

THE OBSERVER

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Victims, administration speak on sexual assault

Survivors share experiences, describe aftermath of incident

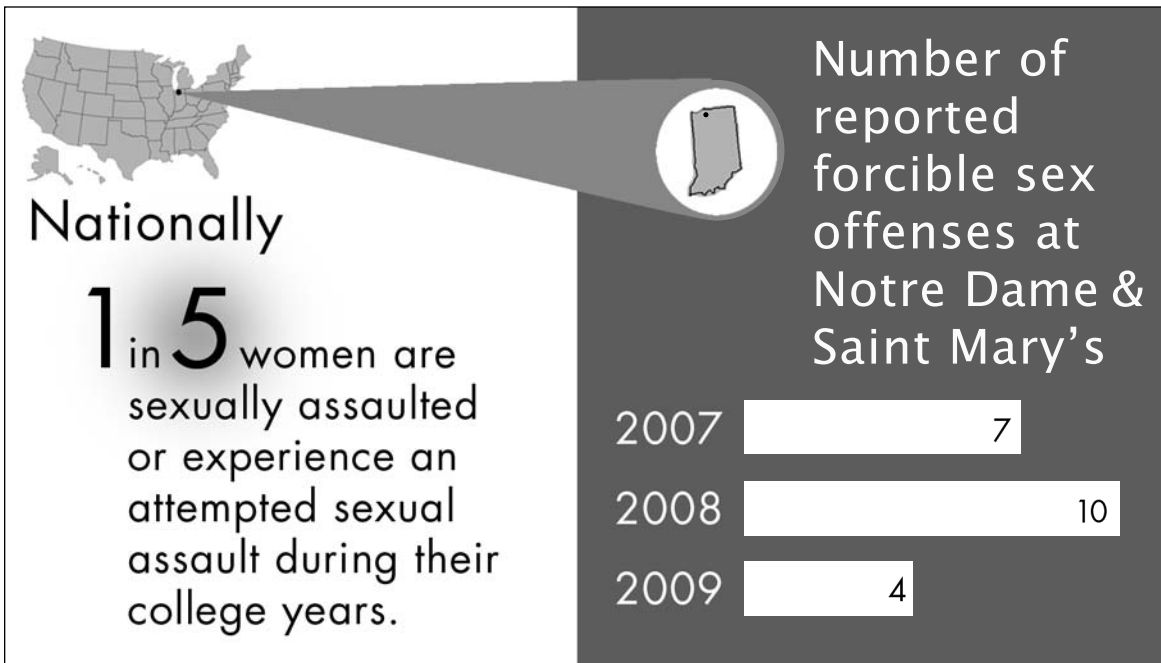
By SARAH MERVOSH
News Editor

After Maria, now a junior, was raped in a neighboring male dorm after winter break of her freshman year, simply walking out of her dorm became difficult.

"He lived 20 yards away from me. I saw him all the time. All the time," she said. "It was awful."

The first time she saw her perpetrator after he met her at

see ASSAULT/page 5



LISA HOEYNCK | Observer Graphic

University officials declare zero tolerance, support survivors

By SARAH MERVOSH
News Editor

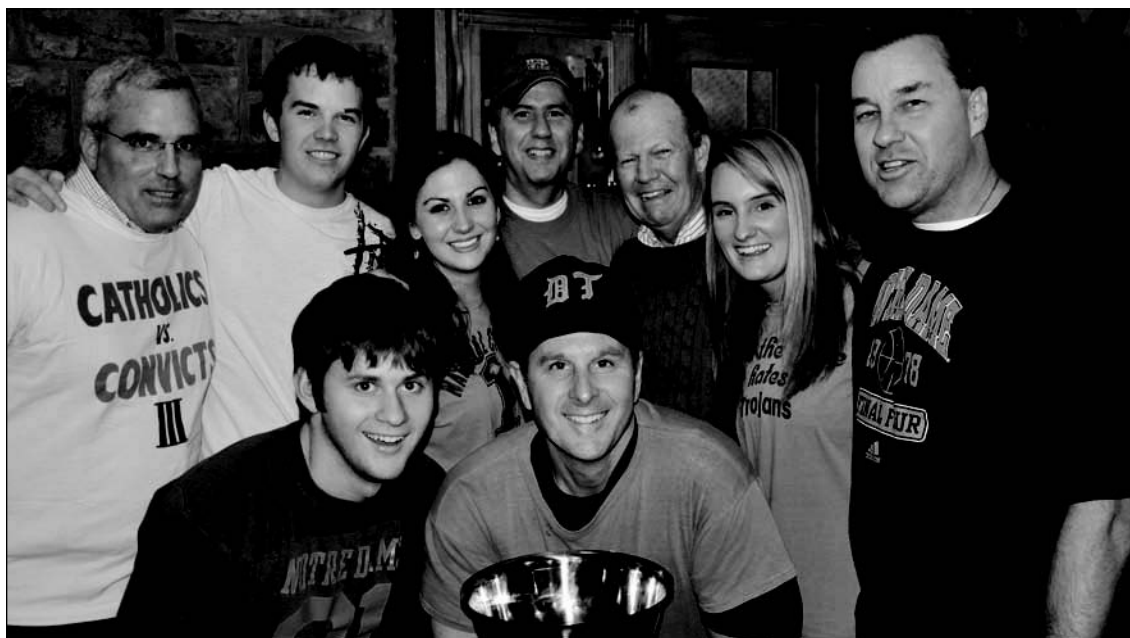
The number of forcible sex offenses reported to Notre Dame and Saint Mary's does not match the national statistic that one in five women are sexually assaulted or experience an attempted sexual assault during their college years.

But Notre Dame and Saint Mary's know their students are no different.

"Based on what the national

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THE TURTLE CLUB



MICHAEL WEBER/The Observer

Marketing professor John Weber, third from left, poses with former students and members of the 'Turtle Club.' Weber is retiring from teaching after 42 years educating Notre Dame students.

Professor teaches last course at ND

By MEGAN DOYLE
News Writer

Marketing professor John Weber, nicknamed "Weebs," said he lives by three rules — have fun, be nice to everyone and think about turtles once in a while.

Weber taught his last class at Notre Dame Wednesday after 42 years as a member of the faculty, but said the "Turtle Club," created by his seven grandchildren, will con-

tinue to grow.

Weber invites his students and friends to join the club, even giving them laminated membership cards and a club certificate that lists the three rules, Weber said.

"The silly stuff like that is reflective of my years here because I like to have a lot of fun and I like to be close to students," Weber said. "That is the hallmark of my time here."

Weber built long-lasting friendships with many Notre

Dame undergraduates during his time as a professor, a Hall Fellow in Morrissey Hall and the moderator of the Marketing Club.

"I have always been very social," Weber said. "From the start, the most enjoyable part of teaching for me has been interfacing with the students."

Weber began teaching at the University in 1969. He arrived at Notre Dame at the

see PROF/page 6

Glee club responds to Fox's hit TV show

By KRISTEN DURBIN
News Writer

If fans of the hit TV series "Glee" are looking for the show's signature combination of song, dance and drama at Notre Dame, they will only find one of those features in Notre Dame's own Glee Club.

"Usually when I tell people I'm in Glee Club, they ask me if it's like the show and I tell them it's not," Kyle Nieman, co-vice president of the club, said. "We definitely don't dance."

Although distinct differences

exist between the fictional New Directions of "Glee" and the 70-member, all-male Glee Club at Notre Dame, the latter has not changed their group identity to match the choir stereotype created by the show.

"A lot of the guys in the club love 'Glee,' and others think it's the most ridiculous thing in the world," Michael Eardley, co-vice president of the Glee Club, said. "We haven't changed our identity because the group has been successful long before Fox created 'Glee,' and the show rein-

see GLEE/page 6

Mayor will not seek re-election

Observer Staff Report

South Bend Mayor Stephen Luecke will not seek re-election next year, according to The South Bend Tribune.

Luecke made the announcement at a Wednesday press conference in his office. He stepped into the role of South Bend mayor in 1997. Precinct committeemen elected him at the time to replace Mayor Joe Kernan, who rose to

lieutenant governor that year.

For the May 3 Democratic primary, The Tribune reported at least five Democrats have indicated interest in running. They include: Barrett Berry, a minister and financial adviser, Peter Buttigieg, an economic development consultant, Mark Dollinger, a business services representative at Work One, State Representative Ryan Dvorak and Mike Hamann, a St. Joseph County Council member.

THE OBSERVER

P.O. Box 779, Notre Dame, IN 46556
024 South Dining Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Matt Gamber

MANAGING EDITOR **BUSINESS MANAGER**
Madeline Buckley Patrick Sala

ASST. MANAGING EDITOR: Sam Werner
ASST. MANAGING EDITOR: Laura Myers

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ADVERTISING MANAGER: Lillian Civantos

AD DESIGN MANAGER: Jane Obringer

CONTROLLER: Jeff Liptak

SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR: Joseph Choi

OFFICE MANAGER & GENERAL INFO
(574) 631-7471
FAX
(574) 631-6927

ADVERTISING
(574) 631-6900 observad@nd.edu

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
(574) 631-4542 mgamber@nd.edu

MANAGING EDITOR
(574) 631-4541 mbuckley@nd.edu

ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITORS
(574) 631-4324 swerner@nd.edu, lmyers2@nd.edu

BUSINESS OFFICE
(574) 631-5313

NEWS DESK
(574) 631-5323 obsnews.nd@gmail.com

VIEWPOINT DESK
(574) 631-5303 obsviewpoint@gmail.com

SPORTS DESK
(574) 631-4543 observersports@gmail.com

SCENE DESK
(574) 631-4540 jgamble@nd.edu

SAINT MARY’S DESK
acharn01@saintmarys.edu

PHOTO DESK
(574) 631-8767 obsphoto@gmail.com

SYSTEMS & WEB ADMINISTRATORS
(574) 631-8839

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www.ndsmcobserver.com

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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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TODAY’S STAFF

News	Sports
Sarah Mervosh	Eric Prister
John Cameron	Megan Finneran
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Graphics	Scene
Lisa Hoeynck	Alex Kilpatrick
Photo	Viewpoint
Tom La	Ren Brauweiler

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 IS YOUR FAVORITE QUOTE FROM THE MOVIE *ELF*?



Dominique Higgins

*freshman
Lewis*

“We elves like to stick to the four main food groups: candy, candy cane, candy corn, and syrup.”



Laura McCarty

*senior
McGlinn*

“I like smiling, smiling is my favorite.”



Patrick O’Brien

*freshman
Keough*

“We elves like to stick to the four main food groups: candy, candy cane, candy corn, and syrup.”



Ryan Carey

*junior
Dillon*

“Bye buddy, I hope you find your dad!”



Stephen Elser

*freshman
Fisher*

“I like smiling, smiling is my favorite.”

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



KIRBY MCKENNA/The Observer

The Glee Club treats Ryan Hall residents to a brief holiday caroling concert Wednesday evening. Three additional concerts will be preformed Saturday at the Leighton Concert Hall in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

OFFBEAT

Kitten returns home after five years

BILOXI, Miss. — Five years after wandering away in Hurricane Katrina’s aftermath, a gray and white cat named Scrub has been reunited with his Mississippi family.

The Humane Society of South Mississippi says Scrub was identified by an implanted microchip. The 7-year-old cat was brought to the shelter by a Gulfport woman who’d fed him as a stray the past couple of months but worried about his safety during a cold snap.

Scrub’s owner, Jennifer Noble, tells The Sun Herald newspaper that she was skeptical at first

when she received a call from the shelter. But by the end of the first night back, Scrub had snuggled in bed with one of her boys.

The woman who’d been feeding him lives about 15 miles away. Noble says Scrub is in excellent condition

Calif. library book returned 74 years overdue

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — A California woman is proving it’s never too late to make things right.

Ninety-five-year-old Hazel Severson of Sacramento says a friend found a book that Severson’s late husband had borrowed from an

Amador County library in 1936 while sorting through things for a garage sale.

She knew what she had to do: return the book and offer to pay the overdue fee — a whopping \$2,701.

Severson told the Sacramento Bee that she and her husband Howard were newlyweds back when he checked out the hardback, “Seaplane Solo,” about Sir Francis Chichester’s 1930 solo flight across the Tasman Sea.

Luckily for Severson, the library didn’t charge her the fee, though it did accept a small donation when she stopped by on Oct. 13.

IN BRIEF

Free Fair Trade coffee will be given out today from 9 to 11:30 a.m. in DeBartolo Hall, and from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in LaFortune Student Center. Bring your own reusable mug or cup. Cream and sugar will be provided.

The Peter Claver Catholic Worker will host a Hospitality Lunch today at 11:45 a.m. The lunch will take place in Geddes Hall. A \$5 donation is asked for the lunch and additional donations are welcome.

The film “High and Low” will be shown today at 6:30 p.m. in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. A wealthy industrialist is pushed to the limit when his family targeted by ruthless kidnappers. Tickets cost from \$3 to \$6.

“A Kodachrome Christmas” will be performed today at 7 p.m. in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The performance was written and directed by Pat Hazell. Tickets cost from \$8 to \$30.

Starting Friday, Recsports will offer a range of free classes. All classes from Dec. 10-15 are free. Treat yourself to a study break and work off that end-of-semester stress. Classes are on a first come, first serve basis.

The Undertones will perform a Christmas Concert Friday from 8 to 10 p.m. on the Washington Hall Main Stage. Tickets are \$5 a piece and can be purchased at the LaFortune Box Office or from any of the Undertones.

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	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 26	HIGH 26	HIGH 32	HIGH 33	HIGH 26	HIGH 17
	LOW 24	LOW 24	LOW 25	LOW 25	LOW 10	LOW 9

STUDENT SENATE

Group commends soccer team



PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Members of Senate passed a resolution Wednesday congratulating the women's soccer team on its national championship win.

By MEGAN DOYLE
News Writer

Student Senate passed a resolution Wednesday congratulating the Notre Dame women's soccer team on its victory in the national championship game.

"The Notre Dame Women's Soccer team beat the previously unbeaten and No. 1 ranked Stanford Women's Soccer team to win the 2010 NCAA National Championship on Dec. 5," the resolution said.

Student body president Andrew Bell said each member of the team and the coaching staff will receive a copy of the resolution along with a congratulatory letter.

Oversight chair Paige Becker

said the team's dedication deserved praise from student government.

"Historically, the Oversight Committee has always done a resolution to congratulate really outstanding athletic achievements like a national championship," Becker said. "We just wanted to recognize their hard work and how well it paid off during the game."

The resolution also acknowledged the team's performance throughout the season.

"The Women's Soccer team finished their 2010 season with

a record of 21-2-2 and their senior class finished their four-year career with a record of 87-12-5," the resolution said.

Sunday marked the team's third national championship and the eighth national championship appearance in the program's history.

The resolution specifically congratulated the leadership of Coaches Randy Waldrum, Dawn Greathouse, Ken Nuber and Jeannette Boudway and captains Lauren Fowlkes and Jessica Schuveiller, and it included the names of all team members.

The senators also debated whether to include the name of the senior student manager in the resolution.

O'Neill Hall senator Michael Ryan said a resolution could not possibly acknowledge all the people who support the soccer team.

"I do not think it is fair to just include that one person because there are a bunch of other people who contributed to the team," Ryan said. "By including them we still leave out so many people."

The Senate decided the resolution could still be supportive of the team without including

the extra name of the student manager.

The resolution passed unanimously.

Contact Megan Doyle at
mdoyle11@nd.edu

"We just wanted to recognize their hard work and how well it paid off during the game."

Paige Becker
Oversight chair

Offices stay busy over winter break



MALCOLM PHELAN/The Observer

Samuel Gaglio, assistant dean of the Mendoza College of Business, said the College will use winter break to catch up and plan for the future.

By MELISSA FLANAGAN
News Writer

Even though students will leave Notre Dame next week for winter break, the Office of Financial Aid will "seem just as busy," student service representative Lynn Pershing said.

Most offices around campus, including the Office of Financial Aid, will remain open until Dec. 23 and reopen again Jan 3 after a short break.

"It's just our normal business," Pershing said. "We still get calls, grad students are still here."

Samuel Gaglio, assistant dean of the Mendoza College of Business, said faculty from Mendoza use the break as a time to catch up on things, as well as plan ahead for the future.

"It's a great time to take care of the paperwork and preplanning that makes it possible to spend time advising [students] while [they are] on campus," Gaglio said.

Until Dec 23., Gaglio and the rest of the college will focus on taking care of end of the semester issues, such as grades and registering for the spring semester.

"We are still assisting students who ask about scheduling problems. We do graduation checks," Gaglio said. "There are numerous issues students may have."

When the faculty comes back to campus in 2011, they will look ahead to the spring semester.

One focus of Mendoza is to make sure that every student is on track for graduation. Gaglio said while seniors are the top priority, they also check to see that juniors and sophomores are taking the classes they need to be taking.

"This is when we can go in-depth with the 1,800 students we have," Gaglio said.

In the Office of the Dean in the College of Arts and Letters, the faculty is looking even further ahead. Mo Marnocha, a personnel and operations specialist in the office, said one event they begin planning over

break is the diploma ceremony in May.

"We're gearing up for the spring semester, as well as looking at the end of the spring semester," Marnocha said.

The Office of the Dean will also concentrate on finishing faculty appointments for the spring, as well as considering promotion and tenure packets.

Notre Dame Security Police (NDSP) is one department that will not have a break for the holidays. Dave Chapman, assistant director of NDSP, said his staff will remain at Notre Dame for the duration of the break.

"We're here 24 hours a day, seven days a week," Chapman said.

NDSP will do most of its normal duties, Chapman said, such as walking through the buildings on campus and patrolling the parking lots. One additional job they have over break is to make sure students' doors remain locked.

"We continually check the dorms and make sure all the doors are locked on a daily basis," Chapman said. "This is an open campus, so even

though students are gone, the public still comes on campus."

Ava Preacher, an assistant dean for the College of Arts and Letters, said her office doesn't make appointments from the last class day until the first day back, but they still handle many student concerns.

"We handle emergencies, exam problems, registration problems," Preacher said. "We also deal with transfer and readmitted students and preparing for them."

Although Marnocha agreed break is a great time to fix problems and catch up on the past semester, she said the Office of the Dean in the College of Arts and Letters will mainly use the break to plan ahead for the future.

"We're always working ahead," Marnocha said. "We're cleaning up some tail end stuff, but we're always looking forward."

Contact Melissa Flanagan at
mflanag3@nd.edu

catch the Christmas spirit
with MSPS STUDY

12.9.10

7 PM

LaFun Ballroom

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Toys for Tots

Card-Making

Cookie
Decorating

RVSP & Like MSPS
on FACEBOOK and
enter to win
a Starbucks gift card!



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATAION

Group reflects on semester, sets goals

By ASHLEY CHARNLEY
Saint Mary's Editor

Saint Mary's Student Government Association (SGA) did end-of-semester housekeeping Wednesday night by discussing what has gone right so far and assessing goals that still need to be accomplished.

The executives held individual meetings with the members of the Board and said its members agreed they had succeeded on several fronts: a good team atmosphere, successful commissioners and increased visibility on campus, student body president Rachael Chesley said.

"These are things we virtually heard from everybody," she said. "Most people commented on the foundation of a team. They feel as SGA, everyone is working together as a team."

At the beginning of the academic year, SGA commissioners and executives went on a retreat together to build camaraderie, Chesley said. The Board said this made commissioners more successful in their positions.

Chesley said commissioners feel comfortable enough to really "take action" this year.

The majority of the Board also said they have improved at "reaching out to the student body as a whole," Laura Smith, student body vice president, said.

"Everyone mentioned they feel SGA is much more visible this year through events taking place and also through emails and keeping the office open," Chesley said.

Kelly Lyons, president of the Class of 2011, said she has seen a huge shift since last year's SGA.

"Last year, I didn't really know what SGA was or what it was a part of, but I feel like this year, that has changed a lot," Lyons said.

