it was peculiar to hear him discuss how much ground he has to make up — not against Kuchar, but the finish he needs to get into the top 30 in the FedEx Cup standings and advance to the Tour Championship.

"As of right now, I'm only five shots back out of that spot," Woods said. "That's not bad."

Everything is good with Kuchar at the moment, except his voice. He is playing so well — a winner at The Barclays, a tour-high 10 finishes in the top 10 this year — that there's really nothing left for him to say.

Not that he had a choice. Kuchar has laryngitis and begged off a series of interviews, letting his score speak for itself. It was the second-best start of his career, and the 21st time in 23 events this year that he broke par in the opening round.

"Just keep playing," Kuchar said to one question he felt good enough to answer. "I was driving it well. I was actually doing everything well. It felt very good. Last week was a little bit suspect, and this week I kind of figured some stuff out."

Something clicked for Moore when he least expected it.

LPGA GOLF

Michelle Wie looks to stay hot against top 15

Associated Press

ROGERS, Ark. — With a pair of wins in the last 11 months, Michelle Wie is finally turning potential into success.

This week, the big-hitting former prodigy will try for her second straight LPGA Tour victory, part of a loaded field at the P&G NW Arkansas Championship. The 54-hole event begins Friday and also includes money leader Jiyai Shin, the defending champion, and world No. 1 Ai Miyazato.

In fact, 14 of the top 15 players in the Rolex rankings are entered, with only 10th-ranked Paula Creamer (thumb injury) missing. Wie, ranked No. 7, is coming off a victory late last month in the Canadian Women's Open.

"I felt like it was a frustrating season for me so far because I felt like I played a lot better than what my

scores were," Wie said. "I guess that happens when you win it — everything just kind of falls into place, and hopefully it will happen again this week. ... I see all the top players are here. I think it's really great for the tournament."

Wie has made all but two cuts since the start of 2009, her official rookie season, and she earned her first career victory in November at the Lorena Ochoa Invitational.

She won in Canada by three strokes — her 12th top-10 finish in the last two seasons.

Last year in Arkansas, outlasting Angela Stanford and Sun Young Yoo in a sudden-death playoff. This is the fourth year for the event at Pinnacle Country Club, and with nothing else on the LPGA Tour schedule until Oct. 7, the sport's top players have come to northwest Arkansas for the \$2 million tournament, which is presented by Wal-Mart.

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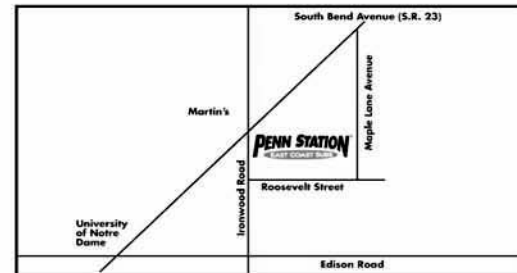
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NFL

Saints down Vikings in tense season opener

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Drew Brees and the Saints extended New Orleans' post-Super Bowl euphoria for at least another week and handed Brett Favre a second straight loss in the Louisiana Superdome.

Brees completed 27 of 36 passes for 237 yards and one touchdown, and the Saints survived a hard-fought season opener for a 14-9 victory Thursday night.

It wasn't the most spectacular way to open a title defense, considering it was a rematch of the riveting 2009 NFC title game last January, in which the Saints took an overtime win to advance to their first Super Bowl.

It was the lowest-scoring victory of the Sean Payton era, which began in 2006. Still, the Saints will take it, considering their defense limited Favre to 171 yards passing and one score.

Unlike the NFC championship game, the Vikings didn't fumble and turned the ball over only once on Jonathan Vilma's interception of Favre, who made an ill-advised throw as Roman Harper hit him on a safety blitz.

Also unlike their previous meeting, the Saints had most of the statistical advantages, outgaining Minnesota 308 yards to 253 and controlling the ball for 33:43, compared to 26:17 for Minnesota.

New Orleans might have won

the game more easily if not for two missed field goals by Garrett Hartley, who kicked the dramatic winning field goal last year.

Still, New Orleans was able to kneel on the ball to run out most of the last two minutes after Pierre Thomas capped a 71-yard, one-touchdown performance with 10-yard, first-down run right after the 2-minute warning.

Adrian Peterson, who rushed for 122 yards and three TDs in the last meeting, rushed for 87 yards on 219 carries against New Orleans' stingy defense.

Although the game was competitive until the final minutes, it hardly lived up to its hype.

Favre's comeback from ankle surgery, marking the start of his 20th season, was largely unspectacular. Despite being sacked only once and hit not nearly as often, or as hard, as in the NFC title game, he looked out of synch or inaccurate at times. The fact that Minnesota was without star receiver Sidney Rice may have had something to do with that.

Favre's best sequence came on Minnesota's only touchdown drive late in the first half, when he found Vinsante Shiancoe on precision down-the-middle completions of 33 and 20 yards, the second for the Vikings' only TD.

That gave Minnesota a 9-7 half-time lead, which the Saints erased on their first drive of the second half.



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MLB

Phillies sitting pretty in first

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Charlie Manuel scoffed every time someone mentioned the Philadelphia Phillies and wild card in the same breath.

When others thought the Phillies may have to settle for a wild-card spot this season, their skipper never wavered. He insisted his team would never concede the division until it ran out of games.

Here they are now sitting atop the NL East standings with 21 games left. The Phillies have erased a seven-game deficit and have a one-game lead over the Atlanta Braves, who lost 11-4 to St. Louis on Thursday night.

Just as he cautioned that the race wasn't over when the Phillies were trailing Atlanta by a big margin on July 22, Manuel isn't ready to start setting up his formidable post-season rotation until they've clinched.

"Our ultimate goal is to get to the World Series, but first we've got to get in."

Charlie Manuel
Phillies manager

"We haven't made the playoffs yet," Manuel said. "We definitely want to win our division and we'd like to have home-field advantage. Our ultimate goal is to get to the World Series, but first we've got to get in."

The Phillies' pursuit of a fourth straight division title and third consecutive NL championship has been a struggle mainly because they've had to overcome numerous injuries. They've

also had major problems on offense with several players producing below their usual standards. Part of that inconsistency can be blamed on so many guys being out of the lineup.

Six of Philadelphia's eight regulars have spent time on the disabled list, including former MVPs Ryan Howard and Jimmy Rollins. Five-time All-Star Chase Utley was sidelined for a significant stretch, and Shane Victorino, Placido Polanco and Carlos Ruiz also missed time.

Polanco said Thursday he is playing with a small break in his left elbow, but is postponing surgery until after the season because of the pennant race.

Rollins, a three-time All-Star shortstop, had two stints on the DL because of a calf injury and left Wednesday night's game with tightness in his right hamstring. He's played in just 82 games, and is day to day heading into a weekend series at the New York Mets.

Utley missed 43 games because of a thumb injury, Howard missed 16 with an ankle sprain, and closer Brad Lidge was on the DL twice and currently has a sore elbow. The Phillies have missed a total of 511 man games to injury, according to STATS LLC. Overall, they've had 17 players out.

During a nearly two-week stretch in August, Howard, Utley and Victorino were absent. Still, the Phillies found ways to win. They're 33-14 since opening the second half with six losses in seven games.

"You have to attribute that to the guys we have on the roster and the guys we had available," Manuel said. "They stepped up and did the job when called upon. The guys we had that filled in for the injured players got big hits and made big plays in the right moment and they definitely played a big part in where we're at."

The key reason for Philadelphia's success has been pitching, especially their top three starters.

Roy Halladay has lived up to enormous expectations. He's 17-10 with a 2.36 ERA and eight complete games, including a perfect game against Florida on May 29. Cole Hamels has been outstanding despite a 10-10 record. The 2008 World Series MVP has a 3.06 ERA and hasn't allowed a run in his last 25 innings. Roy Oswalt, acquired from Houston before the trade deadline, is 5-1 with a 2.30 ERA in eight starts for the Phillies.

If the Phillies hang onto first place or even if they have to sneak into the playoffs as the wild-card winner, they'll be tough to beat because the Halladay-Hamels-Oswalt trio might be the best threesome in the majors.

"I compare it to '04 and '05 with Roger (Clemens) and Andy (Petitte)," Oswalt said of his days with Houston. "It seems like it pushes you more when you have guys go out there and throw seven (innings) every time out. It's kind of an in-house competition to push each other and see how good each other can be."