SGA then discussed changes

that could be made and improvements that need to be implemented in the coming semester.

Members said they need to improve communication between the Finance Committee — which reviews sponsorship requests from clubs and organizations on campus — and the larger board.

"Everyone, overall, said they like how instead of spending the whole time on hearing sponsorships and voting who gets what in the larger meetings, we can deal with other things, but you also want to know where the money is going," Chesley said.

Starting next semester, there will be minute-long reports about how the money is spent, she said.

Members also suggested a State of the Union address to let the campus community know what SGA is doing and to let "students know this is actually what we've been doing and we haven't been hiding," Emily Skirtich, chief of staff, said.

Finally, the group discussed major projects they would like to see done in the spring.

The Board wished to address the technology issues on campus, such as the lack of printers, the possibility of adding bike racks on campus, improving its recently launched website and completing the Le Mans Hall basement renovations, which when completed will be a common area for students.

Chesley reminded the Board that the April 1 turnover date will approach quickly when the staff returns for the spring semester.

"The projects that we pick, we need to jump on them right when we get back," she said.

Contact Ashley Charnley at
acharn01@saintmarys.edu

Students celebrate Kwanzaa

African Americans honor deceased loved ones, offer libations

By CAITLIN HOUSLEY
News Writer

Kwanzaa may not start until Dec. 26, but the Sisters of Nefertiti and the Multicultural Service and Student Program (MSSP) of Saint Mary's held a pre-Kwanzaa event to help students prepare for the upcoming holiday.

"[Kwanzaa] is an African American Holiday that is based on an African celebration of first fruits," Stephanie Bridges, director of MSSP, said. "African Americans celebrate it as a way to reconnect with their heritage, family and community."

Students and faculty presented the traditions of Kwanzaa and outlined Kwanzaa's seven principles — unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith.

Participants were encouraged to offer a water libation, or sacrifice, to their loved ones who had died. By saying the loved one's name out loud, the participant asked for their presence at the event.

Stacy Davis, associate pro-

fessor of Religious Studies, said the table adornments were important. There were seven candles — each representing a different principle — a basket of fruits, cultural books and art, the libation cup and corn.

Davis said the ears of corn represented the children of the world. Even if a family has no children, members are still encouraged to place two ears of corn on the table, signifying their strife to make life better for those who come after them.

Various members of the Saint Mary's community presented and offered inter-

This relates to the idea of "taking on others' problems so that they become your own," Call said.

Sophomore Joi Pugh presented on cooperative economics. As an accounting major, Pugh said she understands the importance of having money, but as a volunteer, she said it is also important to give donations to those less fortunate.

Pamela Blair, Saint Mary's administrative assistant, presented on creativity and shared her own piece of poetry. She said everyone has important gifts to discover.

"How you positively carry yourself through the day has the way to peacefully affect others," she said.

Bridges said Kwanzaa is similar to other holidays celebrated at this time of year.

"The basics are the same in that it is a celebration of family and community love. It is different, however, in that the focus is not in gift giving," she said. "The emphasis is more on reconnecting with your heritage through the types of gifts you give."

Contact Caitlin Housley at
chousl01@saintmarys.edu

"[Kwanzaa] is an African American holiday hat is based on an African celebration of first fruits."

Stephanie Bridges
director of MSSP

pretations of Kwanzaa's principles.

Carrie Call, director of the Office of Civic and Social Engagement, presented on the principle of collective work and responsibility. She said this principle is important in daily life because one thing that helps people overcome their differences is a common goal, or collective work.

STUDY TIME



Building Hours for STUDY Days & Finals Week

DeBartolo Hall

December 10-12: 7AM to 3:00AM

Finals Week: December 13-16: Rooms available except when scheduled by the Registrar's office.

December 17: DeBartolo Hall closes at 5:00pm.

See Building Support Personnel if you have specific needs~ Room 103 or 104.



Coleman-Morse

December 10-12: 7am-4am

December 13-15: Como 1st floor OPEN 24 HOURS!

2nd Floor: 7:00am-3:00am

3rd Floor: 7:00am-12am

December 17: Coleman-Morse closes at 5:30 pm

See Building Support Personnel if you have specific needs~ Room 101.

Finals Week: Rooms available except when scheduled by the Registrar's office.

Write News.

E-mail Sarah at
smervosh@nd.edu

Assault

continued from page 1

a party, forced her onto a couch in his dorm room and had sex with her, she threw up “instantly.” After that, she had panic attacks every time she saw him.

But for Maria, these physical symptoms would only be the beginning of a long battle with the legal system, the University and herself to regain her sense of justice, faith and self-worth.

The Observer changed the names of sources in this article to protect the identity of victims of a crime.

Maria reached out for help immediately — telling her friends and the Notre Dame Security Police (NDSP), obtaining a rape kit at the hospital and, ultimately, pressing charges.

She took her perpetrator to court in St. Joseph County, but he was not charged.

“They didn’t have enough evidence to prosecute him,” Maria said. “Basically, I didn’t have any bruises. I wasn’t beaten or anything like that.”

The next step was to take it to the University’s Office of Residence Life and Housing (ORLH), which held a disciplinary hearing — the more formal and serious of meetings — for the male student. But the panel that heard his case did not find the student responsible for sexual misconduct, and he graduated with a degree from Notre

Dame later that year, Maria said. Other survivors of sexual assault said they have questioned whether what happened to them can be considered sexual assault.

Natalie, a junior, attended a University-sponsored event in South Dining Hall one night during her freshman year and went into the entrance of the dining hall to put her coat and scarf in a cubby.

An acquaintance, who had previously asked for her number after class, approached Natalie. She said she did not know him well enough to remember his name at the time.

“One second, I think I was just putting my stuff into the cubbies and the next second, he was just grabbing me and trying to fondle me and feel me up,” she said.

He wrapped his arms around her, whispered into her ear and attempted to grab her breasts. Natalie tried to get out of the tight hold he had her in, but backed into a wall.

Finally, the male student let her go and she immediately left the event. She did not report the incident to the University.

“I was just really happy to leave. I didn’t really think what had happened to me was assault,” she said. “Later, I realized it was.”

For Kristen, now a senior, the involvement of alcohol made it difficult to know whether she had consented to sex with a male student during her freshman year.

She woke up one morning

hanging off the side of her bed and had no idea how she had gotten there. When a friend asked her what boy had been in her bed the previous night, Kristen had no idea. She narrowed it down, and one male student admitted to having sex with her.

“He then messaged me a couple hours later and said I had better go to Planned Parenthood and get plan B because he hadn’t used a condom,” she said.

But it wasn’t until a friend bluntly told her she had been raped that she had the realization that literally stopped her dead in her tracks.

“It’s a hard line to draw. What is rape and what is just drunk sex that is consensual?” Kristen said. “Looking back on it now, I realize that I had not [consented].”

Kristen got a rape kit at the local hospital and reported it to NDSP. Eventually, though, she stopped the investigation so she could focus on her upcoming finals.

She decided not to press charges and opted instead to file a no-contact order, which meant neither party could enter the other’s dorm, and they could not communicate at all.

The decision to report the incident, and to what extent to pursue an investigation, was something each survivor battled with in the aftermath of the sexual assault.

Maria went into the ORLH hearing knowing she would most likely not be successful, but went through the “long and painful process” because she wanted the administration to have written record of the incident.

“I wanted the paperwork to pile up,” she said. “They’re not going to do anything to change if they don’t have the bureaucracy of paperwork piled up on their desks.”

Maria said even if a student is not found guilty of sexual misconduct, the University should mandate some sort of counseling.

“If you’re trying to protect the students, you have an obligation to protect the victim and

the perpetrator,” she said. “It should be just as mandatory as the alcohol classes are for people who get drinking tickets.”

Natalie sometimes regrets not reporting the male student who fondled her in the dining hall. Although she said the incident was not “that big of a deal,” she still sees the student in classes and the two share mutual friends.

“That’s when I really regret it,” she said. “When I see him talking to one of my really good girl friends and see that he has interest in them.”

Having mixed feelings about reporting the incident was only one of the long-term side effects these survivors of sexual assault

experienced.

After being raped, Maria lost faith — both in God and in the administration.

“Having Notre Dame tell me that this didn’t happen was like being raped all over again,” Maria, who had always associated her faith in God with Notre Dame, said. “I couldn’t go to a Mass being said by a Notre Dame priest because I didn’t believe.”

But she did find support in her rectress, resident assistant and the University Counseling Center. These aspects of the University have allowed her to maintain her love for Notre Dame.

“It was hard for awhile, but I have re-fallen in love with it because it’s more than just the administration,” Maria said. “It’s the family, it’s the friendships, it’s the beauty of the campus.”

Kristen said she felt fully supported by faculty and the administration, but often felt the student body chose to ignore that rape occurs at Notre Dame.

“There is an apathy among Notre Dame students for this that just shakes me to my core,” she said.

The University attempts to raise awareness about sexual assault through programs like “College Has Issues,” a seminar every student is required to attend as a freshman, but Kristen said it is difficult to understand until you have experienced it.

“I very vividly remember sitting in ‘College Has Issues’ and making fun of what they said about consent,” she said. “Now I’m realizing how true it was.”

Contact Sarah Mervosh at smervosh@nd.edu

Seeking *More?* Consider Time with God on a ...



Silent Directed Retreat

January 10-16, 2011

At Moreau Seminary

(Registration deadline is Dec. 15)

All students, staff, and faculty are welcome.

Applications available online (campusministry.nd.edu) or in 114 Coleman-Morse Center

For more information, please contact: Tami Schmitz at 574-631-3016 or tami.schmitz.8@nd.edu



Admin

continued from page 1

data tells us, we continue to be concerned about attempted and completed sexual assaults occurring that are not being reported,” Ann Firth, chair of the University’s Committee on Sexual Assault Prevention (CSAP), said.

From 2007 to 2009, there were 21 sex offenses reported, including eight forcible rapes, according to annual statistics from Notre Dame Security Police (NDSP) and Saint Mary’s.

This school year, NDSP has notified the student body of four reported sexual assaults.

Both Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s have groups that work specifically against sexual assault.

At Notre Dame, CSAP works to develop policies and programs that support survivors of sexual assault and communicate a no-tolerance policy to perpetrators. The group is comprised of administrators, students, rectors and representatives from NDSP.

At Saint Mary’s, the Belles Against Violence Office, which opened this fall after the College

received a grant to fund it, deals with issues such as dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.

CSAP worked with student government two years ago to conduct a systematic review of resources for survivors, University policies and preventative measures. Firth said it was the first review of its kind.

“It was an extremely helpful process, and it led the University to take a number of important steps,” Firth said.

A major result of the review was creating a more comprehensive Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct Policy. The new policy defines prohibited sexual misconduct and consent.

“Consent means informed, freely given agreement, communicated by clearly understandable words or actions, to participate in each form of sexual activity,” the policy states. “Consent cannot be inferred from silence, passivity or lack of active resistance.”

Firth said it is important to consider the role alcohol can play in sexual assault because in the majority of incidents on college campuses, one or both of the parties have been drinking.

“This trend is reflected on our

own campus,” Firth said based on cases that have been reported.

CSAP and other groups work to raise awareness about alcohol use in relation to sexual assault, and the Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct Policy directly addresses the issue.

“Intoxication is not an excuse for failure to obtain consent,” the policy states. “A person incapacitated by alcohol or drug consumption, or who is unconscious or asleep or otherwise physically impaired, is incapable of giving consent.”

The policy also details the process by which a student can report the incident.

If the assault occurred on campus, survivors report to NDSP, but if it occurred off campus, the appropriate agency is likely city or county police. This is separate from reporting the perpetrator to the Office of Residence Life and Housing (ORLH) or pressing charges.

Students who want the incident to remain confidential can speak with the University Counseling Center, their rector or campus ministers, who will honor confidentiality unless there is an imminent threat to the student or others.

When a survivor reports a perpetrator to ORLH, they submit a written statement and the accused student will have a disciplinary conference or hearing. Unlike other student disciplinary cases, though, the person filing the case is allowed to be present throughout the entire conference or hearing and is informed of the outcome of the case.

If the perpetrator is found responsible for sexual assault, he or she “will ordinarily face disciplinary sanctions up to and including dismissal from the University,” according to the student handbook, du Lac.

Procedures for handling sexual assault reports are slightly different at Saint Mary’s because the College does not have its own fully authorized police force.

Incidents that happen on Saint Mary’s campus are reported to the St. Joseph County Police, and if an incident happened on another campus, the survivor has the option to file a police report or a complaint with that University’s disciplinary office, said Karen Johnson, vice president for Student Affairs at Saint Mary’s.

But Johnson said the College allows the survivor to make her

own decision regarding how to proceed.

“Studies show that a woman who has been sexually assaulted suffers a lost sense of control,” she said. “It must be her choice whether she files a police report, seeks medical attention, speaks with the prosecutor, seeks counseling, etc.

“At the end of the day these decisions are hers and hers alone.”

Firth emphasized that sexual assault is “unacceptable” and will not be tolerated at Notre Dame. Specifically, she said sexual assault contradicts the University’s foundational purpose to promote the formation of an “authentic human community graced by the Spirit of Christ.”

“We seek to embody the notion that all persons have inherent dignity and worth as creations of a loving God,” Firth said. “Whenever we act without respect, reverence and responsibility, we deny this fundamental truth.

“Sexual violence is antithetical to the values of our community and can have no place among us.”

Contact Sarah Mervosh at smervosh@nd.edu

Prof

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same time as Mendoza’s first copy machine.

“There were only 40 faculty members in the College of Business at that time,” Weber said.

Notre Dame began to expand and build a reputation as a research university, and Mendoza currently employs almost 200 faculty members, Weber said.

“The research expectations in the College of Business have just gone through the roof. I feel very concerned about the younger faculty because it is very difficult to achieve tenure now,” Weber said. “That relates back to interfacing with students. It is difficult for young faculty today to set aside time for undergraduate students.”

Weber saw positive changes in the University as well.

“Admitting women allowed us to keep up the quality of our students and round out the male part of our student body from a maturity view,” Weber said. “Having women as an integral part of all dimensions of campus life better prepares all our students for the real world, a world where women are increasingly playing leadership roles.”

Weber said leadership in the College of Business led the University to its current ranking as the No. 1 school for undergraduate business in the nation.

“While some colleges still have relatively high student to faculty ratios, we have added more faculty,” Weber said. “We are willing to bring in the big guns to help improve our standing among national and international universities.”

Campus facilities and technology also allowed students to learn more, Weber said.

Senior Tom Smith signed up for Weber’s Business to

Business marketing course because of recommendations from friends.

“I heard he was a great professor even though this was an 8 a.m. course. I honestly never thought I would make it to every 8 a.m. class, but I can successfully say I did it,” Smith said. “And I stayed awake every day.”

Smith said Weber constantly reached out to his class and even hosted a cookout for them in his home.

“He visibly cares about his students,” Smith said. “Of all the teachers I have had here, he has done the most to connect to his students.”

In 2001, Weber was made an honorary member of the Class of 1981 and remains close with students from that class.

Dan Tarullo, a 1981 graduate, lived in Morrissey Hall while Weber was a Hall Fellow and is one of almost 30 alumni who participate in the “Weeb’s Open,” an annual golf tournament and informal reunion in late July.

Over 15 members of this group hosted a surprise dinner for Weber Tuesday evening

and visited his class Wednesday morning.

“This group here has been together over 30 years and we come back together every year because of this man,” Tarullo said.

The group shared stories about Thursday night bowling, cookouts and golf scrambles with Weber’s current students. They recounted tales of Weber when he stole bowling shoes and jumped into a pond at a local golf course in a victory celebration.

Weber said the long-standing friendships he formed with students are the most valuable product of his time at Notre Dame. “It all starts with one-on-one personal relationships with students. The first rule of the Turtle Club is to have fun,” Weber said. “You have to have fun.”

Contact Megan Doyle at mdoyle11@nd.edu

Glee

continued from page 1

forces what we are and were already doing.”

A major factor in the Glee Club’s traditional formula for success has been its characteristically hectic Christmas season, which included two performances at the Snite Museum of Art in the past two weeks and Christmas caroling in women’s residence halls at Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s.

“Caroling in the girls’ dorms at Notre Dame went from 6 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. on Wednesday,” Nieman said. “It’s a huge time commitment, but it’s a lot of fun.”

The club’s busiest time of year coincides with the busiest time of the semester in terms of schoolwork, but both Nieman and Eardley agreed that being busy with Glee Club provides an escape from the stress of papers and tests.

“Even though this is the time when we all have the most homework, everyone wants Glee to sing for their events,” Eardley said. “I think it’s doable because we’re basically 70 best friends, so knowing you’re all in it together makes it less of a personal sacrifice

from your studies and more an opportunity to be with people you want to spend your time with.”

The Glee Club’s Christmas season will culminate with three concerts in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center Saturday, and all proceeds will go to the Center for the Homeless and the Food Bank of Northern Indiana, Eardley said.

“The concerts take up a lot of time on Saturday, but we don’t see it as giving up our Saturdays because the concert proceeds go to a good cause,” Eardley said. “It takes prioritizing and time management skills, but it’s worth it.”

Nieman said the concerts will feature a wide variety of Christmas songs, including traditional tunes like “Sleigh Ride” and “Jingle Bells.” However, the highlight of the concert program for many Glee Club members is singing a number of nontraditional carols.

“We are singing calypso and Latin American carols, but one of our favorites is an African song that includes minimal choreography,” Nieman said.

In addition to participating in all of Glee Club’s performances during the year, the 12 members of The Undertones, Notre Dame’s all-male a cappella group, will perform their biggest concert of the year

Friday night.

Nieman, a member of both groups, said The Undertones have been giving small concerts in female dorms to promote the main concert, which will feature mostly pop music arranged by members of the group.

These concerts also prepare the group for its winter break trip to Vail and Denver, Colo., for a week of singing and skiing.

Despite the Glee Club’s packed schedule, both Nieman and Eardley said they believe the members of the group enjoy the spirit of the Christmas season more than any other time of year, especially because they spend so much time with each other.

“Christmas is definitely the best season, and I think most of the guys would agree,” Nieman said. “We work hard to learn all the music, but it’s a blast because we have a good time as ‘brothers in song,’ as we like to call ourselves.

The Glee Club’s Christmas concerts will take place at 2:30 p.m., 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, and tickets are available the Center or at performingarts.nd.edu.

Contact Kristen Durbin at kdurbin@nd.edu



Photo courtesy of Garren Bryant

Members of the Glee Club pose for their Christmas picture. While some members are fans of the Fox TV show, they maintain that there are many differences between their performances and the show.

WikiLeaks supporters hack credit sites

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The web-sites for Visa and MasterCard were inaccessible for parts of Wednesday, likely the result of attacks by WikiLeaks supporters who are angry that the credit card companies had stopped processing donations to the organization.

Both MasterCard and Visa said that cardholders' accounts were not at risk and that people could continue using their credit cards throughout the day.

Supporters of the WikiLeaks, which has released thousands of classified government documents in recent weeks, said they would attack companies and groups hostile to the site and its founder. An Internet group operating under the label "Operation Payback" claimed responsibility for the MasterCard and Visa problems in messages on Twitter and elsewhere.

MasterCard's troubles began in early morning Eastern time and by mid-afternoon, its website was once again operational. But the hacker group appeared to be preparing for its next target, Visa Inc., and by about 4 p.m. EDT the company's corporate website was inaccessible. The site appeared to be functioning once again after 6 p.m. EDT.

Spokesman Ted Carr said Visa's processing network, which handles cardholder transactions, was working normally.

The hacking group Anonymous, known for previous attacks on the Church

of Scientology and Kiss bassist Gene Simmons, is distributing software tools to allow anyone with a computer and an Internet connection to join in the attacks as part of "Operation Payback." Such tools are widely available on the Internet and can easily launch a large number of attacks on targeted websites, said Dean Turner from the computer security firm Symantec.