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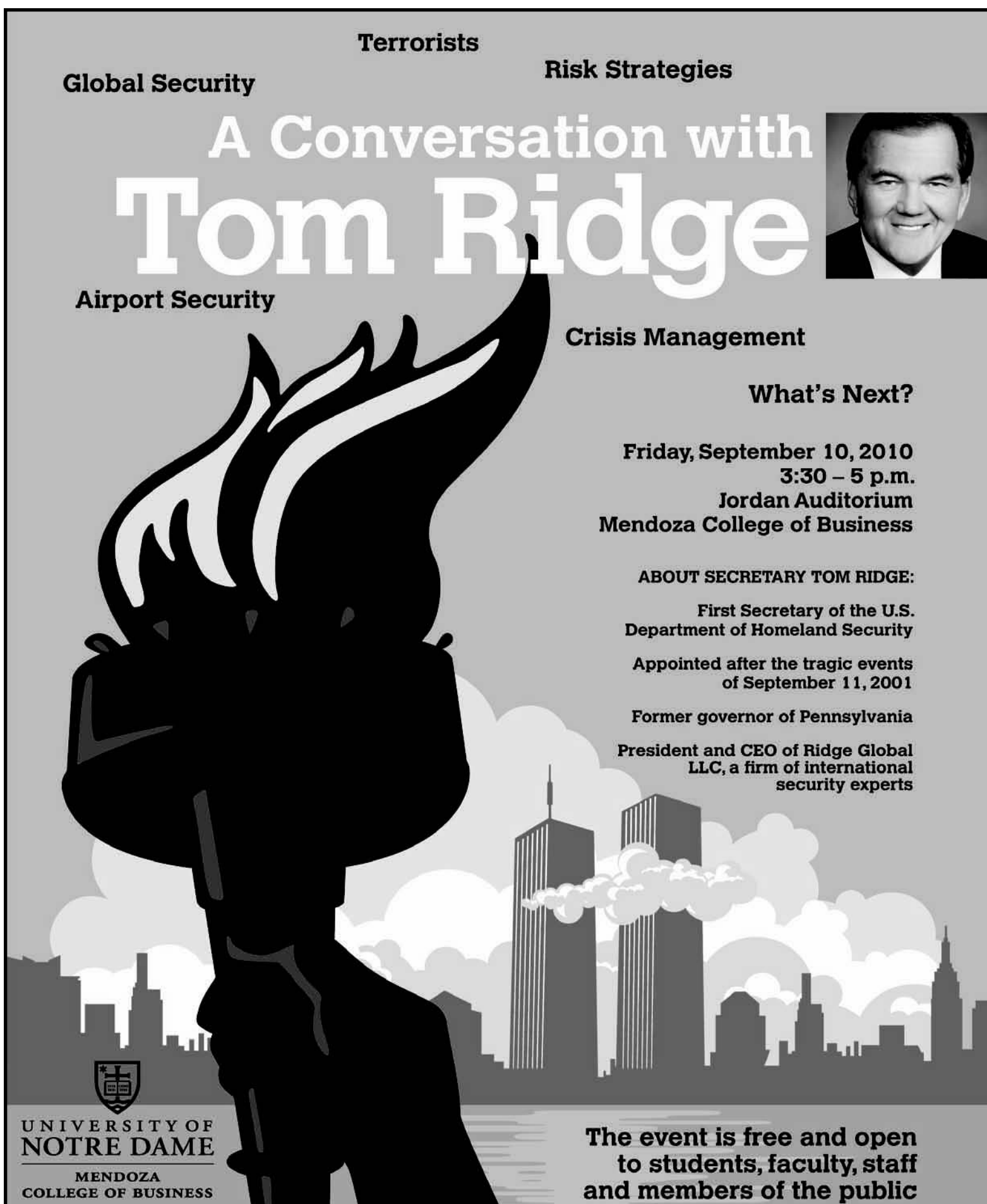
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NFL

Austin signs big extension

Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — Pro Bowl receiver Miles Austin is going deep with the Dallas Cowboys—from undrafted rookie to a break-out season and now a long-term contract extension.

The Cowboys and Austin agreed to a six-year extension through the 2016 season on Thursday, just three days before the fifth-year player's first season opener as a starter.

"My career started here, you guys gave me a shot and obviously I put my all out there every day," said Austin, who was pulled out of offensive meetings for the unexpected yet unsurprising announcement. "It feels great to be wanted by this team because I want to be here."

Austin agreed a \$3.168 million one-year contract in June, but Cowboys owner Jerry Jones had repeatedly said he wanted to sign the receiver to a long-term deal. That finally got done just before the season opener at Washington.

Cowboys vice president Stephen Jones would only confirm the length of the extension, not the financial terms. Austin's agent, David Dunn, didn't return messages to The Associated Press.

A story posted Thursday night on the Cowboys' official team website said the extension was worth about \$54 million. That is on top of the deal for this season.

In his first career start last October at Kansas City, Austin had 10 catches for a team-record



Miles Austin, 19, signed a six-year extension worth \$54 million with the Cowboys on Thursday.

250 yards and two late touchdowns, including the 60-yard game-winner in overtime. He broke the single-game yardage record held by Hall of Fame receiver "Bullet Bob" Hayes since 1966.

That was quite a breakout performance for Austin, who entered that game with 23 career catches, including five in the first four games last season.

Yet, he wasn't a one-game wonder.

His encore was six catches for 171 yards and two more TDs in Dallas' next game. He went on to earn a spot in the Pro Bowl by finishing the season with 81 catches for 1,320 yards, sixth-best in team history and the sixth-best by any undrafted

receiver ever in the NFL.

The Cowboys certainly don't anticipate the 26-year-old receiver from tiny Monmouth College in New Jersey being only a one-year wonder either.

"We all are familiar and admire the way Miles has evolved into the player he is today. We're also very impressed with the person that he is," Jones said. "I've never felt like when we have made this kind of commitment to any individual that we've ever been as prepared or better informed about what he is as a player and as a person. That's a good feeling and made this very comfortable in terms of getting this done."

"He's what we want to build our franchise around," Jones said.

NCAA FOOTBALL

Highly touted Baxter to make USC debut

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Dillon Baxter is eager for his Hollywood premiere, even if it's a week late.

Southern California's touted freshman tailback will be in uniform Saturday night when the 16th-ranked Trojans host Virginia at the Coliseum.

Although Baxter is among the most anticipated skill-position recruits in the recent history of a talent-studded program, coach Lane Kiffin suspended him for last week's opener at Hawaii for violations of team rules. While the Trojans traveled to Honolulu and spent an extra day on the beach after their 49-36 victory, Baxter stewed at home.

"That's probably the worst thing I've been through football-wise, aside from when I was 7 and my mom took all my trophies away," Baxter said, recalling a punishment after a poor performance on a science test.

"I wanted to go out and party a little bit, but I've been getting in trouble and whatnot. So I stayed in and watched it at home — be mad, sit in my little corner. But that pumped me up and got me pretty hyped for this week."

Kiffin hasn't confirmed exactly what Baxter did to earn a suspension, but it hasn't soured the first-year coach on his prize prospect. Kiffin has suggested the Trojans could use Baxter as

a ball carrier, receiver and quarterback at various points in the same game — although the coach also has more mundane instructions.

"Take care of the ball," Kiffin said when asked his primary instruction for Baxter. "That's the first concern always for a freshman. It's the most important thing. We'll see what he can do from there."

Baxter played three skill positions in high school in San Diego, winning several awards as the nation's top player last fall after rushing for 50 touchdowns and passing for 26 more scores. He stuck with his commitment to the Trojans even after NCAA sanctions ruined his chances of playing in a bowl game for two years.

Baxter has lived up to his hype during his first few months with the Trojans, culminating in a stellar performance during USC's spring scrimmage. Film of his speedy, nimble running became a Youtube sensation with several hundred thousand hits.

Baxter might be USC's unofficial third quarterback behind Matt Barkley and Mitch Mustain, but he's likely to get his most extensive action as a running back. Baxter is eager to play alongside tailback Marc Tyler, who unexpectedly won the Trojans' starting job in training camp before rushing for 154 yards in last week's opener.

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SMC CROSS COUNTRY Belles 5K brings in alumnae

By KATHARINE MACK
Sports Writer

With a 1-1 start to the season, Saint Mary's will take a break from intercollegiate competition for an exhibition event — an alumnae 5K race.

"The alumnae race is a 5K that will just be the team and former cross country alumnae racing together. We're anticipating 15 to 20 former athletes to come out and run, but it is not a very competitive event, but more an exhibition event for the team," Belles coach Jacqueline Bauters said.

The event will be a good warm-up for the Belles, as they will race again Sept. 18 at the Calvin Invitational, which is an event for which the team has been working hard to prepare.

"For the past few weeks our focus has really been working towards our first real race at Calvin on the 18th," Bauters said. "Up until now we are working to prepare ourselves to race competitively and strategically to do well then."

The Belles will look to their core of veterans to help the team work on its weak spots before the meet at Calvin.

"The past two races have provided us with markers on how prepared the team is currently and what steps we need to do to get them ready for next Saturday", Bauters said. "We have a strong team this season, with [sophomore] Julia Kenney and [junior] Joanne Almond leading a pack of seven or so sophomores, juniors and seniors."

The team has indeed put up strong results already this season. The Belles opened up their season with a 58-15 victory over Goshen on Sept. 1, posting the top eight times in the meet with a first place finish by Kenney, who posted a time of 20 minute, and 48 seconds as well as a second place finish on the strength of Almond's 20 minute, 48 second run.

The following race for the Belles came on Sept. 4 at Wabash. The Belles took home a third place finish out of six teams, only falling short behind then-No. 12 ranked DePauw and the Division II University of Indianapolis. Kenney and Almond were again the top finishers for the Belles, both coming in at 23 minutes and 27 seconds.

With some already positive results, Coach Bauters said she is looking to improve from last year and to keep striving for even more success this season.

"As a team we are looking to improve within the MIAA, cracking into the top 3 in the conference after a few years of coming in fourth," said Bauters. "I think with the talent and hard work I've seen thus far, these goals are attainable. I'm very pleased with how everyone is running so far and look for much better things to come."

The Alumnae Race will be held Saturday at 9 a.m. at the Angela Athletic Facility.

Contact Katharine Mack at kmack1@nd.edu

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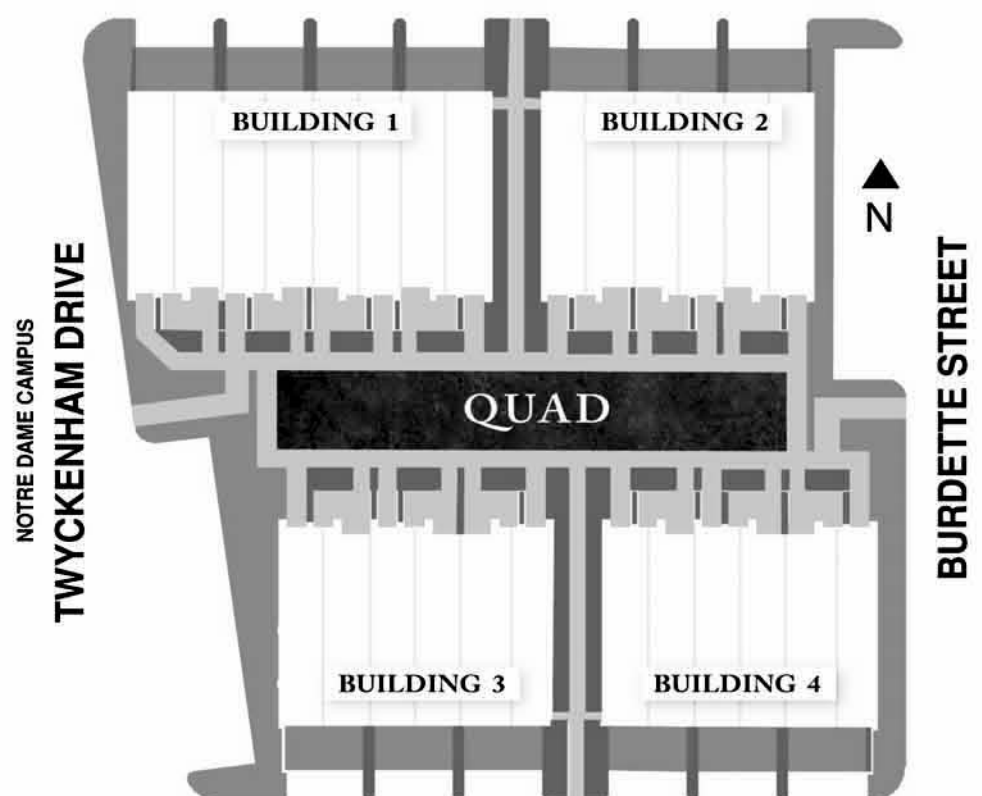
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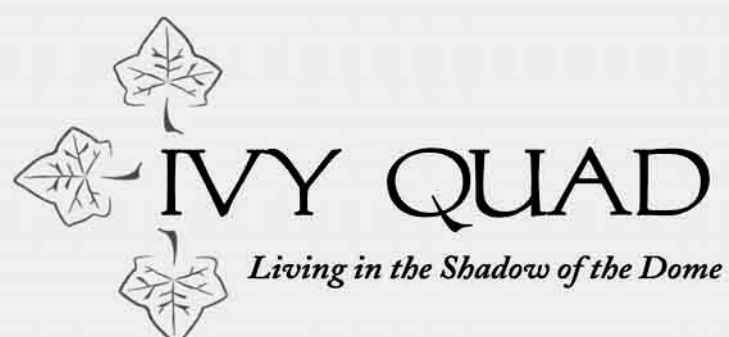
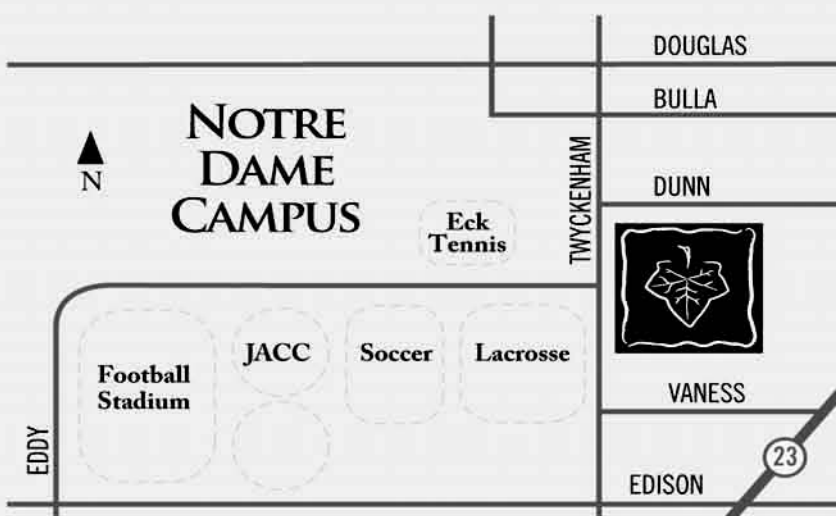
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Mustangs

continued from page 28

"We respect all our opponents as we play a very strong schedule but we concentrate mainly on what we will do rather than our opponents," Clark said.

Cal Poly will open the tournament against No. 18 Indiana, the fourth competi-

tor in the Mike Berticelli Memorial, at 5 p.m. Friday, followed by Notre Dame's matchup against Drake at 7:30 p.m. at Alumni Field. The tournament will wrap up Sunday with Indiana playing Drake at 11:30 a.m. and the Irish facing Cal Poly at 2 p.m., also at Alumni Field.

Contact Eric Prister at eprister@nd.edu

Bruins

continued from page 28

motivation for the UCLA squad.

"I think they're going to be really ready to play the next few weeks to gain back a little of that respect they lost," Waldrum said.

The Bruins are led by junior forward Sydney Leroux, who won the Golden Boot at the under-20 World Cup. She currently leads UCLA with five goals and 11 points. Junior goalkeeper Chante Sandiford has been stout between the pipes for the Bruins, with a 0.52 goals against average and a shutout in four starts.

"They're really loaded with talent," Waldrum said of the Bruins. "You look at that team and they're made up of a lot of national team kids, so they're going to be pretty solid through and through."

Notre Dame (4-0) leads the all-time series with UCLA 2-0-0, with both wins coming in the NCAA Tournament. Their most recent victory over the Bruins was in the 2004 NCAA finals, when the Irish won a national championship in a penalty shootout. The victory marked the first and only time that the national title has been decided on penalty kicks.

Loyola Marymount will also be a relatively new foe for the Irish, as this weekend's matchup will mark just the second time that the two squads have faced each other. Their previous matchup was a 4-0 win for Notre Dame in 2008, the last season at old Alumni Stadium. Junior Melissa Henderson notched a goal in the game during what was her first season with the Irish.

The Lions are off to a 4-1 start this year, with just a 2-1 loss to No. 14 California in the season

opener marring their record. They will also be Notre Dame's second opponent from the West Coast Conference in as many weekends, as the Irish played Santa Clara last Friday.

Loyola Marymount is led this year by a pair of freshmen in defender Tata Gilmer and forward Tawni Martino. Martino leads Loyola Marymount with four goals, and senior midfielder Nickey Ha trails her with three. Like UCLA, the Lions have a stout netminder in goal in freshman Brittany Jagger, who has posted an 0.80 goals against average and a .871 save percentage.

The Irish will kick off against UCLA at 7 p.m. Pacific time Friday and will round out the weekend at 11 p.m. Sunday against Loyola Marymount.

Contact Mike Gotimer at mgotimer@nd.edu

Weekend

continued from page 28

be challenging, as both teams qualified for the NCAA Division III Tournament last year.

Regardless of the difficulty of this weekend's matchups, Joyce said he has an unshakable faith in his team's ability to continue to work hard and compete.

"We can knock the ball around with anyone we face," he said. "Sometimes against a good team you end up playing defense the whole game and are lucky to get past midfield, but with every-

one we've faced we're able to create good scoring chances."

While Joyce would admit that his team has had a few unlucky breaks this year, he said he believes the key to the team's success is to stay the course and, above all, focus.

"We're positive about our performances," he said. "Our biggest challenge is keeping our head in the game for 90 minutes."

An inopportune lapse of focus, even if only for a few minutes, is enough to derail Saint Mary's efforts as the season rolls on. The Belles fell victim to such a mistake once before and paid the

price

"I thought we had a 10-minute spell against Illinois Wesleyan where we let down and it cost us two goals," Joyce said. "Without that let down and a few mistakes, it could've been a very close game."

The Belles will look to internalize their coach's words as they take the field against two very formidable opponents this weekend. Saint Mary's takes on Otterbein today at 2 p.m. and concludes the weekend against Ohio Northern tomorrow at 2:30 p.m.

Contact Robert Graham at rgraham@nd.edu



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GAME DAY

Road

continued from page 28

Denver, with matches against Denver, Jacksonville State and Gonzaga at the Pioneer Classic.

Irish coach Debbie Brown said she has been pleased with her team's response to the challenges that come with travel.

"The team responds well to traveling and playing in different environments," Brown said. "We are able to adapt well to the surroundings."

This responsiveness and acute attention to detail, Brown said, can be paramount to success on the road.

"This week in Denver, we have to pay attention to little things, like the altitude change," she said. "The thin air is a bit of a challenge; the ball has a tendency to float quite a bit more."

Although Jacksonville State, Denver and Gonzaga will be challenging opponents, the Irish are focusing instead on their own side of the net this weekend.

"Our main goal is to implement all the things in practice that we have been working on and to focus on our game," Brown said. "The hours of practice should translate into success against any opponent."

This weekend also provides an

opportunity to learn more about the team before conference play commences.

"We are learning what freshmen can do in matches and seeing which players are striving and which others are struggling," Brown said. "It is great to just get everyone playing time and gain cohesion as a group."