MasterCard acknowledged "a service disruption" involving its Secure Code system for verifying online payments, but spokesman James Issokson said consumers could still use their credit cards for secure transactions. Consumers can use credit card companies' websites to find information about the cards, but applying for one and accessing existing accounts are done through the banks that issue the cards.

The credit card companies' troubles took place the same day of attacks on websites for Swedish prosecutors, the Swedish lawyer whose clients have accused founder Julian Assange of sexual crimes and the Swiss authority that froze Assange's bank account.

Besides Visa and MasterCard, a string of U.S.-based companies — including Amazon.com Inc. and eBay Inc.'s PayPal — cut ties to WikiLeaks amid intense U.S. government pressure. In a statement, PayPal confirmed that its website has been attacked, which at times slowed the site down but did not "significantly"

affect payments.

In a statement, MasterCard said its systems have not been compromised. Earlier Wednesday, the company said the problems appeared to be "the result of a concentrated effort to flood our corporate web site with traffic and slow access."

Such an attack, known as a denial of service, is analogous to thousands of people all calling the same phone number at once, resulting in busy signals for the few who are legitimately trying to get through.

The term "hacktivist" is now widely used to describe politically motivated hackers such as the WikiLeaks supporters, said David Perry, global director of education at security company Trend Micro. Earlier this year, an Ohio college student was sentenced to 30 months in prison for hacking into the websites of conservative pundit Ann Coulter and of former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani.

Operation Payback itself appeared to run into problems Wednesday as many of its sites went down. It was unclear who was behind the counterattack. And Facebook banned the group's page from its site, saying in an e-mailed statement it takes action on content that "promotes unlawful activity." Spokesman Andrew Noyes would not comment on whether Facebook banned any individual users and pointed out that the Wikileaks page does not violate the company's policies and remains up.

U.S. citizen tries to detonate fake bomb

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — A 21-year-old part-time construction worker obsessed with jihad was arrested Wednesday when he tried to detonate what he thought was a bomb at a military recruitment center — the second time in less than two weeks that an alleged home-grown terrorist was nabbed in a sting operation.

Antonio Martinez, a naturalized U.S. citizen who goes by the name Muhammad Hussain, faces charges of attempted murder of federal officers and attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction, according to court documents filed Wednesday.

The bomb he's accused of trying to detonate was fake and had been provided by an undercover FBI agent. It was loaded into an SUV that Martinez parked in front of the recruiting center, authorities said, and an FBI informant picked him up and drove him to a nearby vantage point where he tried to set it off.

There was never any actual danger to the public during this operation this morning," U.S. Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein said Wednesday. "That's because the FBI was controlling the situation."

Martinez, who had recently converted to Islam, appeared in U.S. District Court in Baltimore Wednesday afternoon and was ordered held until a hearing Monday. He faces a maximum sentence of life in prison on the weapon of mass destruction charge and 20 years on the attempted murder charge.

she met him three or four years ago — before he became a Muslim — and described him as quiet. The two last spoke over the summer and Legrand, 20, said Martinez tried to get her to convert.

He said he tried the Christian thing. He just really didn't understand it," she said, adding that he seemed to have his life under control after converting to Islam.

Public defender Joseph Balter cautioned against a rush to judgment.

"It's very, very early in this case," he said.

Asked to identify himself during Wednesday's hearing, Martinez said he was Muhammad Hussain but confirmed that Antonio Martinez is still his legal name. He wore an untucked, white button-down shirt and baggy blue jeans. His curly hair was long and unkempt, and he had sideburns and a goatee.

No one answered the door at his apartment in a tidy, three-story yellow building in a working-class northwest Baltimore neighborhood. LaSharn McDaniels, a 34-year-old nursing assistant who lives in his building, said she didn't know Martinez.

"I need to get to know my neighbors because it's shocking to find out that where I live, there's a terrorist," McDaniels said.

Court documents indicated that Martinez "moved from place to place" because he didn't want anybody to find him. A woman inside an apartment that reportedly belonged to his mother declined to speak with an AP reporter.

His commitment to jihad caused strain in his family, the documents show. The FBI informant reported listening to Martinez during a long conversation with his mother.

"She wants me to be like everybody else, being in school, working," Martinez told the informant. "My wife understands. ... I told her I want to fight jihad. ... She said she doesn't want to stop me."

Martinez's Facebook page identifies his wife as Naimah Ismail-Hussain, who describes herself as a student and employee at Pine Manor College in Chestnut Hill, Mass. Attempts to reach her were not immediately successful.


According to the court documents, the informant first contacted the FBI on Oct. 8 after communicating with Martinez through Facebook, where he had posted notes that alluded to jihad.

"The sword is cummin the reign of oppression is about 2 cease," Martinez wrote in one post.


He picked the military recruitment center because he considered enlisting before he converted to Islam and had been inside, the documents showed.

Martinez told the informant he didn't know how to build a bomb, according to the documents, but investigators nonetheless believed he posed a genuine threat, Rosenstein said.

"The investigation was undertaken only because experts had made the determination that there was a real risk," he said.



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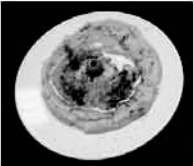
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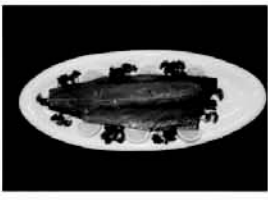
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Martinez told an FBI informant he thought about nothing but jihad, according to court documents. He wasn't deterred even after a Somali-born teenager was arrested in Portland, Ore., the day after Thanksgiving in an FBI sting.

The Oregon suspect, Mohamed O. Mohamud, intended to bomb a crowded downtown Christmas tree-lighting ceremony, but the people he'd been communicating with about the plot were FBI agents.

Martinez wondered briefly if he was headed down a similar path, documents indicate.

"I'm not falling for no b.s.," he told the FBI informant when he heard about the Oregon case. He said he still wanted to go ahead, but the informant told him to think about it overnight and call the next day.

An undercover FBI agent they were working with advised the informant to turn the tables on Martinez and make him think the agent did not trust him. Martinez told the informant he planned to assure the agent that he knew "what happened to the brother in Oregon ... we don't work for those people."

In the following days, Martinez reiterated his support for the plan several times, documents show, at one point reassuring the informant that he didn't feel pressured to carry out the plot: "I came to you about this, brother."

Authorities did not say where Martinez was born or why he converted to Islam. A former girlfriend, Alisha Legrand, said

Former Wellesley student found not guilty

Associated Press

BOSTON — A judge on Wednesday found a former Wellesley College student not guilty on grounds of insanity in the stabbing of her ex-boyfriend in his dorm room at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology weeks after he broke off their relationship.

Anna Tang was accused of sneaking into Wolfe Styke's dorm room with three knives and stabbing him as he slept on Oct. 23, 2007. Styke received seven stab wounds but survived.

Tang, 23, admitted she stabbed Styke but claimed she was legally insane at the time, suffering from bipolar disorder and depression. She waived her right to a jury trial.

Middlesex Superior Court Judge Bruce Henry found Tang not guilty of armed assault with attempt to murder, home invasion and assault with a dangerous weapon causing serious bodily injury.

Tang's lawyer, Robert George, said after the verdict he and his client were "obviously thrilled with the result."

"You know, we put a lot of time and effort, and that includes a forensic medical

team we put together," George said. "It's gratifying that the court ... accepted our case and acquitted her by reason of mental disease or defect."

Tang has checked into the Solomon Carter Fuller Mental Health Center in Boston for observation. After the observation, which can range from 20 to 50 days, George will return to court for a commitment hearing, at which Tang will be set free or it will be determined

what will happen next in terms of her treatment.

"But," George said, "the magnificent consequences of all of this is that she is not going to prison."

Prosecutors, however, indicated that they plan to push for vigorous safeguards to ensure Tang doesn't harm anyone again.

"The verdict doesn't change the fact Tang 'carried out an extremely vicious and cruel act of violence that resulted in serious injuries to an unarmed college student who was asleep at the time of the attack,'" District Attorney Gerry Leone said.

Prosecutors hope the commitment hearing will ensure Tang "will receive the mental health treatment necessary to

"The magnificent consequences of all of this is that she is not going to prison."

Robert George
lawyer



Anna Tang was accused of stabbing her ex-boyfriend in his dorm room at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2007. She was acquitted Wednesday on the grounds of insanity.

minimize the likelihood of her committing such a violent offense again, including a safety plan and compulsion to engage in whatever treatment and medications that might be deemed warranted," Leone said.

Tang's trial began in June but was suspended until Dec. 1 after a prosecution expert changed her opinion on whether Tang was insane when she attacked Styke.

Dr. Alison Fife, a psychiatrist who teaches at Harvard

Medical School, initially submitted a report to the court indicating she believed Tang wasn't criminally responsible for stabbing Styke. Fife essentially agreed with three defense experts who said Tang's mental illness made her unable to conform her behavior to the requirements of the law, George said.

George said prosecutors informed him after the trial began that Fife had changed her mind and believed Tang wasn't legally insane when

she stabbed Styke.

Prosecutors said Fife changed her mind because of new information she received.

Styke testified over two days in June, describing how he met Tang at a social gathering for MIT students, dated her and eventually broke off their relationship.

He said he woke up at about 5 a.m. to see Tang on top of him, sobbing, with a metal object in her hands. He said he pinned her to the bed and took a knife away from her.

The Notre Dame Alumni Association thanks the following Notre Dame clubs for their support of the pizza study break for students.

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Woman says ex-boyfriend raped, framed her

Associated Press

MINEOLA, N.Y. — For more than a year after she accused her ex-boyfriend of rape, Seemona Sumasar said his friends pressured her to drop the charges. City health and buildings inspectors would show up at her Queens restaurant to investigate anonymous complaints that she was sure were filed by the ex-boyfriend.

Then she was arrested on charges she had committed a pair of armed robberies while posing as a police officer.

Sumasar spent nearly seven months behind bars, until prosecutors determined the robberies were actually an elaborate frame-up orchestrated by the ex-boyfriend. She was freed last week, but she said Wednesday that her business is ruined, her home is threatened with foreclosure and her pleas of innocence were ignored.

Prosecutors, acting on a tip, filed perjury charges against the ex-boyfriend and the two robbery "victims" who confessed they had lied.

Sumasar, the mother of a 12-year-old, just wishes investigators would have paid attention to her long ago.

"They acted like I'm just trying to blame somebody else for something I did," Sumasar, 35, said at a news conference in her attorney's office Wednesday. "They did not want to look into it at all."

The attorney, Anthony

Grandinette, said it is too soon to consider a civil lawsuit, noting that Sumasar's robbery charges are still pending. She is due back in Nassau County Court on Jan. 10.

When she was arrested in May, Sumasar was held on \$1 million bail. That was later cut in half, but her attorney said there was no way she could post either amount, leaving her to await trial in jail.

It was the first time she had ever been behind bars.

"I didn't think I was going to last a day or a night there," she said. "It was bad. I cried. I prayed. I meditated. I did everything I could to keep my mind from going crazy. I was praying somebody's going to listen."

Sumasar, who had worked for a decade on Wall Street, owned a franchise restaurant, a Golden Crust bakery, at the time of her arrest. Her family operated the struggling business for three months while she was in jail, but eventually they had to shut it down, she said.

She said her daughter, Chiara, had to move out of their Queens home and live temporarily with her father in Brooklyn. Sumasar didn't even let the child visit her in the Nassau County Jail for the first few months she was there, but she eventually relented.

"I didn't think it was a place for her to come, but at the same time I didn't know when

I was getting out of there," Sumasar admitted.

The rape charges are still pending against the ex-boyfriend, Jerry Ramrattan, in neighboring Queens. He pleaded not guilty last week to perjury and other charges in the Sumasar robbery case and is being held on \$500,000 bail.

His attorney did not return repeated telephone messages for comment, but told Newsday last week that there "is no credible evidence" against his client.

Sumasar said the rape took place in Ramrattan's Queens apartment in March 2009.

Because of the pressure she endured in the ensuing months, she said, "at some point, I wanted it to go away and thought about not testifying." But she decided to stick with the case, saying she was angry "he had the nerve to send me all these threats."

After her robbery arrest, she said she told detectives about the pending rape case.

"I think everybody looked at me as a drama queen, like I'm giving them a Lifetime movie story and you know, nobody believes me," she said.

Grandinette said he pleaded with authorities to investigate Sumasar's alibi that she was at a Connecticut casino when one of the armed robberies supposedly took place. He said he was preparing his client for a January trial when the plot to frame his client unraveled last week.



Seemona Sumasar attended a news conference in Mineola, N.Y. Wednesday. Sumasar was released from prison last week.

"We can't get anybody to get up out of their chair and investigate the case," Grandinette groused. "The district attorney's office has been suggesting that this was a master plot. This was a relatively simple straightforward thing to do. You get two peo-

ple in an isolated area, they call 911, they make the whole thing up, there's no corroboration."

"This didn't take the work of a mastermind, nor did it take the work of a mastermind to unravel it, to put the pieces together."

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Football and fútbol

I am lucky I was there.

Sunday afternoon, around 3 p.m., I stood on the field of WakeMed Soccer Park in Cary, N.C., furiously snapping away with my Observer cameras as a Notre Dame team won a national championship.

The fans went wild. "Let's Go Irish" and "We Are ND" chants had been ringing out from the Notre Dame faithful for 90 minutes at decibel levels unmatched by the Stanford sections.



Pat Coveney

Associate
Photo Editor

Mandy Laddish literally screamed for about three minutes straight. Lauren Fowlkes grabbed the trophy from her teammates and ran it around the pitch, smiling all the way. University President Fr. John Jenkins blessed the team. Head coach Randy Waldrum thanked me multiple times for making the trip to witness history. It was a scene of pure joy. It was a defining moment of my Notre Dame experience.

There is a rule governing media members covering sporting events that you cannot cheer for a certain team; you must be unbiased and objective while covering the event. Yeah ... that didn't happen. I wasn't just a photographer, indeed I didn't even feel like a witness. I felt a part of the celebration. These phenomenal athletes had not just won a championship for the soccer program. They had won a championship for Notre Dame. For our University. For us.

After one of the most hectic days of my life, I arrived back on campus shortly after 3:30 a.m. Sunday night. I think I was still smiling. Yet when I got around to talking to my friends about the game, my smile quickly faded. My enthusiasm for the win was tempered by the utter lack of interest I found among those I spoke with. There were the requisite jabs at women's sports in general — "A JV boys middle school team could beat our women's soccer team" — founded more in sexism than fact. And then there were the arguments that are perhaps unique only to Notre Dame — "Talk to me when our football team wins a national championship."

Well, that's a problem. You see, our football team is 7-5. We lost to Tulsa. We got absolutely punished by the Naval Academy, who followed up that stellar performance with a 31-34 loss to Duke, giving the Blue Devils their second win of the season. We are going to the glamorous location of El Paso, Texas, for our bowl game. We are not the Notre Dame football of the 1980s. Or the 1970s. Or the 1940s.

But what we are is a great school, both academically and athletically. We need to recognize that Notre Dame is bigger than football. "We are Notre Dame" should not be a slogan reserved for autumn Saturdays. We are represented by some of the best athletic teams in the country, from men's lacrosse to women's basketball to — yes — women's soccer, and we need to cheer our hearts out for all of them. So let's show Mandy, Lauren, Melissa and Jessica the kind of love we show to Dayne, Manti, Kyle and Michael. Because we are all Notre Dame — and so are they.

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

Contact Pat Coveney at pcoveney@nd.edu

The birth of philosophy

Philosophy was born two centuries before Aristotle when Thales of Miletus predicted an eclipse. The Lydians and the Medes, locked in combat at the River Halys, looked to the suddenly darkened sky and ended their warfare, declaring the river the border between their two nations. As the light returned to the sky, so was a light enkindled on earth — albeit a light of a very different kind: changes in the world — and even changes in the sky — were not the arbitrary will of the gods. They were, on the contrary, governed by an inviolable order — and, when a man came to understand that order, he could predict them. For the first time in human history, a man had traded the subjective for the objective — seeing the world not from within the perspective of a given moment but rather from that of the eternal. For the first time in human history, a man had become as a god — had stolen the divine fire of knowledge of things as they will be. Though it would, in the darker ages to come, dim considerably, this fire would never again go out.

This is, of course, juvenile romanticism. If Thales in fact made any prediction at all, he did so on the basis of knowledge that any Babylonian astronomer had at his fingertips — and "as regards solar eclipses," Russell reports, "they were hampered by the fact that an eclipse may be visible in

one place and not in another.

Consequently they could only know that at such and such a date it was worth while to look out for an eclipse." The knowledge of Thales was only that an eclipse may occur at a certain time; that it did occur was just luck. And the fact that, despite his prediction, the Lydians and Medes took the eclipse for a sign of divine disfavor shows that whatever light Thales had been kindled was, as yet, not particularly bright.

Even so, there is something profound in the prediction of Thales — if that prediction is taken not in itself but rather as symbolic of the conditions necessary for it. Thales was not the first to predict an eclipse, but it seems that he was the first to realize that the very possibility of such prediction — that is, the very possibility of knowledge — required the world to be a certain way: it had to be unstable enough such that it changed, yet it had to be stable enough such that such changes were ordered — and, thus, predictable. The world, in other words, had to be a cosmos — a system the parts of which interacted over time according to certain laws — if knowledge of it was to be so much as possible. If the world were otherwise, change would be either arbitrary or illusory — and, either way, its prediction would be impossible.

Insofar as this was the achievement of Thales, it deserves indeed to be called the birth of philosophy. That this was the achievement of Thales is rendered plausible by the fact that Thales was the first to move beyond myth and speculate as to the principles of things: all things, he apparently held, are real-

ly just water — such that the change of one thing into another is really just condensation and rarefaction acting upon that water. This is, Russell quips, "discouraging to the beginner, who is struggling — perhaps not very hard — to feel that respect for philosophy which the curriculum seems to expect." But as a philosophical hypothesis — or, at any rate, a paradigm for philosophical hypotheses — it is breathtaking: beneath the apparently limitless diversity of things are a limited number of principles, all of which one can come to understand.

"If we lived on a planet where nothing ever changed," Sagan notes, "there would be little to do. There would be nothing to figure out. There would be no impetus for science. And if we lived in an unpredictable world, where things changed in random or very complex ways, we would not be able to figure things out. Again, there would be no such thing as science. But we live in an in-between universe, where things change, but according to patterns, rules, or, as we call them, laws of nature." Any science, it is clear, presupposes these two elements — that of change and that of stability. We can, to this extent, know the metaphysical structure of the world as soon as we can know anything at all. If we have a claim to divine fire, it is this.

Daniel John Sportiello is in his third year in the philosophy Ph.D. program. Listen to his radio show on Thursdays at 2 p.m. on WVFI. He can be reached at dsportie@nd.edu

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"There is no mistaking a real book when one meets it. It is like falling in love."

Christopher Morley
U.S. author

Submit a Letter
to the Editor at
www.ndsmcobserver.com

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Little by little, one travels far."