The team is also eager to avenge last week's lone loss in Reno to the University of Nevada. The Irish fell in five sets (3-2) to narrowly miss their goal of an undefeated weekend.

"When your last match is a loss, you have an eagerness to get out on the court and prove yourself," Brown said. "We won't feel good with anything less than winning all three games this weekend. We want to win every tournament and we felt like could have and should have won last weekend."

Though the Irish will be focusing on the games at hand, the looming milestone has given Brown cause for reflection.

"As with any milestone, I don't think about it in terms of wins and losses but the people I interacted with: all the athletes and students I was fortunate enough to coach," she said. "I feel blessed for the 20 years I spent at Notre Dame."

Contact Michael Todisco at mtodisco@nd.edu

Belles

continued from page 28

course in as many years. So, in that sense, the Belles are in the same position as the rest of the conference.

"Nobody has seen that golf course," Hamilton said. "It'll be a clean slate."

Saturday will be the first opportunity for Saint Mary's to reestablish itself as the premier program in the MIAA. Last year, the Belles finished the season at No. 8 in the country, a spot they would like to return to or even surpass this year. Hamilton has supreme confidence in his team's ability to do just that,

starting with this weekend's event.

"My expectations are that we're going to win, to be quite honest," Hamilton said. "We're going to be the team to beat."

In the MIAA season, points are accumulated over the six conference matches. Therefore, the team's consistent performance across the schedule will be more important than going out and being better than the one opponent they are facing each weekend. "Every round counts," Hamilton said.

The Belles will tee off against Alma at 1 p.m. Saturday at Pine River Country Club.

Contact Matt Robison at mrobison@nd.edu

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ND VOLLEYBALL

Milestone on the mind

Coach Debbie Brown aims for 450th victory

By MICHAEL TODISCO
Sports Writer

Notre Dame enters the week-end looking for three more wins, and Irish coach Debbie Brown is no stranger to winning volleyball games. She is in pursuit of a monumental achievement this weekend: her 450th win with the Notre Dame program.

Now in her twentieth season, Brown is 449-172 as leader of the Irish.

This weekend the Irish will travel to Denver, Colo. for three games at the Pioneer Classic after playing a similarly hectic schedule last weekend in Reno, Nev.

In Reno at the Nevada Invitational last weekend, the Irish won two of three matches, with victories over Belmont and Weber State, and a defeat at the hands of Nevada.

Notre Dame will wrap up their road swing this weekend in

see ROAD/page 26



PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Senior blocker Kellie Sciacca, left, and junior hitter Kristen Dealy go up for a block in Notre Dame's August 29 loss to Arizona.

SMC SOCCER

Belles look to pick up first win

By ROBERT GRAHAM
Sports Writer

Despite a 0-4 record to begin the season, Saint Mary's soccer coach Michael Joyce sees a silver lining to the Belles' early troubles.

"We have about as ambitious a schedule as anyone out there," he said. "While we end up with a number of losses, it does force us to raise our level of play."

The Belles will need to be ready to raise that level as soon as today, however, as they venture to Otterbein University for a weekend tournament. Saint Mary's will face off against the No. 7 host Cardinals this afternoon before finishing up with Ohio Northern University Saturday.

The weekend will certainly

see WEEKEND/page 25

MEN'S SOCCER

Irish seek first victory at annual Mike Berticelli Memorial

By ERIC PRISTER
Associate Sports Editor

The Irish will host the ninth annual Mike Berticelli Memorial Tournament this weekend, playing against No. 22 Drake Friday and Cal Poly Sunday.

The tournament honors Berticelli, a former Irish soccer coach, who led the team from 1990-99 before suddenly passing away during the 1999-

2000 season.

The Irish (0-1-1) are coming off a 0-0 draw with Cal, a game in which the Irish lost senior Jeb Brovsky to injury. With his status uncertain, others will need to step up this weekend to fill a large whole in an offense, which has been unable to score in their first two matches of the year.

"We opened the game well and then got impatient when we did not get anything tangible out of our good play," Irish

coach Bobby Clark said. "We must hold firm to our beliefs and be patient"

The 0-0 result was a good sign for one Irish player. Junior goalkeeper Will Walsh was able to record his first clean sheet against Cal, and has recorded nine saves in 200 minutes of play.

Junior Aaron Maund and sophomore Dillon Powers were both named as Soccer America Preseason All-Americans, and the Irish will

look to them for on-the-field leadership.

Drake came into the season after a 16-7-2 2009 campaign where they reached the quarterfinals of the NCAA Tournament, and are 1-1 so far this season.

They defeated Michigan 1-0 in their first game, and then lost 1-0 in overtime to Oakland leading up to this weekend. Junior goalkeeper Jordan Kadlec leads the team with 13 saves, and senior

Kenan Malicevic netted their lone goal.

The Cal Poly Mustangs come into the weekend with a 1-1 record, coming off of a 2-1 overtime loss to Air Force. They defeated Denver 1-0 in their first match of the season. Sophomore Chris Gaschen and junior Tim White have scored for the Mustangs, while junior goaltender Patrick McLain has 15 saves in two games so far.

see MUSTANGS/page 25

ND WOMEN'S SOCCER

Squad travels to West Coast

By MIKE GOTIMER
Sports Writer

The gauntlet continues for No. 3/4 Notre Dame this weekend as the Irish head west for their first ever trip to southern California in the UCLA Women's Cup.

Headlining the trip for the Irish will be their matchup with No. 13 UCLA, a perennial force in NCAA soccer Friday night. The Irish will then wrap things up Sunday with a game against Loyola Marymount.

UCLA (2-1) opened the year as the consensus No. 3 team in the country, but an early upset loss to Northwestern saw the Bruins take a tumble in the polls, something that Irish coach Randy Waldrum thinks will add extra



YUE WU/The Observer

Sophomore defender Jazmin Hall gets past a Texas Tech defender in the 2-0 Irish win Sunday.

SMC GOLF

Team eager to begin conference season

By MATTHEW ROBISON
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's will begin its conference season this weekend against Alma at Pine River Country Club.

With two weeks off since their last match, the Belles have had an extended period of time for practicing and working on their weak spots. Not too many adjustments needed to be made, however, as the Belles dominated in their first appearance of the year in the Trine Invitational, with four of the five top scores for the weekend carded by Saint Mary's players.

The squad, however, aims

to avoid complacency and instead get better.

"We've made some changes in our mechanics," Belles coach Mark Hamilton said. "And I want our players to be mentally prepared."

Because this is only the second match of the year, the younger players still need to garner trust in themselves as well as trust in their teammates and their coaches, Hamilton said.

Another challenge that awaits the Belles is unfamiliarity. Saint Mary's has not faced Alma at Pine River since 2002. In fact, no one in the MIAA has played on that

see BELLES/page 26

see BRUINS/page 25

IRISH INSIDER

Friday, September 10, 2010

THE
OBSERVER



Ordained

**Dayne Crist
wins starting
debut,
prepares for
Michigan**

Photo Illustration by Pat Coveney and Blair Chemidlin

COMMENTARY

Questions remain despite opening win

There were a lot of questions going into last week's game and, in general, Notre Dame did a good job of answering them.

Against Purdue, the Irish offense found some holes, the defense made some tackles and the special teams were successful on both sides of the ball.

In general, that's what observers wanted to see from Notre Dame.

But with one week down and Michigan coming to South Bend, it's time to get more specific.

"We have not reached a point where we understand the entire offense, defense and special teams," Irish coach Brian Kelly said Wednesday after practice. "This is going to be a work in progress each and every week."

Last week's Irish were a new team making its debut and finding a way to win. This week's Irish are no longer new, but not yet experienced.

So does this week's Irish squad have an answer to Michigan quarterback Denard Robinson, who threw for 186 yards and ran for 197 more Saturday in the Wolverines' 30-10 win over Connecticut?

"Oh, what a fantastic athlete he is," defensive line coach Mike Elston said Tuesday. "You're not prepared to defend with him. He's just a fantastic athlete."

There were times on Saturday when fans had to wonder whether the Irish defense was too slow or Purdue quarterback Robert Marve was too fast. Elston said Marve is "not even in the same ballpark" as Robinson.

Kelly said the offense and defense both would have to compensate for Robinson.

"I always look at it from both perspectives," he said. "One is controlling the football, but the other is put a lot of points on the board and it changes the way they manage the game."

Looks like the team is going to need to understand its



Laura Myers

Sports Writer

Last week's Irish were a new team making its debut and finding a way to win. This week's Irish are no longer new, but not yet experienced.

specifics in a hurry.

Can this week's Irish score enough points to knock Michigan off its game?

If Notre Dame wants to put points on the board, the offensive linemen can't miss some of the blocks they missed against Purdue. Quarterback Dayne Crist can't miss when he sends passes into the back of the end zone, either.

The only player who never missed against Purdue was kicker David Ruffer, but it will be hard to put up "a lot of points" three at a time.

If they are able to score, can this week's Irish keep Robinson and the rest of the Wolverines contained?

Purdue couldn't hurt Notre Dame with big plays Saturday, but the Boilermakers moved the ball well on short gains that turned into first downs. Robinson will probably do the same, and the Irish will need to find a way to stop him.

"He's a running back," Kelly said. "And the only way I know how to take a running back out of play is to hit him and make sure you tackle him."

After Saturday's game Kelly wasn't happy with the team's tackling, though fans were thrilled by the suggestion of tackling ability that had eluded the team for several seasons.

Inside linebackers Carlo Calabrese and Manti Te'o led the team in tackles with nine each — but Te'o missed several more.