J. R. R. Tolkien
British novelist

Story in song

I've always been a closet fan of Nine Inch Nails. The big thing that kept me from saying outright that I liked NIN was the darkness of Trent Reznor's music. His lyrics in some songs were really angry, and I never could say I was mad enough to consistently relate to his tone. There's a beauty to his music, though; at times, a simple melody will play through the crunchy, industrial guitars, distorted synths and sharp, sampled drums. Take "Closer" for example — the instrumentals have a creepy vibe, and the lyrics can be in some cases just disturbing. Right before the end, a short piano riff sneaks in as all other sounds fall by the wayside, and those repeated notes seem to purify the song, like if you turned on the lights after

Eric Secviar

Guest Columnist

a bad nightmare. "Right Where It Belongs" is another great example of NIN's ability to be more than just dark industrial rock. Reznor has absolutely amazing talent for capturing emotion in a song, whether it's resentful anger, deep depression or driving motivation. His skill carries over into the soundtrack for "The Social Network." I'll be completely frank with you at the outset: I've yet to see the movie and how the soundtrack plays into the characters, the dialogue and the mise-en-scène. That said, I feel like I've already seen this movie. Reznor and his long-time collaborator Atticus Ross have encapsulated what I can only imagine as the tension of the film perfectly. I hear Mark Zuckerberg giving an introductory monologue over the slow, thematic piano notes in "Hand Covers Bruise," while ambient synths and bass insert a foreboding sense of conflict that

will become the central piece of the movie. "In Motion" and "Intriguing Possibilities" isolate a feeling of fresh ideas, new connections being made as the characters delve deeper into the plot and become more engrossed in their relationships with one another. The darker, more distorted samples and the mysterious, eerie piano line that slips in at "3:14 Every Night" create an image of disturbance, the mood that something is about to go horribly wrong. Reznor covers "In the Hall of the Mountain King" breaking that tension into horrifyingly electric action, a theme to which I can see someone's world come crashing down around him. The seething frustration of "On We March" reminds me of The Dust Brothers' work on the Fight Club soundtrack (try "Medulla Oblongata"), but for the piano and industrial-rock guitar which grounds it and is something that is strikingly

Reznor. The level of musical artistry demonstrated by the instrumentation of Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross' production and programming are incredible. Their work here serves especially to highlight the progress of modern instrumental music and Reznor's growth and depth as a composer of something beyond the label of industrial. It's music like this that not only takes hold of the emotion of the scene, but also enhances it to captivate and move the audience, whether you're listening to the soundtrack alone like me, or combining it with what has all indications of being a remarkable film.

Eric Secviar is a sophomore. He can be reached at esecviar@nd.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A eulogy to 4 Loko

It is a dark time, Notre Dame, for our beloved caffeinated malt beverage, 4 Loko, has all but perished. Recently, Phusion Projects LLC of Chicago, the manufacturer of the sweet nectar, has announced its intention to remove the caffeine from the product, thus reducing it to a pitiful concoction void of all its former splendors. Live in our memories, dear divine, for that is to where you have been reduced. Shortly, none of us will ever again revel in this ingenious combination of caffeine and alcohol. None of us will ever again experience the pleasures of rambunctious intoxication that was once only within the reach of rich frat boys and their Colombian Bam-Bam. Dark times, indeed! The simple joy of a beverage that delivered inexpressibly forgettable nights shall die. Nay! Not because consuming the beverage resulted in disappointing excursions, but for the literal blackout it delivered upon exposure — this eulogist admits some of his finest experi-

ences while under the direction of this delectably divine substance. So young in its life, so rapturous in its cause, those within the 18 to 25-year-old age bracket and those earning under \$30,000/year shall surely feel this atrocity most. A weekly tradition it was, feeling like Pablo Escobar, buying the "cocaine in a can" and indulging in its many fruits. For shame to all those responsible for this heinous crime of deprivation! We return to the hallowed halls of 40s at 4. We return to the art of a simple shower. We return to our earlier world. But I dare say this: at what cost, dear readers, at what cost? There will likely be a new beverage. There are always the traditional standbys. But it won't be the same. In our hearts forever, love thee 4 Loko.

Sam Mitchell
sophomore
Knott Hall
Dec. 8

An open love letter to Jimmy John's

As a senior graduating this coming spring, I'd like to take the time to reminisce during finals about one of my greatest and most memorable friends in college, a Mr. James John. Coming from the West Coast, I was completely unaware of your notoriety in the Midwest for sandwiches that are totally freaky. When I was a freshman at Notre Dame, your menu was casually slipped under my door in hopes that I would one day have some extra cash floating around when it was too disgustingly cold to walk 10 seconds from Farley to North Dining Hall. When I finally decided to indulge in a tasty sub sandwich (delivered right to my door), our relationship grew faster than Lindsay Lohan's eight ball collection. Jimmy, you were always there for me — five minutes after football games, finals week in Hesburgh — you even came to parties wandering around and mingling with drunk people until you found me. I cannot thank you enough for your cutesy sandwich names, (who wouldn't want a J.J. Gargantuan, Turkey Tom or Big John in their mouth?) and the safer option of a lettuce wrap (also known as the "ano" sandwich). Unlike Fever, Club Lulu is the right choice every night of the week. Every time a random Indiana phone number lights up my cell phone, I turn around and see you sprinting to my door hoping I'll be the first college student in history to tip you more than 50 cents. Unlike Golden Dragon, I can understand you every time you pick up the phone, and I know you'll never wreck the delivery van. You truly represent America, Jimmy. I'm sure there are many girls out there, just like me, that think you're the Ultimate Porker. Thanks, Papa John, but I'm going with Baby J.

Sarah Borrmann
senior
off campus
Dec. 8

UWIRE

Atypical study tips

Finals week is stupid. Everyone knows that it's impossible to take 12 exams in four days and still come out on top. The only way to do well and stay sane is by fitting in some me-time. So if you'd rather stay afloat than drown this finals season, then I suggest you read the following. 1. Teach yourself how to Dougie Stop pretending you know the dance every time the song comes on and do Cali Swag District the favor of teaching yourself. For every hour worth of studying, grant yourself 30 minutes of "Dougie Time." Why? Knowing how to Dougie, (I mean really Dougie) is still cool and you too can be awesome. I admit I'm still learning, but I'm using finals week to perfect it. Dougie-ing is an easy way to unwind, get some exercise and hopefully boosts your confidence the next time you're trying to land some dime piece (dime pieces can

Jenny Hurwitz

The Daily Campus

be boys, too). 2. Schedule stalking You know it's true. One hour into studying and you've stumbled upon that random friend from high school's Facebook page you thought you completely forgot about. Twenty minutes later and you know exactly what they've done the past three years, who they've hooked up with, and why you stopped talking to them in the first place. Rather than feel guilty for creeping instead of studying, think of this as a reward for being such a studious student. Facing the facts and allotting yourself special stalking moments is bound to recharge your batteries. 3. Watch "We Speak No Americano ft. Cleary and Harding" Now, you don't have to watch this hilariously mesmerizing video, but watching something mindless is a simple way to decompress. However, I recommend this video. A good friend of mine showed this to me about three weeks ago and I'm embarrassed to reveal how many times I've watched it

since. If you can learn this hand dance and how to Dougie by your last final, I'll definitely pay your cover at huskies for the first three weeks of the spring semester. 4. Buy a coloring book Coloring is therapeutic and I wouldn't suggest this elementary activity to college students if I hadn't experienced the benefits myself. Coloring has a calming effect and I can promise you thirty minutes of coloring will help you see straight again. In between flipping flashcards and highlighting, just color a little. You'll find yourself completely immersed in your picture and impressed with how well you've stayed within the lines. It's an easy way to remind yourself how awesome you are when you're feeling guilty for skipping Wednesday night class to sing Third Eye Blind at karaoke. 5. Make your New Year's resolution A new year is a new you, and by the end of finals you should know exactly what you're going to change during 2011. When the lighting in Homer

Babbage has brought you to your breaking point, and you realize the coffee at BookWorms really is just water, take some time to map out this coming year's goals. Even if you just commit yourself to quit eating Cheese Doodles, it's still a resolution. Never lose sight of your real aspirations during finals, as creating a concrete plan for the New Year is a fantastic way to spend a study break. I wish you all the best during finals. Take my study tips to heart and realize it is possible to take all 12 finals in four days and still do well. Be the boss you know you are and learn how to Dougie or even figure out how Cleary and Harding choreographed their hand dance. It's truly been a great semester. This column first appeared in the Dec. 8 edition of The Daily Campus, the daily publication serving the University of Connecticut. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Bill Brink Pandora Playlist
By Observer Staff



- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Interstate Love Song – Stone Temple Pilots |
| 2 | Hotel California – Eagles |
| 3 | Bittersweet Symphony – The Verve |
| 4 | Somewhere Over the Rainbow – Israel Kamakawiwo'ole |
| 5 | Road Trippin – Red Hot Chili Peppers |
| 6 | Better Man – Pearl Jam |
| 7 | Come as You Are – Nirvana |
| 8 | Times Like These – Foo Fighters |
| 9 | Doin' Time – Sublime |
| 10 | Dream On – Aerosmith |
| 11 | Wish You Were Here – Incubus |
| 12 | Iris – Goo Goo Dolls |

Once upon a time (last year), there was a man named Bill Brink. He possessed the uncanny ability to soothe the frantic Observer office with his many musical stylings. Or, rather, he found some more musically talented friends to do it for him. And thus the Bill Brink Pandora Playlist was born. So, this finals week, enjoy a little musical solace to ease your studying from the man himself, Bill Brink.

LISA HOENYK | Observer Graphic

Scene Around The World:
GREECE AND ITALY



From Greek gods to runway-worthy bods, fall break was full of the buff, the bronzed and the beautiful. Eight girls set out on a mission to conquer Athens, Rome, Cinque Terre and Milan in 10 days, taking in everything from the Parthenon to the Pantheon. We sunbathed on the shores of the Aegean, built the city of Rome in a day and hiked through the hills of the Liguria region. Nothing could beat the slight humiliation of trying to blend in at the Milan Chanel though — talk about an adrenaline rush! Watch the final edition of this semester's "Scene' Around the World" and try not to get too depressed you're stuck in snowy South Bend instead of working on your tan.

Share your own abroad experience. Go to ndsmcobserver.com/scene for more information about how to submit your photos and videos.

IRISH INSIDER

Thursday, December 9, 2010

THE
OBSERVER

Sun Bowl: Notre Dame vs. Miami

Rivalry revisited

Irish to face off against long-time rival Miami after an undefeated November

By SAM WERNER
Sports Writer

Notre Dame and Miami may enter the 2010 Sun Bowl with identical 7-5 records, but both teams took very different roads to end up in El Paso, Texas this New Year's Eve.

A month ago, many Irish fans were fully expecting their team to be home for the holidays this year. Some fans even questioned if Irish coach Brian Kelly was the right man for the job after questionable coaching decisions led to a 28-27 loss to Tulsa the week after suffering an embarrassing 35-17 loss to Navy. The Irish bounced back though, and beat then-No. 15 Utah, Army and USC in succession for their first undefeated November since 2005.

"It's definitely been a great feeling, the upswing that's been going on in the month of November," senior running back Robert Hughes said in a press conference Sunday. "Coach always talks about finishing strong in the month of November, and I think we've definitely made strides towards that."

Kelly said that the mounting wins created a "cumulative effect" of belief among the Irish team.

"Quite frankly, they have some confidence," he said. "When you go to USC, beat USC at their place — you've got to fly all the way across the country, you've got to prepare for it, you've got to overcome adversity. They've got some confidence. I'm not saying they've got a walk about them, that air of invincibility, but they have some confidence."

The wins against the Utes, Black Knights and Trojans were also freshman quarterback Tommy Rees' first three games as Notre Dame's starting quarterback. During that stretch, Rees threw for 492 yards, six touchdowns and four interceptions. Kelly said the extra bowl practices would be very important to Rees' development.

"It's not a pressure packed situation," Kelly said. "You don't have 72 hours to get a game plan in. It's a combination of film study recognition, as well as getting reps with the first group. This is another spring ball under his belt as a starter and that's very valuable for him."

The Hurricanes enter the



DAN JACOBS/The Observer

Senior running back Robert Hughes gains a few of his 69 yards during Notre Dame's 20-16 victory over USC Nov. 27. The win sealed an invite to the Sun Bowl for the Irish. They will face Miami in El Paso, Tex., Dec. 31.

game with question marks at the quarterback position. Junior Jacory Harris entered the season as a Heisman hopeful, but has struggled this season, throwing for 1,646 yards, 14 touchdowns and 11 interceptions. Harris suffered a concussion during Miami's Oct. 30 loss to Virginia, and just returned last weekend.

While the Hurricanes' offense has struggled, ranking 58th in the nation in scoring, the defense has allowed just 19.7 points per game, good enough for 21st in the NCAA.

"Defensively they play fast," Kelly said. "I think they're two in pass efficiency in defense, a top-20 defense. It's what you thought about Miami. This is still a very, very talented football team. They have as much talent as USC does on defense."

Miami will head to El Paso with uncertainty on the sideline, as well. The university fired coach Randy Shannon on Nov. 27 after four seasons at the helm. ESPN analyst Jon Gruden was

rumored to be close to signing a contract with Miami, but those whispers seem to have

quieted down. Offensive line coach Jeff Stoutland will serve as interim coach until the Hurricanes find Shannon's replacement.

Irish players easily related to the pressures of a coaching change, as they themselves were going through one just a year ago.

"It's definitely a tough time, especially when you lose the head of your program," Hughes said. "You go through these stages where you're trying to find who's the next guy in line, who I take commands from."

Even though the Irish and Hurricanes haven't faced each other since 1990 — before many current players were even born — both Hughes and senior nose guard Ian Williams talked about how excited they were to jumpstart the rivalry. Notre Dame leads the overall series 15-7-1, including its famous win in

1988 that propelled the Irish to their 11th national championship.

For Williams, the Sun Bowl will be his first action since tearing his MCL during Notre Dame's loss to Navy Oct. 23. But he said on Sunday he is "100 percent."

"I'll be glad to be back and the team's very excited to continue this rivalry with 'The U,'" he said.

Williams added that he had a little personal motivation when lining up against the Hurricanes. When he was being recruited, the Florida native attended Miami for a junior day, but the Hurricanes did not offer a scholarship. The 6-foot-2, 305-pound Williams said they told him he was "too small."

"They'll find out Dec. 31," Williams said.

Contact Sam Werner at swerner@nd.edu

For more analysis leading up to the **SUN BOWL**,
check the **Irish Insider Online** at
ndsmcobserver.com/sports/irish-football



Notre Dame Fighting Irish

Record: 7-5

AP: NR Coaches: NR



Brian Kelly
head coach

First season at Notre Dame

career record:

178-62-2

record at ND:

7-5

against Miami:

0-0



Bob Diaco
Def. Coordinator



Charley Molnar
Off. Coordinator

2010 Schedule

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

Head-to-Head

ND OFFENSE	MIAMI DEFENSE
Scoring: 25.75 ppg (73rd)	Scoring: 19.67 ppg (21st)
Total: 378.25 ypg (63rd)	Total: 317.17 ypg (16th)
Rushing: 120.83 ypg (96th)	Rushing: 170.83 ypg (81st)
Passing: 257.42 ypg (29th)	Passing: 146.33 ypg (2nd)
Turnovers against: 24 (84th)	Turnovers for: 28 (16th)
Fumbles lost: 8 (30th)	Fumbles rec.: 12 (26rd)
Interceptions: 16 (104th)	Interceptions: 16 (21st)
Sacks Allowed: 20 (43rd)	Sacks: 37 (6th)
T.O.P. for: 27:10 (113th)	T.O.P. against: 31:34 (97th)

Statistical Leaders

ND OFFENSE	MIAMI DEFENSE
QB TOMMY REES 85-138, 905 yards, 10 TD	LB COLIN MCCARTHY 95 total, 8 TFL, 1 INT
RB CIERRE WOOD 107 rush, 564 yards, 2 TD	LB SEAN SPENCE 49 solo, 92 total, 16 TFL
WR MICHAEL FLOYD 73 rec., 916 yards, 10 TD	S RAY-RAY ARMSTRONG 66 total, 3.5 TFL, 3 INT
WR DUVAL KAMARA 11 rec., 112 yards, 3 TD	DE ALLEN BAILEY 42 total, 11 TFL, 7 sack
TE TYLER EIFERT 23 rec., 321 yards, 2 TD	DE OLIVIER VERNON 32 total, 9 TFL, 6 sack



Douglas Farmer

Sports Editor

Well, it's Christmas season, which means every Notre Dame student is walking along snowy South Quad humming, "All I want for Christmas is U." Yes, it's all about The U. Unfortunately, Notre Dame and Miami are not exactly at the same level they were back in the 80s, when The U actually meant something. Nonetheless, the Sun Bowl could not have asked for a more fitting match-up for New Year's Eve. Brian Kelly and his hopeful rise against coachless and likely punchless Miami? I'll take Kelly and his three-game winning streak. Now, back to Mariah Carey.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 27, Miami 17



Matt Gamber

Sports Writer

Like USC, Miami has plenty of talented athletes — then again, so does "Pinky Fingers," the walk-on-laden flag football team my squad of scrubs plays against in tonight's co-rec championship. (My pick, by the way: Woody's in an upset. Not really. We forfeit.) I expect this game to go much like the one against the Trojans, where the Irish offense struggles to sustain drives but the defense hangs in there and gives an inconsistent Miami offense trouble. If Notre Dame can avoid giving up big plays and can run the ball as they did against USC, I think they'll pull this one off to close 2010 on a high note.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 16, Miami 10



Eric Prister

Associate Sports Editor

No Lou Holtz. No Jimmy Johnson. No National Championship hopes on the line. But that doesn't mean that Notre Dame's Sun Bowl game against Miami won't be heated, and won't be exciting. Even though it's been nearly two decades since these two teams last clashed, a tradition of dislike bordering on hatred is still present. I have a set of rules when picking bowl games. One is 'never pick a team who fired their coach at the end of the year,' which Miami did when they showed Randy Shannon the door. Another recently has been 'never pick Notre Dame to win a bowl game,' but this is a new era and a new Notre Dame team.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 23, Miami 17

HEAD T

Irish Offense vs. Hurricanes Defense

Specialists

PK/KO
97 Ruffer
40 Tausch

WR
3 Floyd
18 Kamara

RB
20 C. Wood
33 Hughes

QB
13 Rees
16 Montana

WR
6 Riddick
19 Toma

WR
7 Jones
18 Kamara

LS
60 Cowart
50 Kavanaugh

TE
80 Elfert
83 Ragone

RT
75 Dever
77 Romine

RG
78 Robinson
57 Golc

C
52 Cave
57 Golc

LG
59 Stewart
66 Watt

LT
70 Martin
76 Nuss

P
35 Turk
96 Walker

SS
52 Cave
60 Cowart

HLD
50 Kavanaugh
35 Turk

PR
81 Goodman
22 H. Smith

KR
86 Jackson
38 Collinsworth

DE
57 Bailey
56 Robinson

DT
99 Forston
93 Robinson

DT
92 Holmes
54 Regis

DE
35 Vernon
97 Ojomo

CB
1 B. Harris
21 McGehee

OLB
31 Spence
36 Robinson

MLB
45 Buchanan
36 Robinson

OLB
44 McCarthy
94 Cain

S
26 Armstrong
29 Nicolas

CB
8 Van Dyke
13 Hill

S
7 Telemaque
26 Armstrong

ND PASSING

Irish freshman quarterback Tommy Rees has managed to find his way to three straight wins as Notre Dame's starting quarterback, but his three interceptions and one fumble against USC showed that he still has a long way to go before becoming a polished quarterback. The Hurricanes defense has

preyed on quarterbacks similar to Rees all season, racking up gaudy stats such as only 146.33 passing yards allowed per game, 16 interceptions and 37 sacks. Facing such an aggressive and opportunistic defense will be a new experience for Rees, who so far has only faced discouraged Utah, over-matched Army and USC in the rain.

In the first two of those scenarios, Rees thrived. Against the best of those defenses in USC, though, Rees struggled mightily. Miami will likely bring out some of those same characteristics from the green quarterback, although he should still have his moments.

EDGE: MIAMI

ND RUSHING

Notre Dame's rushing attack has only seemed to get stronger as the season has progressed, even with the loss of senior Armando Allen. Sophomore Cierre Wood can outrun nearly any defense, and often has, and senior Robert Hughes showed how punishing he can be in the fourth quarter against USC.

The duo should wear down a Miami defense that has given up more than 170 rushing yards per game this season. Especially with a freshman at quarterback, Irish coach Brian Kelly will look to his ground game to move the ball in tough situations. If Notre Dame can find success in that regard early on in the Sun Bowl,

it should be able to ride those gains to a strong dose of momentum. In bowl games, momentum tends to decide everything, and thus Wood and Hughes will keep on steam-rolling through a Miami defense that is ill-equipped to handle this version of a one-two punch.