The defensive line had four sacks, with three coming in a seven-minute span to open the second half. To get at Robinson, they'll need to create more consistent pressure throughout.

If this week's Irish can successfully fix the problems they encountered last week, they may be able to find the answer to Denard Robinson.

"That's going to be the issue," Kelly said. "If you really want to know and cut it down to its real roots, you've got to tackle this kid."

In general, that sounds like a plan.

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

Contact Laura Myers at lm Myers2@nd.edu

FOOTBALL RECRUITING

Atkinson twins highlight recruits

By DOUGLAS FARMER
Sports Editor

If Notre Dame plays well Saturday, it could help the Irish in seasons to come as much as it would help them during this season.

Three four-star recruits, according to the ESPN top 150 recruit rankings, will visit campus for the Michigan game, along with a pair of twins, Irish recruiting expert Mike Frank said.

"If they like what they see, there is a good chance Notre Dame could end up with both [George and Josh Atkinson]," said Frank, who heads the online ESPN affiliate Irish Sports Daily.

Along with the Atkinson brothers, defensive end Stephon Tuitt, safety Wayne Lyons and offensive tackle Antonio Richardson will spend the weekend at Notre Dame absorbing the gameday experience.

Richardson, the highest ranked recruit among the five at No. 32, would fill a big need for Notre Dame on the offensive line. The high school senior already tips the scales at 310 pounds, stand-

ing 6-foot-6.

"He's always had an interest in Notre Dame," Frank said. "He wants to come up for a game and get that experience, see that atmosphere. If he likes it, Notre Dame could really be in the mix for him."

Lyons, at No. 67 on the ESPN top 150, would potentially join a secondary that is currently struggling depth-wise.

"Lyons is a phenomenal athlete," Frank said. "He could play cornerback or safety, and is just a guy you want."

Tuitt, from Georgia, has listed Notre Dame as one of his top five preferences, but is still highly recruited from across the country, with reason.

"Tuitt would be a great addition to the class," Frank said. "He is a big guy already so he wouldn't need to add much weight to play that defensive end position."

Tuitt, 6-foot-5 and 255 pounds, has not visited Notre Dame before.

"He is a real smart kid," Frank said. "He's the type of kid who I think will really like it once he's here. He is very similar personality-wise to a lot of guys already

on the team."

Of the five recruits, Notre Dame might have its best chance of landing the Atkinson brothers. Josh, a cornerback, would also potentially help Notre Dame's depleted secondary in a year.

"If Josh commits, he will probably be the guy with the most speed at the corner position," Frank said.

George Atkinson could play multiple positions for the Irish. Frank compared George to former Florida receiver Percy Harvin, who left college after the 2008 season.

"George is a real dynamic player that could play nearly anything," Frank said. "I think Notre Dame envisions him in a Percy Harvin role, you put him at wide receiver or running back. He could play a lot of different positions."

"The main thing is you just want to put the ball in his hands, because he has the ability to score from anywhere."

George and Josh Atkinson are also considering Washington and Oregon.

Contact Douglas Farmer at dfarmer1@nd.edu



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Cool, calm, Crist

In Brian Kelly's new scheme, the offense will go as Dayne Crist goes, and he's okay with that

By MATT GAMBER
Sports Writer

The point of Irish coach Brian Kelly's message to junior Dayne Crist before Saturday's opener was likely similar to the one many quarterbacks receive prior to their first career start.

"He was just trying to settle me down," Crist told The Observer Tuesday. "He didn't want me to press or try and do too many things to try and win it all in one play. He said if I just went out there and played my game, we'd have a great chance of being successful."

Straightforward enough. But the way in which Kelly delivered that simple message — by telling Crist "he didn't have to win the Heisman today" — demonstrates how highly he regards the talent and potential of his starting quarterback.

"It's definitely flattering any time your coach talks about you in that light, but the most important thing

to me is always going out there and winning games with the rest of the guys," Crist said of Kelly, referencing college football's most prestigious individual award. "It's nice that your head coach has confidence in you, but none of those individual accolades or awards come without team success, so it's more about playing solid team football."

Those awards may come in time, but if Saturday's performance is any indication, Crist's top priority is efficiently managing the offense in a way that gives the Irish a chance to win.

Tired of questions

When Crist committed to Notre Dame in the summer of 2007, there was little doubt he would eventually succeed fellow Californian Jimmy Clausen as the Irish quarterback. That has happened, but not in the way most

would have predicted three years ago, with Clausen leaving early for the NFL and Kelly replacing former Irish coach Charlie Weis this winter.

Add in the fact that Crist — who played sparingly last season after redshirting as a freshman in 2008 — suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in Notre Dame's blowout win over Washington State last Halloween, and there were plenty of questions worth pondering all winter.

But not for Crist.

"Really, to be honest, I just got tired of hearing about all those things," he said. "You go from that period of time where you don't play a game and that's all you hear for six or seven months, and you get tired of hearing it all. You just want to go out there, play to the best of your ability, and try to quiet as many of those things as possible."

Crist's knee recovered ahead of schedule, and he was able to participate fully in spring and summer drills, albeit in a red jersey, signaling that he was off-limits to contact. Taking those valuable offseason reps gave Crist the opportunity to learn the new offense and develop a relationship with Kelly, who is admittedly hands-on with his quarterback.

"Like any relationship, it grows and matures with time," Crist said. "We've definitely gone through phases of just getting to know each other, both on and off the field. Then, as we know more and more about each other, we understand what makes each other tick, just certain ins and outs of everything. As a result, the relationship continues to grow and will do so as the season continues and as long as I'm here."

Crist's spring and summer availability helped erase concerns about his familiarity with the no-huddle, fast-paced spread offense. Even still, some uncertainty existed about his knee:

How would he react when the red jersey came off and it was time to take a hit?

But, again, those questions didn't affect Crist.

"It's been put toward the back of my head for a while now," Crist said of the knee. "I'm very happy with how everything turned out, with the treatment of the doctors, athletic trainers and everyone who did their part in making sure it was 100 percent healthy."

Opening statement

Crist's stat line Saturday wasn't spectacular, as he finished 19-of-26 for 205 yards and one touchdown. He wasn't perfect, either, as he overshot multiple receivers in the end zone and took a pair of sacks.

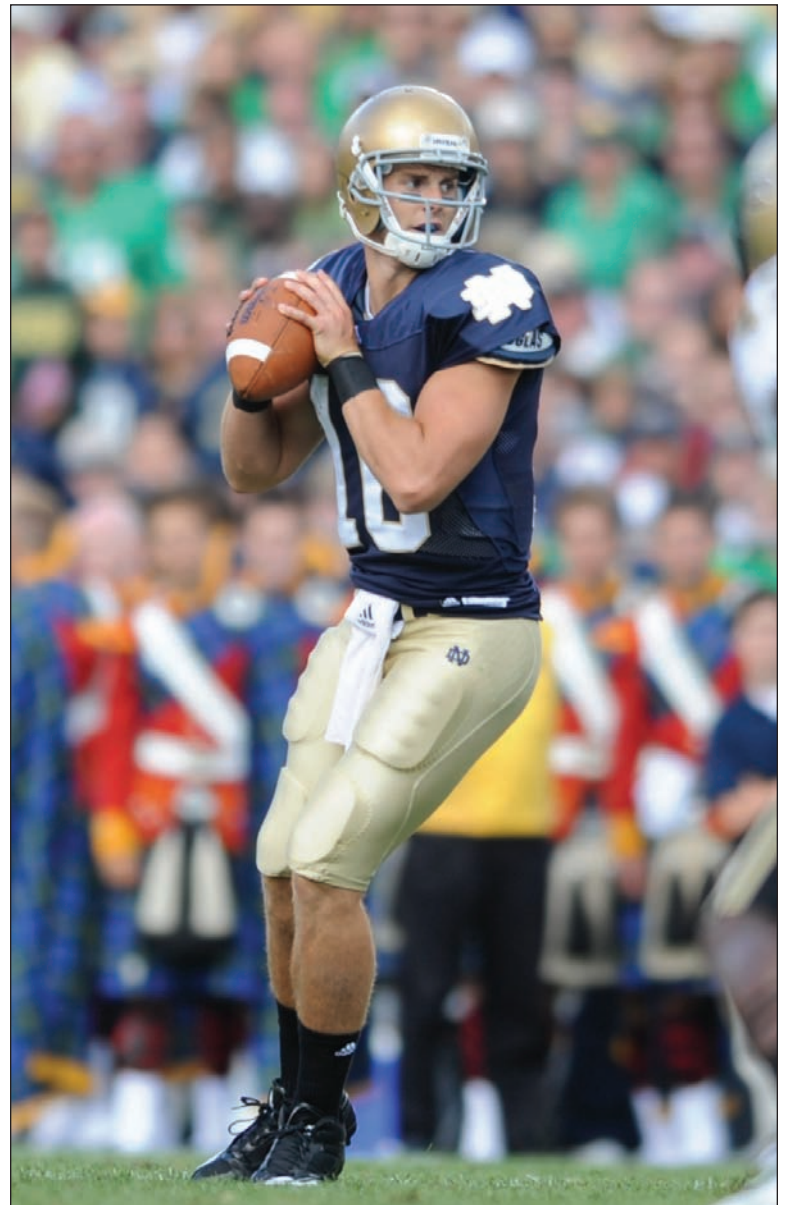
"There were some issues we identified on offense that we want to make sure we correct for next week," Crist said. "Obviously, it's going to take more and more for us to win each week, but we did enough things to win, and we're happy with that."