EDGE: NOTRE DAME

ND SPECIAL TEAMS

With each PAT he misses, David Ruffer scares Notre Dame fans a bit more, but the fact remains that the senior kicker has never missed a field goal. In a bowl game that could come down to one possession, that is an extremely

valuable weapon to have. Freshman Bennett Jackson has also been a spark since he began returning kicks. Any field position advantage he can give Notre Dame could shift the balance of the game.

EDGE: NOTRE DAME

Brian Kelly has shown a surplus of moxie by keeping Notre Dame rolling this season despite suffering injury after injury to seemingly crucial players. When he had two weeks to prepare for Utah, Kelly and his moxie got the Irish more ready for a game

than at any other point this season. With a month to scheme for Miami, Kelly should have little problem finding the cracks in the Hurricanes.

EDGE: NOTRE DAME

ND OFFENSIVE COACHING



For more matchups and pregame analysis, as well as a live
IRISH INSIDER ONLINE at ndsmcobserver.com/sports/

O HEAD

Hurricanes Offense vs. Irish Defense

WR

3 Benjamin
4 Johnson

TE

84 Gordon
82 Cleveland

RT

74 Franklin
55 Jones

RG

66 Gunn
65 Linder

C

63 Horn
65 Linder

LG

72 Washington
65 Linder

LT

77 Henderson
78 Johnson

QB

12 Harris
17 Morris

HB

30 Hill
33 Hagans

TB

20 Berry
6 Miller

WR

85 Hankerson
47 Byrd

K/P

25 Boscher
40 Wieclaw

KR

23 Clements
1 Harris

PR

3 Benjamin

LS

60 Ivory

CB

2 Walls
23 L. Wood

OLB

45 Fleming
55 Shembo

ILB

44 Calabrese
48 Fox

S

22 H. Smith
15 McCarthy

DE

90 Johnson
94 H. Williams

NG

98 Cwynar
95 I. Williams

DE

89 Lewis-Moore
91 Nwankwo

ILB

5 Te'o
54 McDonald

OLB

56 Neal
58 B. Smith

CB

4 Gray
12 Blanton

Specialists

WR

85 Hankerson
47 Byrd

K/P

25 Boscher
40 Wieclaw

KR

23 Clements
1 Harris

PR

3 Benjamin

LS

60 Ivory

Hurricanes quarterback Jacory Harris throws nearly one interception per 10 completions. At that rate, Notre Dame can hope for at least one pick against Miami, if not two or three.

After just one, Harris will likely become more tentative with his throws, limiting the effects of the Miami aerial attack.

If he manages to stay aggressive,

receiver Leonard Hankerson should provide a serious threat to Notre Dame's secondary. Hankerson has scored 12 touchdowns this season, and tallied nearly 1,000 yards. The Irish do not have one defensive back who can match up with the threat on his own, so it will need a group effort to slow Hankerson if Harris finds a groove to get him the ball.

Fortunately for Notre Dame, senior safety Harrison Smith has developed some ball-hawk tendencies this year, and if he can find one of Harris' passes, the Hurricane quarterback should begin to sieze up the rest of the day.

EDGE: NOTRE DAME

MIAMI PASSING

After a sloppy start, Notre Dame has grown stronger and stronger against the run this season. The contrast between the Navy and Army games alone displays the Irish defense's development.

Now with both sophomore linebacker Carlo Calabrese and senior defensive tackle Ian Williams back in action, the defense should become even more

stingy against the ground attack.

Williams' absence since late October created the opportunity for juniors Sean Cwynar and Hafis Williams to develop quickly. With Williams now back in the lineup, Notre Dame has the luxury of some serious depth across the defensive line.

Trying to break through that line will prove difficult for a Miami offense that

has no standout running back. Damien Berry and Lamar Miller may each have five touchdowns, but neither has established himself as a go-to back, and the Hurricanes will feel the need for a go-to back against a hungry Irish defense.

EDGE: NOTRE DAME

MIAMI RUSHING

Punter Matt Bosher is one of the best in the country at his craft, averaging more than 44 yards per punt, and his coverage gives up less than seven yards per return.

Notre Dame has struggled in the punt return

game all season, so the Hurricanes should even count on their punts to be a weapon in a way, forcing Notre Dame back into its own territory before its offense even gets on the field.

EDGE: MIAMI

Hurricanes interim head coach Jeff Stoutland must lead Miami through a tumultous period following the firing of Randy Shannon.

Many players may check out amid the coaching transition, and Stoutland will have a

tough time simply being competitive in the Sun Bowl, let alone embarrassing Notre Dame. Thus, much of his offensive creativity will likely be very limited, leaving Bob Diaco and the Irish to do as they wish.

EDGE: NOTRE DAME

MIAMI OFFENSIVE COACHING



Sam Werner

Sports Writer

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 30, Miami 21



Laura Myers

Sports Writer

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 30, Miami 27

Notre Dame already watched one ball drop this year, through Ronald Johnson's hands before the Irish defeated USC for the first time in nine years.

When they watch the ball drop on New Year's Eve, it will be after a fourth straight win, their first against Miami in 21 years.

Senior kicker David Ruffer, who is perfect on the season and tonight will find out whether he is the winner of the 2010 Lou Groza award, has not had a chance to shine lately, as Notre Dame has been content to score via touchdown. But against the tough Hurricanes defense, Ruffer will be a major part of a Notre Dame victory.

Miami Hurricanes

Record: 7-5

AP: NR Coaches: NR



Jeff Stoutland
interim head coach

First season at Miami

career record
0-0:
record at Army:
0-0
against ND:
0-0



Mark Whipple
Off. Coordinator



John Lovett
Def. Coordinator

2010 Schedule

Sept. 2	Florida A&M — W
Sept. 11	@ Ohio State — L
Sept. 23	@ Pittsburgh — W
Oct. 2	@ Clemson — W
Oct. 9	Florida State — L
Oct. 16	@ Duke — W
Oct. 23	North Carolina — W
Oct. 30	@ Virginia — L
Nov. 6	Maryland — W
Nov. 13	@ Georgia Tech — W
Nov. 20	Virginia Tech — L
Nov. 27	South Florida — L

Head-to-Head

MIAMI OFFENSE	ND DEFENSE
Scoring: 27.08 ppg (58th)	Scoring: 20.5 ppg (29th)
Total: 422.58 ypg (31st)	Total: 353.17 ypg (47th)
Rushing: 190.42 ypg (26th)	Rushing: 146.75 ypg (55th)
Passing: 232.17 (49th)	Passing: 206.42 ypg (42nd)
Turnovers against: 32 (117th)	Turnovers for: 21 (57th)
Fumbles lost: 9 (52nd)	Fumbles rec.: 7 (86th)
Interceptions: 23 (119th)	Interceptions: 14 (34th)
Sacks Allowed: 16 (26th)	Sacks: 26 (47th)
T.O.P. for: 28:26 (97th)	T.O.P. against: 32:50 (113th)

Statistical Leaders

MIAMI OFFENSE	ND DEFENSE
QB JACORY HARRIS 132-245, 1,646 yds, 14 TD	MLB MANTI TE'O 65 solo, 127 total, 9.5 TFL
RB DAMIEN BERRY 166 rush, 841 yards, 5 TD	MLB CARLO CALABRESE 26 solo, 59 total, 2.5 sack
RB LAMAR MILLER 94 rush, 639 yards, 5 TD	LB DARIUS FLEMING 46 total, 10 TFL, 6 sack
WR LEONARD HANKERSON 57 rec., 958 yards, 12 TD	CB GARY GRAY 59 total, 5 TFL, 1 INT
WR TRAVIS BENJAMIN 38 rec., 691 yards, 3 TD	S HARRISON SMITH 50 solo, 86 total, 4 INT

OUR PICKS

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COMMENTARY

History may lead to looking forward

It was all about looking forward the last time the Irish played in a bowl game, in Hawaii on Christmas Eve 2008. Notre Dame's 49-21 dismantling of Hawaii ended a nine-game bowl losing streak and was supposed to jump-start a successful 2009 season under Charlie Weis.



Matt Gamber

Sports Writer

So, when the Notre Dame-Miami matchup was finalized Sunday, my first instinct was to look forward, to view the Sun Bowl as a preview of the three-game series between the Irish and Hurricanes that is set to begin in 2012 at Soldier Field in Chicago. I thought we'd see the New Year's Eve bowl as a chance to enter 2011 with some serious momentum, especially considering Notre Dame's three straight big wins.

It seems I underestimated what a game between the Irish and Hurricanes still means, 20 years after they last met.

After all, I was 18 months old the last time these two teams played. Until a Wikipedia search Sunday, I couldn't remember the scores of those fierce showdowns in 1988, 1989 and 1990. Until finding Youtube highlights Monday, I had seen more of Lou Holtz in an ESPN studio than on a college football sideline, and I had watched more clips of Rocket Ismail in street clothes at pep rallies than in an Irish uniform, igniting Notre Dame Stadium the way he did best.

I can't fully understand the Notre Dame-Miami rivalry that was characterized by genuinely bad blood that boiled over in a 1988 pregame brawl and epitomized by Lou Holtz's legendary request to "save Jimmy Johnson's ass for me." These bitter showdowns are what a previous generation of Irish fans lived for, and what our current generation longs for.

By looking back, especially at the way the Irish beat the Hurricanes in 1988 and 1990, I somewhat surprisingly feel encouraged with where the Notre Dame program is headed. Of course, this isn't the 1988 or 1990 team, for Notre Dame or for Miami — both are 7-5, the former with losses to Navy and Tulsa, the latter without a head coach.

But, to me, the arrow is pointing up for the Irish. What better way for Notre Dame to finish the season than with a win over a historic rival the Irish haven't played in two decades, during

which Irish championships have gone from an expectation to a pipe dream.

This may be a stretch, but for all the differences between those Notre Dame teams and this one, I couldn't help but see dashes of similarities, glimmers of hope that indicate Brian Kelly just might be putting the fight back in the Fighting Irish.

While the 1988 national championship team was perfect in record, it wasn't perfect for 60 minutes every game. Against the Hurricanes that year, the Irish gave up 21 second quarter points after taking a 7-0 lead. Notre Dame took a 31-21 lead into the fourth quarter of that game but gave up a fourth-and-goal touchdown with 45 seconds to play that pulled Miami within an extra point of tying or a two-point conversion of winning.

Perhaps it's just me, but to hear the praise of those Notre Dame teams and the criticism of their contemporaries, I'd have thought the Irish never surrendered a lead or gave up a fourth-down conversion with a game on the line.

True, the Irish stepped up when they had to, breaking up that two-point conversion and finishing the victory on their way to a national championship.

But consider the tone after Notre Dame's recent victory over USC, when the Irish nearly gave away their chance to beat the Trojans before rallying late and creating a key turnover in the final minute.

While the level of competition and the level of importance of the games I mention are nowhere near comparable, my point is, maybe we forget what made the Holtz era at Notre Dame special. It wasn't that the Irish blew out every opponent, big or small, ranked or unranked, without ever having to overcome adversity. Rather, it was that the Irish did overcome that adversity, that they made plays in the biggest situations, that they closed out games the way championship teams do.

When I looked back at the old tape, I thought I'd come away disappointed about the kind of big games I'd never see as a Notre Dame student. Instead, I saw hope that maybe we're seeing the beginning of something special here.

Unlike a Hawaii Bowl victory, beating Miami — even if it's not pretty — on New Year's Eve might just provide the kind of look forward for which Irish fans long.

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

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

Sun Bowl evokes memories of 1980s



AP

Amid their many heated meetings in the 1980s, Notre Dame and Miami brawled in the tunnel before their 1988 match-up. No. 4 Notre Dame topped No. 1 Miami 31-30 on Oct. 15, 1988.

By LAURA MYERS

Sports Writer

The Sun Bowl will be the first game Notre Dame and Miami have played against each other in more than 20 years. The games it follows, though, are still remembered as some of the best in college football history.

"This matchup certainly brings back the memories of some of the great games that were played," Irish coach Brian Kelly said in a press conference Monday.

One of those great games, the 1988 contest in which No. 4 Notre Dame defeated No. 1 Miami, 31-30, was listed by USA Today in 2007 as one of the best of the past 25 years.

That game, dubbed "Catholics vs. Convicts," thanks to a clever student-made T-shirt, began with a fight in entrance of the Notre Dame Stadium tunnel and a rousing speech by then-coach Lou Holtz, who told his team, "save Jimmy Johnson's ass for me." It contained a controversial fumble ruling, and it ended with Hurricanes coach Johnson attempting a two-point conversion when he could have tied it with an extra point at the end of the game.

Of course, the season ended

with Notre Dame on top, the win over Miami a stepping-stone for the Irish to capture their last national championship.

It was Holtz's quote that Kelly said he remembered the most.

"That's classic," he said. "I still think of that one and go, that's probably one of the best all time lines leading into a football game that I can imagine."

Kelly's other memories were less specific.

"The great players in it. I remember that," he said. "The intense rivalry. Intense. It got downright ugly at times."

And it did. Though Notre Dame leads the series, which began in 1955, by a mark of 15-7-1, many of Miami's wins were painful.

In 1985, Miami defeated Notre Dame 58-7, and was accused of running up the score, possibly beginning the tension that lasted through the next six seasons.

Through the latter half of the 1980s, Notre Dame and Miami were two of the top teams in college football. The Hurricanes won championships in 1987 and '89, while the Irish won it all in 1988. The two often played spoiler to one another.

In 1987, the first time the

Irish faced the Hurricanes with Lou Holtz as coach, No. 2 Miami defeated No. 10 Notre Dame 24-0.

In 1989, the No. 7 Hurricanes ended No. 1 Notre Dame's 23-game win streak with a 27-10 victory, Notre Dame's only loss of the season.

The Irish ended that installment of the rivalry with a victory, though, defeating No. 2 Miami 29-20 on Oct. 20, 1990.

The Hurricanes won a national title the following year, and another in 2001.

While the history adds a level of interest that may have spurred the Sun Bowl to sell out in a record 21 hours Monday, players said it was of secondary importance to the game at hand.

"I don't think it's going to matter at all," senior nose guard Ian Williams said at a press conference Sunday.

Senior running back Robert Hughes, who grew up cheering for the Hurricanes, agreed.

"It's more for the fans with the history and tradition," Hughes said. "It's pretty much specifically our task to go out there and win. We'll be focused on that."

Contact Laura Myers at lm Myers2@nd.edu

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MLB

White Sox keep Konerko

Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Paul Konerko is staying with the White Sox, Carlos Pena is going to the Cubs.

Both Chicago teams took care of their needs at first base Wednesday. Up next at the winter meetings, maybe: The New York Yankees were thought to be on the verge of making a major offer to Cliff Lee.

Earlier, the Washington Nationals figured it was worth asking: Hey, Cliff, want to play in the nation's capital?

Sure, general manager Mike Rizzo knows the prize pitcher is looking elsewhere. But the fact the cash-slingin' Nationals even talked to Lee's agent represents a shift at this week's session.

Most every team is a player this week, it seems.

The White Sox and Konerko agreed to a \$37.5 million, three-year contract. The four-time All-Star hit .312 with 39 home runs and 111 RBIs last season. The 34-year Konerko will be part of a lineup that now includes slugger Adam Dunn, recently signed to a \$56 million, four-year deal.

"We have made no secret of the fact that re-signing Paul Konerko was our top offseason priority," White Sox general manager Kenny Williams said.

Pena and the Cubs have agreed to a \$10 million, one-year contract.

Pena spent the last four seasons with Tampa Bay. He had a down year in 2010, hitting .196 with 28 homers and 84 RBIs, down from a .227 average with 39 homers and 100 RBIs the previous year.

The Arizona Diamondbacks stayed busy Tuesday, giving free agent reliever J.J. Putz a \$10 million, two-year deal. Colorado filled a need by getting 2010 All-Star infielder Ty Wigginton and Pittsburgh added pitcher Kevin Correia, both with \$8 million, two-year contracts.

Also, pitcher Dustin Moseley wound up in San Diego and outfielder Tony Gwynn Jr. headed to the Los Angeles Dodgers.

"It's kind of like the offseason becomes fantasy baseball for players, too," Los Angeles Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "You always look at who is out there and who might be in your lineup. I think we all did it when we played the game. You'd say, 'Man, if we had this guy or this guy, we could be better.'"

For the Angels, that guy could be free agent Carl Crawford.

Rockies manager Jim Tracy gave the meetings a jolt when he collapsed around 1 a.m. Tuesday near a bank of elevators. Carried out of the hotel on a stretcher, he was hospitalized because of mild arrhythmia.



White Sox first baseman Paul Konerko hits one of his 39 home runs Aug. 15 against the Tigers.

The 2009 NL Manager of the Year was released and headed back to his Florida home with his family.

Two days after the Nationals handed free agent Jayson Werth a \$126 million, seven-year contract, they nosed around Lee. Rizzo said he'd talked to the ace lefty's agent, but told Washington-area reporters, "I still think we're a real long shot to acquire the player."

At least they're trying. The Orioles, Pirates and Diamondbacks, all last-place teams like the Nationals, also have made moves inside this Disney resort.

"I think there are a couple of things going on this year," New York Mets GM Sandy Alderson said. "One is there are some agents and some players who are still smarting from the fact that they passed on deals early and waited until January in previous years and got stung in the process."

"At the same time, there is some flow that results from the big contracts getting signed," he said.

No need to wonder where Derek Jeter will play. Yankees GM Brian Cashman and manager Joe Girardi made the hour-long drive to the team's spring training complex in Tampa for the formal announcement of Jeter's three-year, \$51 million deal.

Jeter admitted he was miffed when the Yankees publicly suggested his older age and diminished numbers should result in a pay cut. When the negotiations bogged down, Cashman said the 36-year-old shortstop should explore other options if he didn't like New York's offer.

"To hear the organization telling me to go shopping and I just told you I wasn't going to, oh yeah, if I'm going to be honest with you, I was angry about it," Jeter said.

The Rockies and Wigginton reached agreement, a person familiar with the deal told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal had not been officially announced.

The 33-year-old Wigginton played first base, second base and third base for Baltimore last season. His deal came a day after Melvin Mora, who filled mostly the same role with Colorado last season, signed with Arizona.

Putz, also 33, went 7-5 with three saves and a 2.83 ERA in 60 games for the Chicago White Sox last season. The former All-Star closer with Seattle made the move a day after the Diamondbacks, who came to the meetings looking for bullpen help, got right-handed relievers David Hernandez and Kam Mickolio from Baltimore for third baseman Mark Reynolds.

NFL

Revitalized Vick leads in Pro Bowl voting

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Michael Vick leads Pro Bowl voting 11/2 years after he was released from prison.

The Philadelphia Eagles quarterback had 729,838 fan votes, nearly 39,000 more than second-place Peyton Manning, the NFL said Wednesday. Manning topped the balloting two weeks ago.

"I think it's just a credit to everything I've tried to accomplish on and off the field, just working as hard as I can to change things around, be a part of the solution and not the problem," Vick said. "I changed my life and it just goes to show anybody can do it. It's an unfortunate situation, the things that happened, I wish I could go back and change it all. I wish I could take it all back. The only thing I can do is move forward."

It's the latest evidence many fans seem willing to forgive Vick for the vicious dogfighting operation that sent him to prison for 18 months—and embrace his stunning return to NFL stardom. A backup to start the season, Vick has led the Eagles to first place in the NFC East, accounting for 21 touchdowns and throwing just two interceptions.

"I appreciate my fans, man," Vick said. "Couldn't do it without them. Been very supportive over the last three years. What more can you ask for?"

Manning had 691,146 votes, which led the AFC, followed by New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (623,074), Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson (591,598) and Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers (547,340).

Online Pro Bowl voting ends Dec. 20. The teams are picked by a vote combination from fans, players and coaches.

Vick, a three-time Pro Bowler with the Atlanta Falcons, pleaded guilty to federal dogfighting charges in August 2007. He was released from federal custody and conditionally reinstated by NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell in July 2009. But it wasn't clear how much interest teams would have in the quarterback who once wowed fans with his unique skills, yet frustrated them with his inconsistency when he last played in the league in 2006.