Simply put, Crist avoided turnovers and did enough to give the Irish, with their improved run game and attacking 3-4 defense, a chance to win Saturday.

"It was definitely a point of emphasis for me, trying to protect the ball in my first start, trying to be efficient and accurate as possible," Crist said. "Now that I've got a little bit more familiarity and my comfort level has gone up with game experience, I just feel I'll be able to progress and do some better things each week."

One element of that is picking up the pace at which the Irish get to the line, call a play and snap the ball — a major piece of Kelly's up-tempo attack. Saturday's unit operated at light speed relative to last year's Irish offense, but coordinator Charley Molnar called the pace "pedestrian."

"It was not the normal speed that we're used to working at, but quite honestly, it was the right speed for Saturday," he said. "It was the right speed to allow our guys to get lined up quickly, but not so fast that they weren't able to concentrate on their assignments and execute."



PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Junior quarterback Dayne Crist looks for an open receiver during Notre Dame's 23-12 victory over Purdue Saturday.

The ability to execute in an opener, with a new coach, scheme and quarterback, is a reflection of Crist's readiness for his starting debut.

"You didn't really see the jitters and stuff that you would expect from a first-time starter on the biggest stage in the world," junior tight end Kyle Rudolph said. "Dayne has prepared himself since the day he got here for that opportunity. You could tell when he went in there, he was ready."

'Real big rivalry'

Kelly tried to downplay the Notre Dame-Michigan rivalry at his Tuesday press conference, even comparing the showdown between two of college football's most storied programs to an annual matchup between Cincinnati and Miami (Ohio).

"From our end, it's a rivalry game every week at Notre Dame," he said. "I have never prepared football teams in a manner that we focus on a particular rivalry, that this is all eggs in one basket. I try to keep a steady, enthusiastic approach to every game."

Crist followed Kelly's message prior to the opener against Purdue, and he typically echoes his coach's words when he speaks to the media. But not even Crist could utter the cliché that Saturday's tilt with the Wolverines is "just another game."

"Obviously you're going to have some emotions going into this one," he said. "It's a big one, a real big rivalry, and something that's bigger than any player on the team. There will probably be some nerves going in, but it'll definitely be that way for both teams. In a big game like this, it's expected, but everyone's just

excited more than anything."

Equally exciting are the prospects of a Crist-led offense that includes passing-game playmakers like Rudolph and wide receivers Michael Floyd, TJ Jones and Theo Riddick — the latter of whom Kelly said will become more involved in the coming weeks.

"We want to be talked about as one of the most explosive and most efficient offenses in the country," Crist said. "We've got some very serious offensive goals that we set at the beginning of the season, and we want to make sure we accomplish those things each week. We really just want to win football games and be an explosive offensive team."

The degree to which the Irish need that explosive offense on Saturday may depend on how the Notre Dame defense fares against Michigan's dangerous, dual-threat quarterback Denard Robinson. When facing a potent offense, one line of thinking is to control the clock and hold the ball whenever possible — which directly contradicts Kelly's fast-paced philosophy.

"My other perspective would be: get up on them, score a lot of points," Kelly said Wednesday.

That responsibility, then, will fall on the unit Crist now calls his own.

"I need to have a great week of practice, as does the entire team," Crist said. "On offense, I've got to be a guy who displays a lot of leadership throughout the week and really make sure we're practicing the right way and winning earlier in the week, as opposed to just going out there and trying to win on Saturday."

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DAN JACOBS/The Observer

Senior running back Armando Allen takes a handoff from quarterback Dayne Crist Saturday. Crist and Allen led the Irish offense, in Brian Kelly's new scheme, to 358 total yards.

Notre Dame Fighting Irish

Record: 1-0

AP: NR Coaches: NR



Brian Kelly
head coach

First season at Notre Dame

career record:

172-57-2

record at ND:

1-0

against Michigan:

0-0



Bob Diaco
Def. Coordinator



Charley Molnar
Off. Coordinator

2010 Schedule

Sept. 4	Purdue—W
Sept. 11	Michigan
Sept. 18	@ Michigan St.
Sept. 25	Stanford
Oct. 2	@ Boston College
Oct. 9	Pittsburgh
Oct. 16	Western Michigan
Oct. 23	@ Navy
Oct. 30	Tulsa
Nov. 13	Utah
Nov. 20	Army
Nov. 27	@ USC

Head-to-Head

ND OFFENSE	MICHIGAN DEFENSE
Scoring: 23.0 ppg (76th)	Scoring: 10.0 ppg (28th)
Total: 358.0 ypg (71st)	Total: 343.0 ypg (61st)
Rushing: 153.0 ypg (62nd)	Rushing: 138.0 ypg (61st)
Passing: 205.0 ypg (63rd)	Passing: 205.0 ypg (63rd)
Turnovers against: 1 (19th)	Turnovers for: 1 (57th)
Fumbles lost: 1 (48th)	Fumbles rec.: 1 (20th)
Interceptions: 0 (1st)	Interceptions: 0 (66th)
Sacks Allowed: 2 (63rd)	Sacks: 0 (95th)
T.O.P. for: 24:55 (96th)	T.O.P. against: 23:08 (8th)

Statistical Leaders

ND OFFENSE	MICHIGAN DEFENSE
QB DAYNE CRIST 19-26, 205 yds., 1 TD	LB OBI EZEH 6 solo, 9 total, 1 FR
RB ARMANDO ALLEN 18 rush, 93 yds., 1 TD	LB CRAIG ROH 2 solo, 5 total, 2 TFL
WR MICHAEL FLOYD 5 rec., 82 yds., 0 TD	DE RYAN VAN BERGEN 1 solo, 4 total
WR TJ JONES 3 rec., 41 yds., 1 TD	CB J.T. FLOYD 3 solo, 6 total, 1 FF
TE KYLE RUDOLPH 5 rec., 43 yds., 0 TD	S ALBERT EVANS 4 solo, 6 total



Douglas Farmer

Sports Editor

After last week's victory over Purdue, my co-worker Sam [three picks to the right] couldn't get over how "weird" of a game it was. Well Sam, expect this weekend to be more "normal." Normal? Notre Dame's best bet to outscoring RichRod and Denard Robinson is to abandon all caution, and let the Brian Kelly playbook loose. Only in his second start, Dayne Crist will make a mistake or two with the added responsibility, but he will mature before Irish eyes in the second half, leading Notre Dame to a victory and a top-25 ranking.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 38, Michigan 28



Matt Gamber

Editor-in-Chief

Denard Robinson scares me, but I'm willing to bet Manti Te'o scares Robinson more — or, at least he will after laying his first lick on the Michigan quarterback. No doubt, Robinson was impressive in his debut, but playing against a confident Irish defense in Notre Dame Stadium is a whole new ballgame. He'll make plays with his legs, but I think Notre Dame will limit his ability to pass effectively. An additional week of practice should add some depth to the Irish offensive playbook and allow Dayne Crist and Co. to make a few of the big plays that eluded Notre Dame against Purdue.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 27, Michigan 21



Eric Prister

Associate Sports Editor

Coaches often say that a team improves most between weeks one and two, and the Irish will need that improvement to keep up with the high-powered Michigan attack. Crist is a week more experienced in running Kelly's offense, and should only continue to improve. The defense looked fast last week against Purdue, a stark difference from the last few years, but they will need to tackle better to stop Denard Robinson from running all over the field. Honestly, I doubt they will be able to stop him, but they should be able to outscore him.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 27, Michigan 24

HEAD T

Irish Offense vs. Wolverines Defense



ND PASSING

Dayne Crist didn't look bad last week, but he did make some mistakes. He missed an occasional open receiver, and not all of his passes looked crisp. But another week of experience running Brian Kelly's offense can only help. The problems in the passing game were not just on Crist.

Newly converted receiver Theo Riddick dropped passes, and Notre Dame's go-to wideout, Michael Floyd, fumbled at the goal line. Avoiding this type of mistake will go a long way to improve the passing game. Emerging in the receiver position against Purdue was freshman TJ Jones, who caught three balls for 41 yards and a score. Junior tight end

Kyle Rudolph and Floyd also each had five catches for the Irish. The Michigan secondary is relatively inexperienced, and should have a difficult time stopping the Irish passing attack, as long as Crist and the Irish can avoid making mistakes and hurting themselves.

EDGE: NOTRE DAME

ND RUSHING

The Irish running game looked vastly improved from previous seasons. Kelly's spread-style offense should open up the field and allow for a consistent running attack. Senior Armando Allen led the team with 18 carries for 93 yards, averaging 5.2 yards per carry, and scored from 22 yards

out, his longest career touchdown run. The most electric of the Irish running backs against Purdue was sophomore Cierre Wood, who in his first appearance for Notre Dame averaged 8.3 yards per carry on seven carries and looked as if he was on the verge of breaking loose on almost every carry.

The Michigan defense held its week one opponent Connecticut to only 23:08 in time of possession, and stopping the Irish running attack would help them repeat that feat. Linebacker Obi Ezech, the Wolverines' most experienced defensive player, led the team with nine tackles against the Huskies.

EDGE: NOTRE DAME

ND SPECIAL TEAMS

David Ruffer converted all three of his field goal attempts against the Boilermakers, including a 47-yarder which was the longest of his career. That makes him 8-8 in his career on field goals. Both Armando Allen and Cierre Wood had

excellent returns against Purdue, and both have the sharp moves and speed to take a kick all the way back for a score, but Michigan gave up only 11.75 yards per return against UConn, fifth best in the NCAA.