The Eagles signed him before last season, when he was the third-string quarterback and had limited playing time as a change of pace. Even after Philadelphia traded away Donovan McNabb, Vick was expected to back up Kevin Kolb. But when Kolb was hurt in the opener, Vick took over and showed a newfound maturity as a passer. Added to his running skills, he's made the Eagles a contender at 8-4.

"It's a great honor, a great position to be in right now, because I haven't made the Pro Bowl yet, but it's a credit to my coaches, a credit to my teammates, (back-ups) Mike Kafka, Kevin Kolb, guys who just helped me get through this season," Vick said. "I can't do it without my team, I can't do it without my teammates, I can't do it without the offensive line, (wide receivers) DeSean (Jackson) and Jeremy (Maclin), can't do it without them. I'm just thankful to have these guys in my life, these coaches in my life."

The Eagles play at Chicago (9-3) on Sunday.



Eagles' quarterback Michael Vick (7) runs past Houston's Mario Williams in last Thursday's victory.

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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For more information, visit Notre Dame's website: <http://csap.nd.edu>.

The carnival's in town.

QUOTES FROM ELF:

Walter: [whispering] I think we should call security.

Deb: [whispering] Good idea.

Buddy: [whispering] I like to whisper too!

Buddy: I'm singing/I'm in a store/and I'm siiiiiingiiiiing/I'm in a store/and I'm siiiiiingiiiiing!

Gimbel's Manager: HEY! There's no singin' in the North Pole!

Buddy: Yes there is!

Gimbel's Manager: No there's not!

Buddy: We sing all the time!

Gimbel's Manager: No you don't!

Buddy: Especially when we build toys!

Buddy: Francisco! That's fun to say!

Francisco... Frannncisco...

Franciscoooo...

Santa: I've been to New York thousands of times.

Buddy: What's it like?

Santa: Well, there are some things you should know. First off, you see gum on the street, leave it there. It isn't free candy.

Buddy: Oh.

Santa: Second, there are, like, thirty Ray's Pizzas. They all claim to be the original. But the real one's on 11th. And if you see a sign that says "Peep Show", that doesn't mean that they're letting you look at the new toys before Christmas.

NFL

Commissioners seek changes to limit concussions



Atlanta corner back Dunta Robinson struggles to stand against the Eagles Oct. 17. The NFL is pursuing equipment improvements.

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Commissioner Roger Goodell was planning to briefly stop by the hotel where the NFL's head, neck and spine medical committee met Wednesday to hear from equipment makers, researchers, the military and NASCAR about how to improve helmet safety and cut down on concussions.

Goodell wound up listening in for a few hours.

"There was a general view that the helmets have improved, but we all have to work harder to find how we're going to take it to the next evolution of those helmets — gathering all the data, gathering all the technology that's being developed," Goodell said. "There are some very positive developments, but there are different approaches, and that was clear."

He also spoke about the link between player safety and the

league's push for an 18-game regular season during labor negotiations with the union, referring to possible changes to offseason workouts, training camp and even in-season practices, as well as the recent "focus on rules and taking those techniques we think are dangerous out of the game."

Indeed, as much as there might have been differing opinions presented Wednesday about the best ways to pursue new helmets, one point of agreement among concussion experts was that styles of play need to be changed.

"All the scientists said that if we can eliminate a lot of the helmet-to-helmet hits ... we can certainly lessen the risks of the severe injuries," said Richard Ellenbogen, chairman of the University of Washington medical school's department of neurological surgery and co-chair of the NFL head, neck and spine committee.

A member of the committee, University of North Carolina professor Kevin Guskiewicz, is optimistic that helmet design and materials will improve.

"But we stand a much better chance of minimizing concussion and eventually preventing concussion by behavior modification. We need to be focused on teaching young players, as well as collegiate and professional players, how to tackle appropriately, not leading with the head," Guskiewicz said. "Changing the culture at the professional level will be a challenge, but I think the NFL has done a good job over the past several months here to

begin that process."

Goodell noted that some "team doctors mentioned to me that players in the past would have gone back in had it not been for our return-to-play guidelines" installed a year ago.

Among the topics discussed at Wednesday's meeting:

◆ should there be changes to the way helmets are tested in laboratories;

◆ when might sensors in helmets, mouthguards and/or earpieces be used for on-field testing among NFL players;

◆ should helmets be made for particular positions, so that a quarterback, for example, would wear equipment that is different from what a lineman wears;

◆ should different safety standards be applied for helmets used in youth football and the NFL.

Representatives of helmet makers were given about 15 minutes apiece to speak to the committee, touting their own advances in technology, offering insights into what might be coming in the future and offering suggestions for how the league could move forward on testing equipment.

In addition to the makers of helmets currently used in the league, the committee heard from Bert Straus, president of Protective Sports Equipment and developer of a soft-shell helmet with a flexible facemask that he said absorbs more energy on impact. The aim is to have that new helmet on the market next year and, eventually, in the NFL.

While players can wear any helmet that passes a safety standard, the league and Riddell —

whose website notes it's the "Official Helmet of the NFL" — have had a licensing/sponsorship arrangement since 1990.

"Riddell is committed to providing the very best head protection to all players who wear its helmets. The National Football League has maintained Riddell as the official helmet of the NFL for more than 20 years, but that designation does not preclude or prohibit any player from choosing to wear the helmet of his choice," Riddell president Dan Arment said in an e-mail to The Associated Press. "Riddell is dedicated to researching and developing innovative technology that advances head protection across all levels of play."

Teams were eligible for price breaks from Riddell in the past, and only that brand's logo can appear on a helmet during a game. The NFL estimates that 75 percent of helmets used this season are made by Riddell, 23 percent are made by Schutt, 1 to 2 percent by Xenith, and a handful by Adams USA.

"There's always going to be a cloud of suspicion and doubt so long as we have a single entity that is being designated as official," Schutt CEO Robert Erb said.

Dr. Hunt Batjer of Northwestern University, a co-chair of the league committee, said his "preference would be that (the NFL) did not" have an official helmet, and Ellenbogen agreed, although he pointed out that decisions about that sort of thing are made "a few echelons above us."

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NFL

Cutler finally leading Bears in winning season

Associated Press

LAKE FOREST, Ill. — Earl Bennett remembers that awful pain he felt the first time he hauled in a pass from Jay Cutler.

His hands were bright red. The laces were “eating my fingers up.” Bennett was a freshman at Vanderbilt and already, he was getting quite an education. Lesson No. 1 — wear gloves.

It didn’t take him long to figure out, either, that Cutler was a winner. Finally, the numbers just might back that up.

The Chicago Bears are guaranteed to finish above .500 at 9-3 heading into this week’s game against the New England Patriots, and that means Cutler will have his first winning season since he was a high school senior in Indiana catching the winning touchdown in the state championship.

Just don’t expect him to wax poetic about it.

Cutler said he’s more focused on the task at hand, with one of the NFL’s top teams visiting on Sunday and the Bears trying to end a three-year playoff drought.

“I’m not worried about it,” he said. “We’ve got to worry about the Patriots and try to get to the playoffs.”

Not since he caught the winning 12-yard TD off a lateral to give Heritage Hills High in Lincoln City the Indiana Class 3A championship has Cutler led a winning team. It didn’t happen at Vanderbilt, where he set school career passing records for yards and TDs. It didn’t happen in Denver, either.

It’s happening now, though, after an impressive turnaround that came just when the season appeared to be slipping away.

The Bears have won five straight since the bye after stumbling into it on a 1-3 skid and are a game ahead of Green Bay in the NFC North.

They’ve caught some breaks, getting weaker teams like Buffalo, Minnesota, Miami and Detroit during this stretch. The Vikings were in disarray, the Dolphins and Lions down to third-string quarterbacks. Even that impressive win over Philadelphia came against a team that was missing its top two cornerbacks.

Yet, there’s no debating the Bears are looking better at the moment.

They’re blocking better. Their play-calling is more balanced as offensive coordinator Mike Martz has found his rhythm in his first year with the Bears. They’re moving the pocket and Cutler is taking less of a beating, even if his 41 sacks are a league-high.

Nineteen of those came during that brutal stretch before the break, starting with that nine-sack first half in a loss to the New York Giants that left him with a concussion. He did not play the following week in a win over Carolina and continued to take a pounding in back-to-back home losses against Seattle and Washington.

But the Bears did some soul searching during the bye. They went away from the seven-step drops and started treating the running game as something more than an afterthought.

The execution improved and so did the results.

Cutler isn’t trying to force as much lately, particularly in the past two games. He has completed 35 of 47 passes without an interception in wins over Philadelphia and Detroit, posting ratings of 146.2 and 117.0, respectively.

A third straight game with a 100 rating or higher would match a career high he set early last season.

“I think he makes a lot of good decisions,” Patriots coach Bill Belichick said. “He’s very accurate with the ball. He’s made great plays, with scramble plays to keep plays alive with his legs — both to throw and to run. Has made some big third-down conversions running. Spreads the ball around. He uses his backs, tight ends, receivers. He gets the ball to everybody. I don’t know how much more he could do, really.”

Cutler’s talent has never been in question, with his rifle arm and quickness. The doubts have always centered on his attitude, his decision-making and whether he had the makeup to lead a winning team.

In Denver, coach Mike Shanahan encouraged him to take chances and was willing to accept a few extra interceptions if the payoff was something spectacular. It often was, with Cutler throwing for more than 4,500 yards and making the Pro Bowl in 2008, but it didn’t necessarily translate into wins.

The Broncos went 9-7 in his 2006 rookie season, but Cutler sat out the first 11 games before leading them to a 2-3 mark over the final five.

They went 7-9 the following year, and what happened after that 2008 season is well-documented. Shanahan got fired, and Cutler’s relationship with then-new coach Josh McDaniels quickly soured over a failed attempt to land Matt Cassel.

That led to a blockbuster deal with the Bears and soaring expectations in Chicago that crashed and burned in a 7-9 flameout last year.

Now?


“He’s definitely a winner,” Bennett said. “You can look at how he leads the team during the game, how he makes sure the offense is run properly. He’s one of those guys that wants to win and he’ll do everything he can to help the team out.”



Chicago quarterback Jay Cutler celebrates a first down in a game in Detroit Sunday. The Bears won 24-20.

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Training

continued from page 24

legiate competition. Her numerous top-three finishes in various events over the last few months, including her first gold time on Nov. 12 against Utah in the 200-meter freestyle, has proved that she has quickly adjusted to the next level of her swimming career.

Ryan also swam at Nationals this past weekend, contributing nicely to help the Irish achieve third place overall out of 16 collegiate teams present at the meet.

Ryan said her goals are set high for her future here as a member

of the Irish squad. This year, Ryan has her eyes on the prizes, namely her team winning their 15th consecutive Big East Championship and a trip to the NCAA Championships for some of the Irish swimmers.

"One of my goals for this year is to swim fast enough to help the team achieve our 15th Big East Championship," she said. "We have a really talented team and it would be awesome to have a big group of swimmers at the NCAAs."

Personally, she said she hopes to make it to the NCAA Championships someday.

"In the next four years one of my goals is to make it to the NCAAs," she said. "It would be so

fun to be at that big of a meet in a relay or in an individual event."

But in the end for Ryan, just being a member of the University of Notre Dame swimming and diving team is the ultimate prize.

"I love swimming for Notre Dame. It's awesome to feel the school spirit and Notre Dame Pride at every swim meet and every practice when swimmers yell out 'Let's Go Irish!' between sets. The girls on the team definitely make it more fun too. There's always someone to help me out or push me in practice and there's always someone to joke with."

Contact Katharine Mack at kmack1@nd.edu

MLB

Yankees excited after making offer to Lee

Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — How hungry are the New York Yankees to sign Cliff Lee?

Brian Cashman couldn't have been more vivid in his description after finally making an offer Wednesday to the prized free-agent pitcher. Every other possible big move by New York must wait until the 32-year-old left-hander decides.

"Hannibal Lecter in a strait-jacket right now, waiting on this

Cliff Lee thing," the Yankees general manager said. "It's kind of restricting my movements a little bit."

Lee's agent, Darek Braunecker, left the winter meetings and headed to Arkansas to meet with his client after receiving an offer the Yankees. New York manager Joe Girardi even called Lee "the prize of this winter."

Cashman wouldn't discuss his dinner meeting with Carl Crawford on Tuesday night — other than to say he had steak — and wouldn't say whether the Yankees could sign both Lee and the All-Star outfielder.

Admitting he was tired, Cashman playfully discussed his job as GM of baseball's highest-revenue franchise and thanked his bosses for giving permission to make the publicly unspecified offer to Lee.

"I know my title is general manager, but I consider myself the director of spending of the

"I know my title is general manager, but I consider myself director of spending of the New York Yankees."

Brian Cashman
general manager
Yankees

"He's got all the information he needs from us. I assume he's got the same from anybody else who's got an oar in the water here."

Brian Cashman
general manager
Yankees

New York Yankees. I don't make it. I spend it," Cashman said. "We've made an offer that's not easy to be making and I appreciate the fact that the Steinbrenners are allowing us to make an offer to this degree. ... It's a big commitment on behalf of the fan base, and we'll see what happens. I think we've done all we can do from meeting to talking to showing."

New York almost acquired Lee from Seattle in July before he was dealt to Texas. Lee then helped the Rangers beat the Yankees in the AL championship series, putting Texas in the World Series for the first time.

"He's a guy that wins. He's a guy that gives you innings. He's a guy that knows how to pitch on the big stage,"

Girardi said. "Everything that you'd want, and a guy that you would ask to help you win another championship. This is a guy that has great command, never beats himself, he holds runners, has a mixture of four pitches that he can use at my time. He's the complete package."

Cashman met Lee in Arkansas on Nov. 10 but waited to make an offer until the pitcher was closer to decision-making mode.

Texas hopes to re-sign Lee, pointing out how close the team is to the pitcher's home in Arkansas. Lee is close to CC Sabathia, his former Cleveland teammate, and the Yankees hope that helps them in a thus-far deliberate process.

Washington also is involved and perhaps other teams. There have been unconfirmed rumors that at least one club and possibly more are offering a seven-year contract.

"He's got all the information he needs from us. I assume he's got the same from anybody else who's got an oar in the water here," Cashman said. "They've gone through Cleveland and they've gone through Philly and they've gone through Seattle and they've gone through Texas for the right to free agency. They're here. So they want to make the right decision."

The Los Angeles Angels have been seen as the favorite to land Crawford. Cashman said he wouldn't press Lee for a decision to enable the Yankees to make a decision on the outfielder.

"This is someone that's worth the wait, and I'll just leave it at that," the GM said of Lee.

Still, Crawford has impressed the Yankees while playing for AL East rival Tampa Bay.

"He's a difference maker for any club he goes to," Girardi said. "When he's up, when he's on the bases, he's a great player. We've had a chance to see him a lot over the last six or seven years. And he's a pain. That is the type of player he is. You know that any single can be a triple. It's easy for him to score runs."

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NCAA FOOTBALL

Florida coach Meyer steps down for family time

Associated Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Florida coach Urban Meyer is leaving one of the premier jobs in college football for the second time to spend more time with his family.

In a campus news conference Meyer said he wants to make being a husband and father his top priority.

"I have not seen my two girls play high school sports. I can't get that time back," he said.

The 46-year-old coach led Florida to two national titles but briefly resigned last December, citing health concerns, but returned the next day. He had been hospitalized with chest pains after the Gators lost to Alabama in last season's Southeastern Conference championship game.

"Last year was a knee-jerk reaction," Meyer said. "This year was just completely different."

Florida athletic director Jeremy Foley said he had no "second guesses" about how he handled Meyer's very brief resignation last year.

"He's at peace with his life," Foley said. "He wasn't at peace a year ago, and this institution helped him get there."

Meyer called Foley on Saturday to tell him he was contemplating retirement. They met Tuesday to finalize his intentions.

"He's put his heart and soul into college football," Foley told The Associated Press before the news conference. "He's not sick. This is a totally different situation than a year ago. He just wants to take a step back and spend time with his family."

Foley said the coaching search

will begin immediately and hopes to have a new coach in the next 2 ½ weeks.

Meyer's announcement caught players, fans and the rest of college football by surprise.

He called assistant coaches, many of whom were on the road recruiting, earlier this week to relay the news. Quarterbacks coach Scot Loeffler told the AP he was "stunned" and that no one saw this coming.

"We'll be fine," said Loeffler, adding that Meyer was planning to meet with his staff Wednesday night. "It happens in this profession. We're just happy for him. He's doing it the right way."

AOL FanHouse first reported the resignation, and fellow coaches were quick to praise his efforts at Florida.

"The world of college football will miss Urban," said former USC coach Pete Carroll, who like Meyer was one of the decade's best college coaches but opted to leave his job - in Carroll's case for the NFL's Seahawks. "He did a great job coaching at Florida. He had major personal issues and health issues a year ago, and I'm sure that he did everything he could to fight it off. Now he's making decisions that are probably exactly what he needs to be doing. ... He brought a lot of excitement to Florida football, the SEC and all that. Everybody's going to miss him."

Meyer was hired away from Utah by Florida after he led the Utes to an undefeated season. In his second season in Gainesville, he led the Gators' to a national championship. Two seasons later he won another, the third time overall the school topped the final AP Top 25.

A bid for another national championship fell short in 2009, and the day after Christmas, Meyer surprisingly announced that he was giving up the job. Just like now, he said he wanted to spend more time with his family, though he also said that he had health concerns.

Less than 24 hours later, he changed his mind and decided to instead take a leave of absence.

He was diagnosed with esophageal spasms and was taking prescription medication to treat it.

The leave of absence eventually turned into some extended vacation time.

Meyer scaled back in January - he didn't go on the road recruiting - but still worked steadily through national signing day. He returned for spring practice in March, but managed to take significant time off before and after.

He went to Hawaii with his wife, traveled to Rome and saw the pope, took a trip to Israel, visited the Masters golf tournament with his daughter and took in a Tampa Bay Rays baseball game.

He said it was the first off-season in which he stepped away for days at a time.

But this season he had to replace Tim Tebow and several other stars who had gone on to the NFL, and the Gators struggled mightily.

Florida finished 7-5, the worst record of Meyer's 10-year head coaching career, which began at Bowling Green. It was the first time the Gators had lost five regular-season games since 1988.

The season ended with an embarrassing 31-7 victory to Florida State, Meyer's first loss



Florida head coach Urban Meyer hugs his son Nate in a Florida 48-14 win against Kentucky Sept. 25.

to the rival Seminoles.

After that game, Meyer vowed to fix the Gators' problems.

"I can assure you we are going to rebuild this thing and build it up the right way and do it right," Meyer said. "Obviously we are down a little bit. I didn't believe we'd be that far down, but we are. How do you build a program

up? You build it up with tough players, tough coaches and you have got to play better."

Meyer's staff had also undergone significant changes in the past few seasons, with both his offensive and defensive coordinators from the championship teams moving on to become head coaches.

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Focus

continued from page 24

“The focus of the training trip will be to load on training, and then a few weeks after we return, gradually taper down training until Big East.”

While the Irish will spend much of their time working to push themselves into better physical condition, the trip is also important mentally for the entire team.

“Not only does it give us a time where we can focus solely on swimming since there is no schoolwork to worry about, but it is also a time where the team really comes together as a family,” senior Peter Koppel said.

On top of physical and mental fitness for everybody, the focus will be on very specific, technical work. With many opportunities for Irish team members to race at the Invitational, Welsh and his coaching staff were able to pick apart the technical aspects of everyone on the team.

“We had a chance to look at everybody’s best events, sometimes twice a day this weekend,” Welsh said. “We have a list of things for everybody.”

Hard work can be fun, though. While in San Juan, the Irish will have the chance to compete in the Copa Coqui, a meet open to all college teams training in Puerto Rico. The highlight of the meet is the Pineapple Relay, in which the winners get Puerto Rican pineapples as their prize.



PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Senior Peter Koppel swims in a meet against Louisville Jan. 16. Louisville beat the Irish at the Championships last year, but Koppel hopes to lead the team to success this year.

“We swam in it last year and it was a lot of fun,” Welsh said.

The Irish head back into competition in January when they head to Northwestern in the first of a series of away dual meets.

“As we move into the second half of the season, the training trip will get us back into tip-top shape as we round out our final dual meets in mid-January,” Dyer said.

They head home after two more away meets for the two-day Shamrock Invitational and

are then on to the Big East Championships. Louisville narrowly defeated the Irish at last year’s Championships, but the team is looking to regain the title they won in 2009.

“Having fast swims like we did this weekend always puts the team into a good mood,” Koppel said. “This motivates most of the team to want to get back in the water and finish up these last two months of training well so we can accomplish what we want to in February, which is to become Big East Champions again.”

Though the Irish posted some of their fastest times all year at the Invitational, they are looking to compete even faster in the final months of the season.

“We want to be significantly faster at our Big East meet,” Welsh said. “This was a great building, a crescendo. Our objective is to peak in the middle of February so that we are racing in the NCAAs in March.”

Contact Maija Gustin at mgustin@nd.edu

MLB Francoeur agrees to Royal deal

Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Jeff Francoeur started last season with the New York Mets and wound up in the World Series with the Texas Rangers.

The strong-armed outfielder was on the move again Wednesday, reaching agreement with the Kansas City Royals on a one-year contract for \$2.5 million. The deal includes a mutual option for \$4 million in 2012 and is subject to a physical.

“For me, I think it’s a great fit,” Francoeur said during a conference call. “It’s a great chance to play every day.”

“When I’ve been comfortable, I’ve tended to play well,” he said. “I’m not the greatest guy when I sit on the bench. I have ants in my pants.”

Francoeur has a .268 career average with 101 homers and 465 RBIs.

A former Gold Glove winner who twice topped 100 RBIs with Atlanta, Francoeur goes from his first World Series to a last-place team that hasn’t made the playoffs since 1985 and has posted only one winning season in the last 16 years.

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NFL

Suh brings new hope to Lions

Associated Press

ALLEN PARK, Mich. — Finally, the Detroit Lions have a problem most teams wouldn't mind.

Ndamukong Suh has emerged as one of the league's top rookies, a powerful pass rusher on Detroit's defensive line with the ability to disrupt any offense. The only question is whether Suh might actually be too aggressive — but the Lions aren't about to tell him to change.

"That's why he's here," safety Louis Delmas said. "He got drafted with the second pick to do what he does, and he's doing a good job at it. My hat's down to everybody that's been one of his victims, but he's going to continue to do what he does best, and that's tackle."

Suh's list of "victims" is already growing. The 307-pounder out of Nebraska has eight sacks in his first 12 games and has already become a fan favorite at home. Although the Lions (2-10) are in the middle of another losing season, the "Suuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuu!" calls have become commonplace, perhaps the best sign yet that better days are ahead.

His career is still young, but Suh might be the most feared Detroit player since Barry Sanders — and for completely different reasons. Although he's big, Suh is also unusually athletic and difficult to block, and he doesn't slow down when closing in on a quarterback.

In a preseason game, Suh grabbed Jake Delhomme's face mask, twisted it, wrapped his arms around the Cleveland quarterback's head and slammed him to the ground. He

was fined for that play, then fined again for a hit from behind on Chicago quarterback Jay Cutler last weekend.

Detroit coach Jim Schwartz didn't even think a penalty should have been called for the second play. Suh says he'll appeal the fine, and he doesn't seem too bothered by it.

"I owe it to my teammates and the fans that watch," Suh said. "That's what they come out there to support — to see players play hard."

Schwartz was ready to move on from the play Wednesday, but he couldn't think of anything his defensive lineman should have done differently when knocking Cutler down.

"I don't know what to tell him right there," Schwartz said. "The quarterback wasn't going

down. He was a runner. He was trying to score a touchdown."

Although he's been disciplined by the league a couple times, Suh's almost effortless ability to push offensive players around is a major asset. Detroit is tied for eighth in the NFL with 32 sacks, over half of them by the defensive line trio of Suh, Cliff Avril and Kyle Vanden Bosch.

The wins are still hard to come by, but Detroit is having some success with high draft picks. The Lions selected Calvin Johnson second overall in 2007, then took quarterback Matthew Stafford with the top pick in 2009.

Suh was The Associated Press national player of the year in his final season at Nebraska before Detroit took him with the second pick earlier this year.



Lions defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh is called for unnecessary roughness against Bears quarterback Jay Cutler in the game Sunday.

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Sophomore guard Skylar Diggins drives against New Hampshire Nov. 17. Diggins scored 10 in Wednesday's win over Providence.

Achonwa

continued from page 24

rest without losing a presence under the boards. Achonwa is averaging 7.8 points in just 19.2 minutes per game.

While the Irish ran away with the contest after the break, the first half gave no indication of the ensuing rout. Providence limited Notre Dame's ability to drive to the basket, and both teams headed into the half with the score at 35-27 in favor of the Irish.

"They really came out and attacked," McGraw said. "It was a very close game in the first half — then we got in a little bit of foul trouble towards the end."

McGraw said her team turned

up the aggression to start the second half, as sophomore guard Skylar Diggins captained the Irish on both ends of the floor. Diggins finished with 10 points and five rebounds, while playing a team-high 29 minutes.

"Skylar was patient," McGraw said. "She ran the team and ran the offense for us tonight."

Despite a blowout win, McGraw said her team still has much to improve before conference play resumes in January, including picking up the intensity from the opening tip.

"I think we need to learn that we need to play better in the first half," McGraw said. "I thought we could have played a lot better. We just really were not quite as focused as we needed to be."

Contact Chris Masoud at cmasoud@nd.edu

Wildcats

continued from page 24

scoreboard during that run when Hansbrough and senior forward Tyrone Nash knocked down two free throws apiece, and sophomore forward Jack Cooley found himself open for a two-handed dunk. Cooley's dunk ended an 0-for-11 stretch by Notre Dame to open the second half.

"I really have to give Kentucky credit defensively," Brey said. "I thought they really defended us. They took Ben [Hansbrough] away in the second half, they face-guarded him. It is probably the most size we played against defensively, and length and intensity."

Hansbrough led the Irish with 21 points, only adding those two free throws to his to first-half total of 19.

"I didn't get cold. I didn't have any looks," Hansbrough said of his second half drop-off. "They just put one guy on me and face-guarded me the entire time, basically said don't let him

touch it.

"I'm not sure they were expecting me to come out and be lights out like that. They made some good adjustments at half."

Hansbrough was not Notre Dame's only hot hand in the first half, as the Irish shot 56 percent from the field. In the second half, that tally plummeted to 20 percent. Of its 30 field goal attempts, Notre Dame made only six, including one-of-13 from three.

During the game-deciding run, the Wildcats found nearly every way to score: put-backs, 3-pointers, fast break lay-ups. Freshman forward Terrence Jones led Kentucky with 27 points and 17 rebounds, while his classmate, guard Brandon Knight, added 20 points and five assists.

"Jones is an amazing talent," Brey said. "We tried zones, doubling. He passes or makes some jump shots. Neither one of those guys played like freshmen tonight — Jones or Knight."

Notre Dame led 38-27 after two free throws from fourth-year forward Tim

Abromaitis. Kentucky began its crucial run with a 13-2 spurt to close the half.

"Finishing the half hurt us," Brey said. "The momentum we lost there right before halftime really hurt us."

After that, Brey said he hoped to minimize any further damage and hedge his bets on Notre Dame finding its stroke from deep once more.

"We couldn't afford to let 3's go in, or we'd never close the gap," he said. "We could live with some twos or some jump-hooks around the bucket, and then if we hit a couple 3's, and I think we could do that, then we'd make a run."

Instead, only senior guard Scott Martin hit a 3-pointer at the 7:56 mark late in the second half, as the Irish learned something they haven't dealt with all season, freshman guard Eric Atkins said.

"We learned that we're not going to be undefeated this year," Atkins said.

Contact Douglas Farmer at dfarmer1@nd.edu

NBA

Allen, Celtics defeat Anthony-less Nuggets

Associated Press

BOSTON — Doc Rivers decided not to tell his team that Carmelo Anthony was scratched until after the Celtics had already prepared to face the Denver Nuggets star.

He learned that lesson from Oklahoma City and Kevin Durant.

"He really didn't want to tell us that Carmelo wasn't playing," Celtics forward Paul Pierce said after Boston beat the Nuggets 105-89 on Wednesday night. "I think he waited to the very last second."

Ray Allen scored 28 points to help the Celtics take advantage of Anthony's injury and win their eighth straight game. The loss left Nuggets coach George Karl stuck on 999 wins; his next chance to reach 1,000 comes Friday at Toronto.

Kevin Garnett had 17 points and nine rebounds, and Rajon Rondo added 13 assists for Boston. Paul Pierce scored 17 and Glen "Big Baby" Davis, who had been ill during the week, had 16 points.

Reserve guard Ty Lawson scored 24 for Denver, and Arron Afflalo added 16 points. Gary Forbes, who started in place of Anthony, had five points and zero rebounds in 19 minutes.

Anthony, the No. 10 scorer in

the NBA this season at 22.8 points per game, was scratched just before tip-off because of inflammation in his right knee. He is day-to-day.

"I'm somewhat surprised by it," Karl said. "I kind of knew there was a chance he wouldn't go (at) about 15 minutes before the game."

It was the third time in 11 home games that the Celtics faced an opponent without its star. John Wall also missed the Washington Wizards' game in Boston, and the Thunder were without Durant, the NBA's leading scorer, when they visited on Nov. 19.

The Celtics lost that one. So Rivers tried to withhold the information, thinking it might keep his players focused.

"Yeah, they knew I was lying," he said. "The last time, it didn't work. So we tried something different."

The Celtics got all their sick and injured players back, with Rondo returning after missing Sunday's game against New Jersey, Davis making it back from an illness and Shaquille O'Neal shaking off a sore calf. Nate Robinson missed practice Tuesday for personal reasons, leaving Boston with just eight players at the workout.

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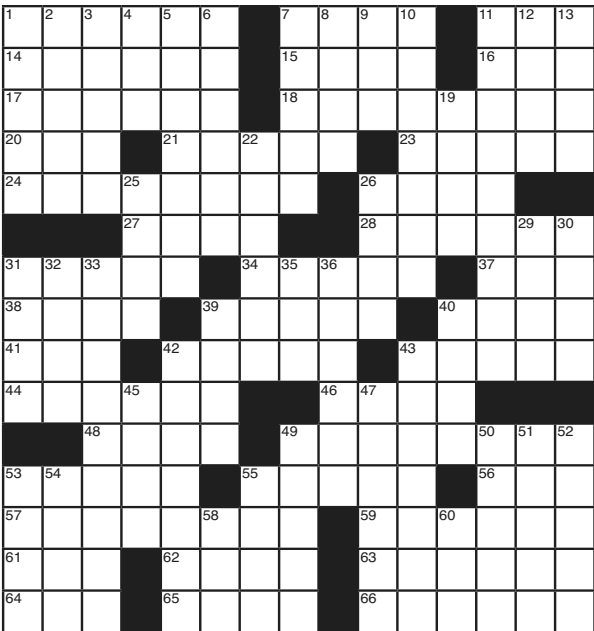
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Merry Christmas
from
Observer Sports

CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across**
1 Office device appropriate for this puzzle?
7 Await
11 Rte. suggester
14 Setting for many a fairy tale
15 Assistant played by Charles Bronson in "House of Wax"
16 Drama set in Las Vegas
17 Command agreement
18 "That's of little importance"
20 Out of service?: Abbr.
21 Road hazards
23 Fence builder's starting point
24 Small doses may come in them
26 "Charlotte's Web" girl
27 One half of an old comedy duo
28 Like the Paris Opera
- 31 Airport need
34 Substitute
37 I.R.S. 1040 line item
38 They might give each French kisses
39 Way to get around something
40 No longer interested in
41 Undecided: Abbr.
42 Album half
43 Space under a desk
44 End of a perfect Sunday drive?
46 Grill
48 Impulse path
49 33-Down's group, with "the"
53 Kitchen tool
55 Physicist Bohr
56 Jim Beam product
57 Like some patches
59 1940s British P.M.
- Down**
1 Game item usually seen upside-down
2 Check writer
3 Is of ____ (helps)
4 Some Windows systems
5 The Cutty Sark, for one
6 Lifesavers, say
7 Features of homemade cameras
8 Big ones can impede progress
9 Montréal or Québec
10 Window dressing
11 Feigns ignorance
12 Play ____ (perform some songs)
13 Seal's opening?
19 Conflicted
22 Photography aid
25 Portable info-storing devices
26 Below-ground sanctuary
29 Almond or pecan
30 Batting helmet feature
31 Filthy place
32 Prefix with valent
33 See 49-Across
- 61 Times in classifieds
62 Game played on a world map
63 Quick outing for Tiger Woods ... or what this completed puzzle contains
64 Violin cutouts
65 What a peeper uses to peep
66 Can't stand



- Puzzle by Mike Nothnagel
- 35 Pre-schoolers?

36 Light-blocking

39 Part of a home security system?

40 French eleven

42 Ones who sleep soundly?

43 Alley behind a bar on TV?

45 They're drafted for service

47 Higher ground

49 Topographical feature formed by underground erosion

50 1957 hit for the Bobbettes

51 Parts of masks

52 "Thou ____ I have more flesh than another man": Falstaff

53 Role for which Marion Cotillard won a 2007 Best Actress Oscar

54 Vest feature

55 Like a quidnunc

58 Feature of many a ballroom dance

60 "We Know Drama" channel

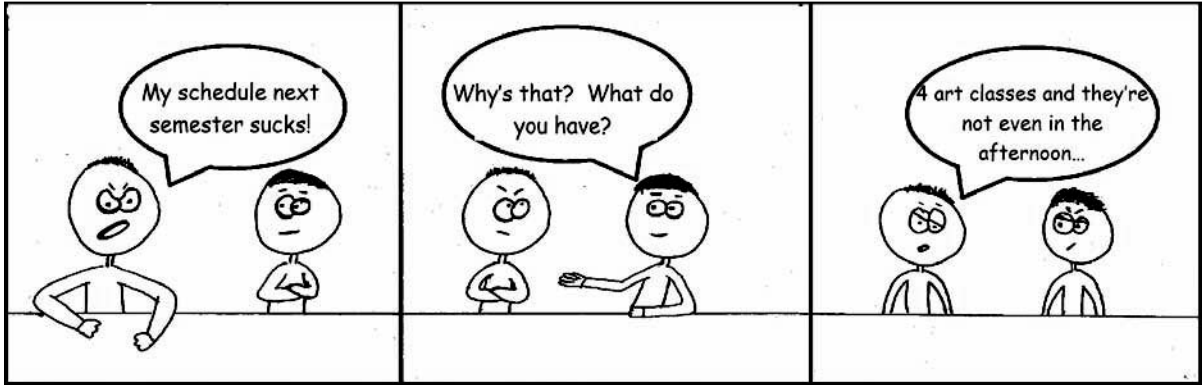
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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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

PLEASANDVILLE

JAMES SOLLITTO, CODY ECKERT and JOHN FLATLEY



THE MATING RITUAL

MATT MOMONT



HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Nicki Minaj, 26; Dominic Monaghan, 34; Teri Hatcher, 46; James Galway, 71

Happy Birthday: Choose what you enjoy doing most and incorporate it into the lifestyle you are currently living. There is room for change and, with that change, will come success. Moving may be required in order to get the most out of what you have to offer. Plan carefully and you will not fall short of your goals. Your numbers are 4, 10, 17, 23, 26, 30, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Look beyond what's currently happening around you for a truer sense of where you should be and what you should be doing. The trials and tribulations you've experienced lately have been difficult, but recognizing that change is required is half the battle. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): There is so much good you can do for the sake of those less fortunate or for family and friends who seem lost or are in need of encouragement. Love is in the stars, so make a passionate and caring move. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Deal with paperwork before the end of the year. Don't let unexpected disappointment stop you from following through with your plans. Be your own driving force if you want to make things happen. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Romance is highlighted and a little impromptu dinner for two or meeting at your local hangout will bring its rewards. An investment you make now will pay off in the future. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your efforts and attention to detail will not go unnoticed. Adding a little flair to your work will set you apart from the competition. If you work hard now, you can enjoy the end of year festivities knowing you have done your best. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Turn your day into a family affair. Decorate your home or attend an event that gets you into the spirit of the season. Offer to help someone you know who is faced with too much to handle alone. Tell someone special how you feel. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Listen, observe and consider how you should respond before you say something you will live to regret. Revisit goals you never fulfilled. You may be able to incorporate the things that used to be important to you into your future. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): An impromptu change will catch others by surprise, giving you a good lead and a healthy position that will be difficult for any competition you face to defeat. Lean heavily on your creative imagination and drive to see you through. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Reach deep into your past to figure out what you should do next. Reconnect with people you may have hurt or wronged in the past and make amends. Moving toward the new year without all the extra baggage will ensure you make the most of new possibilities. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't be afraid to change your mind or your direction. See what's available and how you can instigate the best possible deal. A new look at an old idea, coupled with your skills, looks like a positive route to take. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Rely on your own experience and you will give an accurate assessment of a situation you see someone you care about going through. You can stabilize your own life by distancing yourself from people who are a bad influence. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't leave anything pertaining to your personal or professional work undone. A little romance late in the day will lead to a promise you've been longing to hear. A partnership opportunity has potential. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are intent on being successful. You do everything with great gusto and are prepared for whatever comes your way.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, mspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

JUMBLE

JEFF KNUREK
MIKE ARGIRION

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

PLYSH

ODITI

INSHIF

GICART

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

A: [C] [O] [O] [O] IN [C] [O] [O] [O] " [C] [O] [O] [O] [O] "

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: APART DELVE FALLOW BAKERY
Answer: When the banker's glass of beer spilled over, the bartender said it was an — OVER "DRAFT"

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek

THE OBSERVER

Published Monday through Friday, The Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's Community.

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Conference crush

Solomon, Achonwa lead Irish to dominant victory in their first Big East matchup



KIRBY MCKENNA/The Observer

Junior Erica Solomon fights for a rebound during Notre Dame's Nov. 17 win over New Hampshire. Solomon recorded a double-double in their 79-43 rout of Providence Wednesday.

By CHRIS MASOUD
Sports Writer

Notre Dame's bench contributed 37 points as the Irish cruised by Providence, 79-43, in Rhode Island Wednesday to kick off the Big East season.

Junior forward Erica Solomon finished with a double-double, recording 11 points, 10 rebounds and five steals off the bench, as the

Irish improved to 19-0 all-time against the Friars.

"Erica Solomon was just the best player on the floor," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "She had a career high in steals. She was a force — a presence."

Notre Dame (7-3, 1-0 Big East) held the Friars (5-6, 0-1) to just 16 points in the second half after rattling off a 16-0 run that kept Providence scoreless for 9:11. The team recorded 16

steals and six blocks to go along with 38 points off turnovers.

The Irish lead all Big East teams with an average of 16.1 steals per game and 250 forced turnovers.

"We outscored them in the second half 44-16," McGraw said. "We tightened it up. We played man-to-man. We really created a lot of havoc."

Freshman forward Natalie Achonwa paced the squad with

13 points in just nine minutes of action. McGraw said Achonwa was battling the effects of the flu, which limited her playing time.

"She was a little weak, not able to play too many minutes," McGraw said.

Achonwa's consistent productivity off the bench has allowed McGraw to give junior forward Devereaux Peters additional

see ACHONWA/page 22

MEN'S SWIMMING

Irish head south for break trip

By MAIJA GUSTIN
Sports Writer

The Irish head into a mid-season competition break on a high note after placing second in the Hawkeye Invitational. Notre Dame finished behind host Iowa, and team members said they are excited to be ending 2010 with a tremendous team effort at the invitational.