EDGE: EVEN

Brian Kelly's offense is difficult to defend for any defense, and will be especially tough for a Michigan squad which finished 82nd in total defense in the NCAA last season. With a week under his belt, Crist should be more adept at running Kelly's scheme to a higher level, which can only

make the first-year coach's job easier. Kelly's fast-paced offense will try to score early and often, which may be necessary to keep up with the quick-score ability of the Wolverines.

EDGE: NOTRE DAME

ND OFFENSIVE COACHING



For more matchups and pregame analysis, as well as a live
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O HEAD

Wolverines Offense vs. Irish Defense

WR

9 Odoms
17 Jackson

WR

12 Roundtree
16 Grady

RB

2 Smith
20 Shaw

QB

16 Robinson
7 Gardner

TE

86 Koger
80 Webb

RT

79 Dorrestein
75 Schofield

RG

65 Omameh
76 Washington

C

50 Molk
63 Khoury

LG

52 Schilling
56 Barnum

LT

72 Huyge
77 Lewan

DE

90 Johnson
94 Williams

DE

89 Lewis-Moore
91 Nwankwo

OLB

45 Fleming
55 Shembo

ILB

44 Calabrese
54 McDonald

ILB

5 Te'o
13 Spond

OLB

56 Neal
58 B. Smith

CB

2 Walls
23 L. Wood

CB

4 Gray
12 Blanton

S

22 H. Smith
15 McCarthy

S

26 Slaughter
17 Motta

WR

22 Stonum
21 Hemingway

P

43 Hagerup
46 Broekhuizen

PK/KO

34 Gibbons
46 Broekhuizen

LS

91 Pomarico
54 Glanda

PR

9 Odoms
10 Gallon

KR

22 Stonum
9 Odoms

Specialists

Michigan Wolverines

Record: 1-0

AP: NR Coaches: NR



Rich Rodriguez
head coach



Calvin Magee
Off. Coordinator

Third season at Michigan

career record:
108-71-2
record at Michigan:
9-16
against ND:
1-1



Greg Robinson
Def. Coordinator

2010 Schedule

Sept. 4	Connecticut — W
Sept. 11	@ Notre Dame
Sept. 18	Massachusetts
Sept. 25	Bowling Green
Oct. 2	@ Indiana
Oct. 9	Michigan State
Oct. 16	Iowa
Oct. 30	@ Penn State
Nov. 6	Illinois
Nov. 13	@ Purdue
Nov. 20	Wisconsin
Nov. 27	@ Ohio State

Head-to-Head

MICHIGAN OFFENSE	ND DEFENSE
Scoring: 30.0 ppg (57th)	Scoring: 12.0 ppg (37th)
Total: 473.0 ypg (32nd)	Total: 322.0 ypg (56th)
Rushing: 287.0 ypg (13th)	Rushing: 102.0 ypg (46th)
Passing: 186.0 (75th)	Passing: 220.0 ypg (70th)
Turnovers against: 0 (1st)	Turnovers for: 2 (27th)
Fumbles lost: 0 (1st)	Fumbles rec.: 0 (58th)
Interceptions: 0 (1st)	Interceptions: 2 (11th)
Sacks Allowed: 0 (1st)	Sacks: 4 (8th)
T.O.P. for: 36:52 (9th)	T.O.P. against: 35:05 (96th)

Statistical Leaders

MICHIGAN OFFENSE	ND DEFENSE
QB DENARD ROBINSON 19-22, 186 yds, 1 TD	CB GARY GRAY 8 solo, 9 total, 1 TFL
QB DENARD ROBINSON 29 rush, 197 yds, 1 TD	LB CARLO CALABRESE 7 solo, 9 total
RB VINCENT SMITH 14 rush, 51 yds, 2 total TD	DL ETHAN JOHNSON 3 total, 2 sack
WR DARRYL STONUM 5 rec., 34 yds., 0 TD	LB MANTI TE'O 6 solo, 9 total
TE KEVIN KOGER 3 rec., 30 yds., 0 TD	CB DARRIN WALLS 5solo, 7 total, 1 INT

The Michigan passing attack relies on one thing: speed. Notre Dame's defense traditionally lacks one thing: speed. Yet, the Irish showed signs of speed in containing Purdue throughout the season-opener. The secondary played solid, though not excellent. Darrin Walls killed a Boilermaker drive with an interception inside the red zone,

but beyond that he found himself turned around more times than defensive coordinator Bob Diaco would have liked to see. Wolverine quarterback Denard Robinson has a strong arm, and will be looking for Walls, or counterpart Gary Gray, to make a mistake. This will be the first real challenge for both Michigan's offense and Notre

Dame's secondary, so in many ways the distinguishing factors have not yet presented themselves. Nonetheless, that speed factor hangs in the balance, and Michigan has shown an abundance of it.

EDGE: MICHIGAN

Last week, Michigan ran for 287 yards, 197 courtesy of quarterback Denard Robinson. Irish defensive Bob Diaco has compared the speedy quarterback to having a 12th player. Whenever Robinson decides to carry the ball himself, his running back turns into a lead blocker, instead of a running threat, so the Irish need to compensate for both.

But Notre Dame's front seven proved stout last week against Purdue. Even in a sub-par game, sophomore linebacker Manti Te'o recorded nine sacks — matched by fellow inside linebacker Carlo Calabrese. With a rotation that could go as deep as seven, the Irish linebackers are the defense's best threat at slowing Robinson.

Any missed tackles, or abandoned assignments, will lead to a big play from Michigan, and since Notre Dame is only playing its second game under Diaco's 3-4 scheme, there will be missed tackles and abandoned assignments — just as there were against Purdue.

EDGE: MICHIGAN

Notre Dame senior David Ruffer sent a kickoff through the end zone against Purdue, an act not performed by an Irish kicker in years. Even more impressive was the play of freshman gunner Bennett Jackson, recording four

tackles on kickoffs in his first Irish action. Michigan did record some nice returns against Connecticut, but Notre Dame should present more complete return coverage, and stifle the Wolverines.

EDGE: NOTRE DAME

Rich Rodriguez is known for his offense, even if it hasn't shown itself consistently at Michigan. With Robinson at his disposal, Rodriguez's playcalling took a liberal step last week, and will likely take another one this week. Irish defensive coordinator

Bob Diaco will try to slow the Wolverine offense with his 3-4 defense, but slowing it likely will not be enough to stop Michigan from piling up points.

EDGE: MICHIGAN



Sam Werner

Sports Writer

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 31, Michigan 28



Laura Myers

Sports Writer

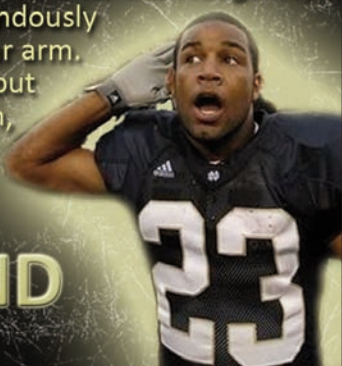
FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 34, Michigan 28

This time last year, I couldn't imagine a scenario where Notre Dame would lose to Michigan — until it happened. This year, I can imagine many such scenarios. Denard Robinson could run for 300 yards. Notre Dame's time of possession could slip under the 20-minute mark. Big 10 officials could make their presence felt. But this is a stronger team than last year's squad. Literally — they've practiced outside in thunderstorms, which are predicted for Saturday afternoon. An improved offense and defense will allow this year's Notre Dame to find a way to win.

GOLDEN PICK OF THE WEEK

Featuring Golden Tate

"This week, I still think the Irish are trying to prove themselves against a worthy opponent and a rival. I expect Michael Floyd to be more involved in this game and I see a little of myself in the freshman TJ Jones! Dayne Crist was my biggest surprise after the first game; he has grown tremendously and has a spectacular arm. I say the Irish come out firing early and often, and Notre Dame wins 27-24."



27-24 ND

blog on Saturday, check out the Irish-football/irish-insider



ND'S OPPONENTS LAST WEEK & THIS WEEK

	(0-1) L 23-12 @ ND	Western Illinois
	(1-0) W 30-10 Connecticut	@ ND
	(1-0) W 38-14 W. Michigan	FL Atlantic
	(1-0) 52-17 Sacramento State	@ UCLA
	(1-0) W 38-20 Weber State	Kent State
	(0-1) L 27-24 (OT) @ Utah	New Hampshire
	(0-1) L 38-14 @ Mich. State	Nicholls State
	(0-1) L 17-14 @ Maryland	GA Southern
	(0-1) L 51-49 @ E. Carolina	Bowling Green
	(1-0) W 27-24 (OT) Pittsburgh	UNLV
	(1-0) W 31-27 @ E. Michigan	Hawaii
	(1-0) W 49-36 @ Hawaii	Virginia

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Irish face 'one of the best athletes' in Robinson

By DOUGLAS FARMER
Sports Editor

In its first game, Notre Dame held Purdue's Robert Marve, a dual-threat quarterback, in check, only giving up one play of more than 20 yards.

In Saturday's game against Michigan, Notre Dame will face another dual-threat quarterback, one who was involved in three plays for more than 20 yards — 383 yards total — in a 30-10 win over Connecticut.

Wolverines sophomore quarterback Denard Robinson rushed for 197 yards and threw for 186 more in his first career start. He will pose a unique challenge to the Irish defense, from the defensive line to the secondary.

"He's probably one of the best athletes we're going to face," Irish defensive line coach Mike Elston said.

With a quarterback as versatile as Robinson, Irish

defensive coordinator Bob Diaco said it is similar to playing against a team with an extra player. "It's a real challenge," Diaco said. "He's as talented as all the ball carriers on their team and on our team with the ball in his hands. When you think of him as a quarterback and not as a ball carrier, when he becomes a ball carrier it is like they have 12 guys."

That being said, Diaco does

not plan to alter his defensive approach in order to contain Robinson on the ground or in the air.

"There are no new defenses to put in, just a selection from what we already have," Diaco said. "When a player shows up in an area with the ball, [our defense has] to be able to produce and make the play."

A stable of swift receivers, including Martavious Odoms, supplemented Robinson's play-making.

"It's not just [Robinson]," Diaco said. "I love [Odoms]. I'd love to coach [Odoms]. He's like a little tiger out there. He's just an animal."

Odoms, Robinson and the rest of the Wolverines' offense relied on speed to score against Connecticut. Diaco said he expects to slow the Wolverines down with his typical "gap-control."

"They'll punish you. Every one of their players has electric speed," Diaco said. "We

try to be sure that everybody has their proper gap fit and they understand their assignments. Each particular guy has his job to do in each particular call, and he has to do that job. [Nobody] can be looking for the football."

Irish coach Brian Kelly expects Robinson to pose a threat, but he said he sees that threat beginning mostly through short-yardage attempts.

"When you think of him as a quarterback and not as a ball carrier, when he becomes a ball carrier, it is like they have 12 guys."

Bob Diaco
Irish defensive coordinator



Wolverine quarterback Denard Robinson scores on a 22-yard rush against Connecticut Saturday during Michigan's 30-10 victory. Robinson tallied 197 rushing and 186 passing yards in the victory.

"Their offense, obviously, is set to run the football," Kelly said. "Now, [Robinson will] throw the ball and he's very accurate. Most of his throws are contained within five or 10 yards of the line of scrimmage, but if you fall asleep on him he can throw the ball over your head."

Indeed, against Connecticut, Robinson completed only one pass for more than 16 yards. That one play, with sophomore

receiver Terrence Robinson on the other end, went for 43 yards and set up Michigan's final touchdown of the game, an 11-yard touchdown pass.

"He has a strong arm, throws a nice tight spiral and can make all the throws," said Diaco, citing a game last year when Robinson, who played sparingly as a freshman last season, entered the game for one play solely to throw a deep pass.

The Irish defense will be able

to handle Robinson and the Michigan offense, on one condition, Diaco said.

"All we are going to do is do the best we can in selecting from the menu of installations that we have and preparing the players mentally. Then, they need to clearly know their assignment and do their assignment the entire time."

Contact Douglas Farmer at
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Walk-on kicker finds way to top of depth chart

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

It was never surprising for coaches to see a walk-on competing with a recruited player for the starting kicker spot.

So it wasn't a surprise when senior David Ruffer won that spot and kicked three field goals on three tries, including a 46-yarder, Saturday against Purdue.

"We don't treat guys as walk-ons," special teams coach Mike Elston said. "If they're brought in to be a part of the team they're expected to help us improve our football team."

Ruffer joined the Irish in 2008 as a backup to then-sophomore Brandon Walker, and he spent 2009 in a backup role behind then-freshman Nick Tausch.

He spent fall camp competing with Tausch, and came out ahead.

"Coach Kelly and I had been saying all week and all of fall camp that it was going to be a battle down to the end," Elston said. "David was better with his tempo, better with his timing and more accurate in practice."

And though coaches weren't surprised, Ruffer never saw himself as a starting kicker at Notre Dame.

"It's kind of the back of the mind, something you think about before you go to bed at night, maybe," he said.

Ruffer began his college career at William & Mary in Virginia. He was a kicker for the Tribe, which

plays in the Football Championship Series, formerly Division I-AA. He transferred to Notre Dame after his freshman year and joined the Siegfried Ramblers for Notre Dame's inter-hall season.

"I played wide receiver. The rosters are so limited in interhall that they can't have someone just be a kicker," Ruffer said. "So I had to try to be an athlete."

He was only a Rambler for a short time, though, before he joined the Irish.

"I figured if I kept working on it, worked hard over the summer, I thought maybe," Ruffer said.

Ruffer missed his only kick in 2008, an extra point attempt. But in 2009, he was 5-for-5 in field goal attempts.

Tausch made 14-of-17 field goals in 2009, with a long of 46 yards.

For Ruffer, who didn't play football in high school, the biggest thing he has had to improve was the speed between the snap and the kick.

"If it gets blocked, it doesn't matter how well you hit it," he said. "So we work on that, just timing, timing, timing."

Elston said Ruffer would be used to attempt field goals up to the low 50s in length.

"Maybe 55 if the wind is right," he said.

Being trusted in a 55-yard kick situation at Notre Dame is a long way from where Ruffer ever imagined he would be.

"I never thought I'd be starting," he said. "You know, it would



Senior walk-on David Ruffer sends the opening kickoff down the field Saturday against Purdue. Ruffer's Notre Dame football career began with the Siegfried Ramblers in interhall football.

be cool to make the team, be a part of the program.

"I come to practice and sometimes when I walk out of here I have to be like 'Oh my gosh, I play football for Notre Dame, this is really neat.'"

Of course, Siegfried hasn't let him go.

"[Rector Fr. John Conley] tries to recruit me back every year," Ruffer said. "Like, 'Hey David, we

could really use you!'"

But Ruffer is committed to the Irish and has been since he transferred.

"Maybe there's a magnet in that Dome that pulled me over here," he said.

Elston said Ruffer's hard work trumped his status as a walk-on when the coaches put him on top of the depth chart.

"Shoot, if you look over the

Contact Laura Myers at lmeyers2@nd.edu



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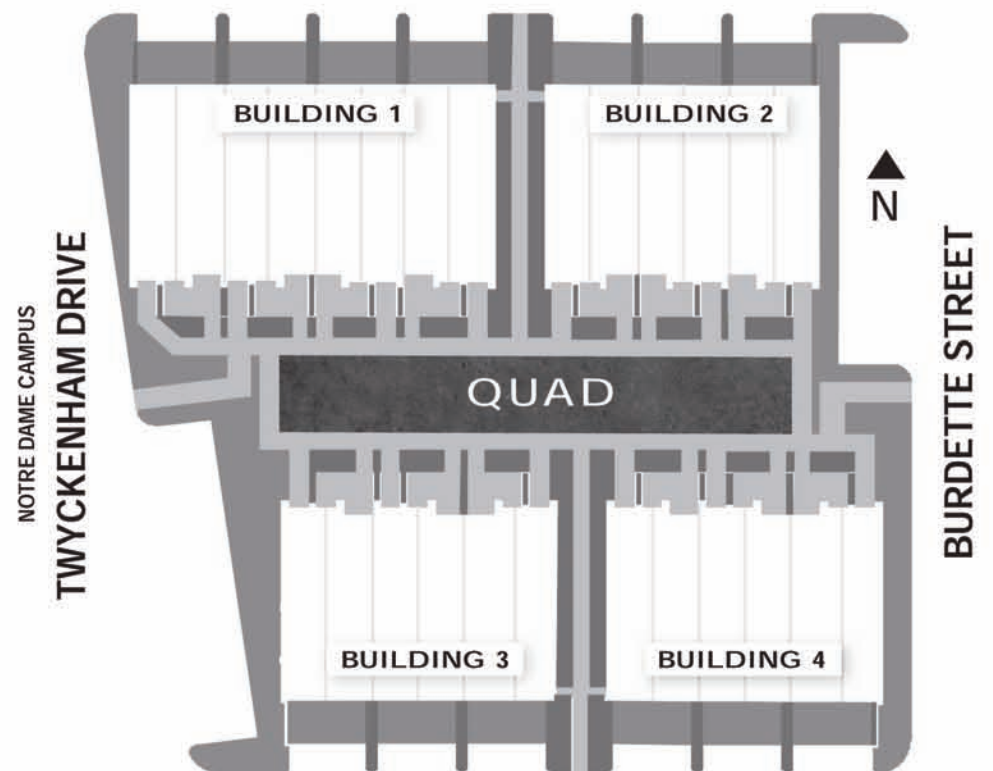
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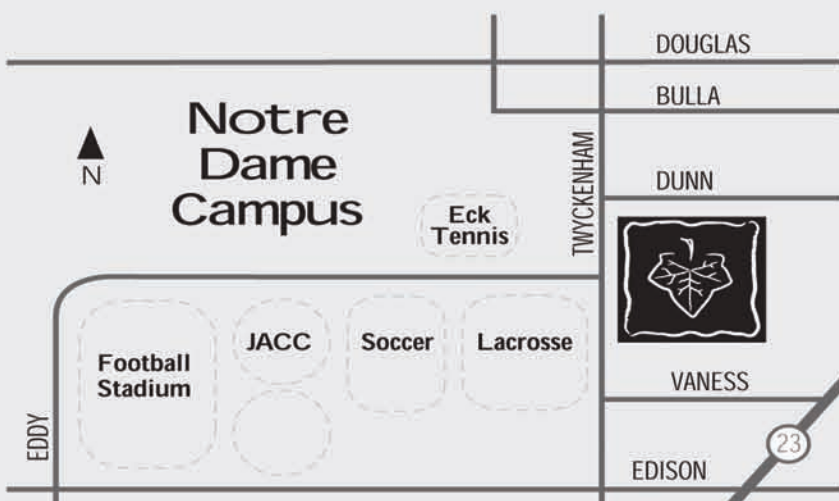
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