"We have a very optimistic, enthusiastic, committed attitude," Irish coach Tim Welsh said. "Our finish carries the momentum forward so that we will want to train hard and be ready to train hard after [the break]."

The team will get a much-deserved break after its hard work this season. After Christmas, the Irish will then head to San Juan, Puerto Rico for 10 days of rigorous winter training.

"This is a critical training period for us between now and once we get back into school," Welsh said.

San Juan is a vacation destination for most, but not for the Irish. The team will focus solely on training hard and pushing themselves to faster times and better performances.

"I can pretty much guarantee it will be filled with two-a-days and very intense training," freshman Frank Dyer said.

see FOCUS/page 20

ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING

Freshman Ryan looks to carry talents to ND

By KATHARINE MACK
Sports Writer

After a successful high school career, freshman Kelly Ryan is looking to have a big impact during her years here at Notre Dame.

A Hinsdale, Ill. native, Ryan was the top 100-yard backstroke swimmer in the state. She also propelled her Fenwick High School team to a third place finish overall at the State Championships.

Her impressive résumé before college also includes ties to the Olympics.

"My biggest accomplishment prior to college swimming was probably when I made my Olympic Trial cuts," she said. "I think the most exciting part for me was the extremely talented swimmers that were present at the meet."

Now swimming for the Irish in her first year, Ryan has had to make some adjustments, especially in terms of the tough training regime.

"College swimming is very different for me and more challenging mainly because we are doing so many things that I had never done before coming to Notre Dame," she said. "At the beginning of the year I definitely struggled with all the running on dry land and starting to lift weights as well as doing more challenging sets in the pool."

But Ryan is still excited for the chance to continue improving her training and to learn from her veteran teammates.

"I'm really excited about my training and improvements since I've been here," she said. "It's fun to have so many fast swimmers on the team that I can look up to and can push me to go faster in practices. The girls on the team have definitely helped me adjust to college swimming. They're always able to give me advice and help."

Ryan's dedication to improving her performance in training has paid dividends for her during col-

see TRAINING/page 17

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Wildcats hand Irish first loss

Hansbrough's 21 not enough for Irish in hostile Freedom Hall

By DOUGLAS FARMER
Sports Editor

LOUISVILLE, KY. — For a few fleeting minutes, Ben Hansbrough could not miss. The senior guard hit five of his seven first-half 3-point attempts.

Then, the hoop closed on No. 23 Notre Dame, as Hansbrough and company went more than 12 minutes without a field goal, allowing No. 18 Kentucky to overcome an 11-point deficit and jump out to a lead that it rode all the way to a 72-58 victory Wednesday night.

"Defensively I thought we gave ourselves a heck of a chance in the second half, but we missed some stuff around the basket, which was really deflating," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "We missed some clean jump shots from some guys who we want shooting it. If we are going to beat a team like this, we're going to have to



LAURA MCCRYSTAL/The Observer

Fourth-year forward Tim Abromaitis puts up a shot in Notre Dame's 72-58 loss to Kentucky Wednesday.

make more of those."

Over a nearly 15-minute span — encompassing the last 4:44 of the first half and the opening 10 minutes of the second half — Kentucky (6-2) went on a 26-6 run

that flipped the score from 38-27 in Notre Dame's favor to 53-44 toward the Wildcats. The Irish (8-1) only managed to add to the

see WILDCATS/page 22

IRISH INSIDER

Thursday, December 9, 2010

THE
OBSERVER

Sun Bowl: Notre Dame vs. Miami

Rivalry revisited

Irish to face off against long-time rival Miami after an undefeated November

By SAM WERNER
Sports Writer

Notre Dame and Miami may enter the 2010 Sun Bowl with identical 7-5 records, but both teams took very different roads to end up in El Paso, Texas this New Year's Eve.

A month ago, many Irish fans were fully expecting their team to be home for the holidays this year. Some fans even questioned if Irish coach Brian Kelly was the right man for the job after questionable coaching decisions led to a 28-27 loss to Tulsa the week after suffering an embarrassing 35-17 loss to Navy. The Irish bounced back though, and beat then-No. 15 Utah, Army and USC in succession for their first undefeated November since 2005.

"It's definitely been a great feeling, the upswing that's been going on in the month of November," senior running back Robert Hughes said in a press conference Sunday. "Coach always talks about finishing strong in the month of November, and I think we've definitely made strides towards that."

Kelly said that the mounting wins created a "cumulative effect" of belief among the Irish team.

"Quite frankly, they have some confidence," he said. "When you go to USC, beat USC at their place — you've got to fly all the way across the country, you've got to prepare for it, you've got to overcome adversity. They've got some confidence. I'm not saying they've got a walk about them, that air of invincibility, but they have some confidence."

The wins against the Utes, Black Knights and Trojans were also freshman quarterback Tommy Rees' first three games as Notre Dame's starting quarterback. During that stretch, Rees threw for 492 yards, six touchdowns and four interceptions. Kelly said the extra bowl practices would be very important to Rees' development.

"It's not a pressure packed situation," Kelly said. "You don't have 72 hours to get a game plan in. It's a combination of film study recognition, as well as getting reps with the first group. This is another spring ball under his belt as a starter and that's very valuable for him."

The Hurricanes enter the



DAN JACOBS/The Observer

Senior running back Robert Hughes gains a few of his 69 yards during Notre Dame's 20-16 victory over USC Nov. 27. The win sealed an invite to the Sun Bowl for the Irish. They will face Miami in El Paso, Tex., Dec. 31.

game with question marks at the quarterback position. Junior Jacory Harris entered the season as a Heisman hopeful, but has struggled this season, throwing for 1,646 yards, 14 touchdowns and 11 interceptions. Harris suffered a concussion during Miami's Oct. 30 loss to Virginia, and just returned last weekend.

While the Hurricanes' offense has struggled, ranking 58th in the nation in scoring, the defense has allowed just 19.7 points per game, good enough for 21st in the NCAA.

"Defensively they play fast," Kelly said. "I think they're two in pass efficiency in defense, a top-20 defense. It's what you thought about Miami. This is still a very, very talented football team. They have as much talent as USC does on defense."

Miami will head to El Paso with uncertainty on the sideline, as well. The university fired coach Randy Shannon on Nov. 27 after four seasons at the helm. ESPN analyst Jon Gruden was

rumored to be close to signing a contract with Miami, but those whispers seem to have

quieted down. Offensive line coach Jeff Stoutland will serve as interim coach until the Hurricanes find Shannon's replacement.

Irish players easily related to the pressures of a coaching change, as they themselves were going through one just a year ago.

"It's definitely a tough time, especially when you lose the head of your program," Hughes said. "You go through these stages where you're trying to find who's the next guy in line, who I take commands from."

Even though the Irish and Hurricanes haven't faced each other since 1990 — before many current players were even born — both Hughes and senior nose guard Ian Williams talked about how excited they were to jumpstart the rivalry. Notre Dame leads the overall series 15-7-1, including its famous win in

1988 that propelled the Irish to their 11th national championship.

For Williams, the Sun Bowl will be his first action since tearing his MCL during Notre Dame's loss to Navy Oct. 23. But he said on Sunday he is "100 percent."

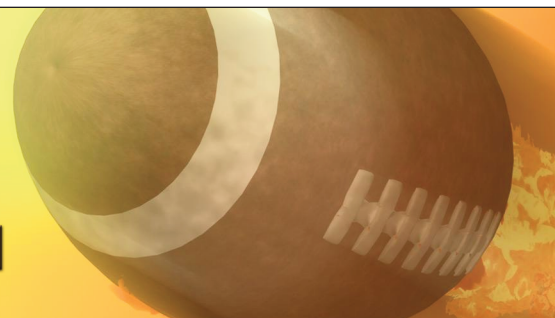
"I'll be glad to be back and the team's very excited to continue this rivalry with 'The U,'" he said.

Williams added that he had a little personal motivation when lining up against the Hurricanes. When he was being recruited, the Florida native attended Miami for a junior day, but the Hurricanes did not offer a scholarship. The 6-foot-2, 305-pound Williams said they told him he was "too small."

"They'll find out Dec. 31," Williams said.

Contact Sam Werner at swerner@nd.edu

For more analysis leading up to the **SUN BOWL**,
check the **Irish Insider Online** at
ndsmcobserver.com/sports/irish-football



Notre Dame Fighting Irish

Record: 7-5
AP: NR Coaches: NR



Brian Kelly
head coach



Bob Diaco
Def. Coordinator

First season at Notre Dame

career record:
178-62-2
record at ND:
7-5
against Miami:
0-0



Charley Molnar
Off. Coordinator

2010 Schedule

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

Head-to-Head

ND OFFENSE	MIAMI DEFENSE
Scoring: 25.75 ppg (73rd)	Scoring: 19.67 ppg (21st)
Total: 378.25 ypg (63rd)	Total: 317.17 ypg (16th)
Rushing: 120.83 ypg (96th)	Rushing: 170.83 ypg (81st)
Passing: 257.42 ypg (29th)	Passing: 146.33 ypg (2nd)
Turnovers against: 24 (84th)	Turnovers for: 28 (16th)
Fumbles lost: 8 (30th)	Fumbles rec.: 12 (26rd)
Interceptions: 16 (104th)	Interceptions: 16 (21st)
Sacks Allowed: 20 (43rd)	Sacks: 37 (6th)
T.O.P. for: 27:10 (113th)	T.O.P. against: 31:34 (97th)

Statistical Leaders

ND OFFENSE	MIAMI DEFENSE
QB TOMMY REES 85-138, 905 yards, 10 TD	LB COLIN MCCARTHY 95 total, 8 TFL, 1 INT
RB CIERRE WOOD 107 rush, 564 yards, 2 TD	LB SEAN SPENCE 49 solo, 92 total, 16 TFL
WR MICHAEL FLOYD 73 rec., 916 yards, 10 TD	S RAY-RAY ARMSTRONG 66 total, 3.5 TFL, 3 INT
WR DUVAL KAMARA 11 rec., 112 yards, 3 TD	DE ALLEN BAILEY 42 total, 11 TFL, 7 sack
TE TYLER EIFERT 23 rec., 321 yards, 2 TD	DE OLIVIER VERNON 32 total, 9 TFL, 6 sack



Douglas Farmer

Sports Editor

Well, it's Christmas season, which means every Notre Dame student is walking along snowy South Quad humming, "All I want for Christmas is U." Yes, it's all about The U. Unfortunately, Notre Dame and Miami are not exactly at the same level they were back in the 80s, when The U actually meant something. Nonetheless, the Sun Bowl could not have asked for a more fitting match-up for New Year's Eve. Brian Kelly and his hopeful rise against coachless and likely punchless Miami? I'll take Kelly and his three-game winning streak. Now, back to Mariah Carey.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 27, Miami 17



Matt Gamber

Sports Writer

Like USC, Miami has plenty of talented athletes — then again, so does "Pinky Fingers," the walk-on-laden flag football team my squad of scrubs plays against in tonight's co-rec championship. (My pick, by the way: Woody's in an upset. Not really. We forfeit.) I expect this game to go much like the one against the Trojans, where the Irish offense struggles to sustain drives but the defense hangs in there and gives an inconsistent Miami offense trouble. If Notre Dame can avoid giving up big plays and can run the ball as they did against USC, I think they'll pull this one off to close 2010 on a high note.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 16, Miami 10



Eric Prister

Associate Sports Editor

No Lou Holtz. No Jimmy Johnson. No National Championship hopes on the line. But that doesn't mean that Notre Dame's Sun Bowl game against Miami won't be heated, and won't be exciting. Even though it's been nearly two decades since these two teams last clashed, a tradition of dislike bordering on hatred is still present. I have a set of rules when picking bowl games. One is 'never pick a team who fired their coach at the end of the year,' which Miami did when they showed Randy Shannon the door. Another recently has been 'never pick Notre Dame to win a bowl game,' but this is a new era and a new Notre Dame team.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 23, Miami 17

HEAD T

Irish Offense vs. Hurricanes Defense

Specialists

PK/KO

97 Ruffer
40 Tausch

WR

3 Floyd
18 Kamara

RB

20 C. Wood
33 Hughes

QB

13 Rees
16 Montana

WR

6 Riddick
19 Toma

WR

7 Jones
18 Kamara

LS

60 Cowart
50 Kavanaugh

TE

80 Eifert
83 Ragone

RT

75 Dever
77 Romine

RG

78 Robinson
57 Golc

C

52 Cave
57 Golc

LG

59 Stewart
66 Watt

LT

70 Martin
76 Nuss

P

35 Turk
96 Walker

SS

52 Cave
60 Cowart

HLD

50 Kavanaugh
35 Turk

PR

81 Goodman
22 H. Smith

KR

86 Jackson
98 Collinsworth

CB

1 B. Harris
21 McGehee

DE

57 Bailey
56 Robinson

DT

99 Forston
93 Robinson

DT

92 Holmes
54 Regis

DE

35 Vernon
97 Ojomo

CB

8 Van Dyke
13 Hill

OLB

31 Spence
36 Robinson

MLB

45 Buchanan
36 Robinson

OLB

44 McCarthy
94 Cain

S

26 Armstrong
29 Nicolas

S

7 Telemaque
26 Armstrong

ND PASSING

Irish freshman quarterback Tommy Rees has managed to find his way to three straight wins as Notre Dame's starting quarterback, but his three interceptions and one fumble against USC showed that he still has a long way to go before becoming a polished quarterback. The Hurricanes defense has preyed on quarterbacks similar to Rees all season, racking up gaudy stats such as only 146.33 passing yards allowed per game, 16 interceptions and 37 sacks. Facing such an aggressive and opportunistic defense will be a new experience for Rees, who so far has only faced discouraged Utah, over-matched Army and USC in the rain.

EDGE: MIAMI

ND RUSHING

Notre Dame's rushing attack has only seemed to get stronger as the season has progressed, even with the loss of senior Armando Allen. Sophomore Cierre Wood can outrun nearly any defense, and often has, and senior Robert Hughes showed how punishing he can be in the fourth quarter against USC. The duo should wear down a Miami defense that has given up more than 170 rushing yards per game this season. Especially with a freshman at quarterback, Irish coach Brian Kelly will look to his ground game to move the ball in tough situations. If Notre Dame can find success in that regard early on in the Sun Bowl, it should be able to ride those gains to a strong dose of momentum. In bowl games, momentum tends to decide everything, and thus Wood and Hughes will keep on steam-rolling through a Miami defense that is ill-equipped to handle this version of a one-two punch.

EDGE: NOTRE DAME

ND SPECIAL TEAMS

With each PAT he misses, David Ruffer scares Notre Dame fans a bit more, but the fact remains that the senior kicker has never missed a field goal. In a bowl game that could come down to one possession, that is an extremely valuable weapon to have. Freshman Bennett Jackson has also been a spark since he began returning kicks. Any field position advantage he can give Notre Dame could shift the balance of the game.

EDGE: NOTRE DAME

ND OFFENSIVE COACHING

Brian Kelly has shown a surplus of moxie by keeping Notre Dame rolling this season despite suffering from injury after injury to seemingly crucial players. When he had two weeks to prepare for Utah, Kelly and his moxie got the Irish more ready for a game than at any other point this season. With a month to scheme for Miami, Kelly should have little problem finding the cracks in the Hurricanes.

EDGE: NOTRE DAME



For more matchups and pregame analysis, as well as a live
IRISH INSIDER ONLINE at ndsmcobserver.com/sports/

O HEAD

Hurricanes Offense vs. Irish Defense

WR

3 Benjamin
4 Johnson

TE

84 Gordon
82 Cleveland

RT

74 Franklin
55 Jones

RG

66 Gunn
65 Linder

C

63 Horn
65 Linder

LG

72 Washington
65 Linder

LT

77 Henderson
78 Johnson

QB

12 Harris
17 Morris

HB

30 Hill
33 Hagans

TB

20 Berry
6 Miller

WR

85 Hankerson
47 Byrd

K/P

25 Boscher
40 Wieclaw

KR

23 Clements
1 Harris

LS

60 Ivory

PR

3 Benjamin

CB

2 Walls
23 L. Wood

OLB

45 Fleming
55 Shembo

DE

90 Johnson
94 H. Williams

ILB

44 Calabrese
48 Fox

ILB

5 Te'o
54 McDonald

OLB

56 Neal
58 B. Smith

CB

4 Gray
12 Blanton

S

22 H. Smith
15 McCarthy

S

17 Motta
26 Slaughter

NG

98 Cwynar
95 I. Williams

DE

89 Lewis-Moore
91 Nwankwo

Specialists

WR

85 Hankerson
47 Byrd

K/P

25 Boscher
40 Wieclaw

KR

23 Clements
1 Harris

LS

60 Ivory

PR

3 Benjamin

Hurricanes quarterback Jacory Harris throws nearly one interception per 10 completions. At that rate, Notre Dame can hope for at least one pick against Miami, if not two or three.

After just one, Harris will likely become more tentative with his throws, limiting the effects of the Miami aerial attack.

If he manages to stay aggressive,

receiver Leonard Hankerson should provide a serious threat to Notre Dame's secondary. Hankerson has scored 12 touchdowns this season, and tallied nearly 1,000 yards. The Irish do not have one defensive back who can match up with the threat on his own, so it will need a group effort to slow Hankerson if Harris finds a groove to get him the ball.

Fortunately for Notre Dame, senior safety Harrison Smith has developed some ball-hawk tendencies this year, and if he can find one of Harris' passes, the Hurricane quarterback should begin to sieze up the rest of the day.

EDGE: NOTRE DAME

MIAMI PASSING

After a sloppy start, Notre Dame has grown stronger and stronger against the run this season. The contrast between the Navy and Army games alone displays the Irish defense's development.

Now with both sophomore linebacker Carlo Calabrese and senior defensive tackle Ian Williams back in action, the defense should become even more

stingy against the ground attack.

Williams' absence since late October created the opportunity for juniors Sean Cwynar and Hafis Williams to develop quickly. With Williams now back in the lineup, Notre Dame has the luxury of some serious depth across the defensive line.

Trying to break through that line will prove difficult for a Miami offense that

has no standout running back. Damien Berry and Lamar Miller may each have five touchdowns, but neither has established himself as a go-to back, and the Hurricanes will feel the need for a go-to back against a hungry Irish defense.

EDGE: NOTRE DAME

MIAMI RUSHING

Punter Matt Bosher is one of the best in the country at his craft, averaging more than 44 yards per punt, and his coverage gives up less than seven yards per return.

Notre Dame has struggled in the punt return

game all season, so the Hurricanes should even count on their punts to be a weapon in a way, forcing Notre Dame back into its own territory before its offense even gets on the field.

EDGE: MIAMI

Hurricanes interim head coach Jeff Stoutland must lead Miami through a tumultous period following the firing of Randy Shannon.

Many players may check out amid the coaching transition, and Stoutland will have a

tough time simply being competitive in the Sun Bowl, let alone embarrassing Notre Dame. Thus, much of his offensive creativity will likely be very limited, leaving Bob Diaco and the Irish to do as they wish.

EDGE: NOTRE DAME



Sam Werner

Sports Writer

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 30, Miami 21



Laura Myers

Sports Writer

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 30, Miami 27

Notre Dame already watched one ball drop this year, through Ronald Johnson's hands before the Irish defeated USC for the first time in nine years.

When they watch the ball drop on New Year's Eve, it will be after a fourth straight win, their first against Miami in 21 years.

Senior kicker David Ruffer, who is perfect on the season and tonight will find out whether he is the winner of the 2010 Lou Groza award, has not had a chance to shine lately, as Notre Dame has been content to score via touchdown. But against the tough Hurricanes defense, Ruffer will be a major part of a Notre Dame victory.

Miami Hurricanes

Record: 7-5

AP: NR Coaches: NR



Jeff Stoutland
interim head coach

First season at Miami

career record
0-0:
record at Army:
0-0
against ND:
0-0



Mark Whipple
Off. Coordinator



John Lovett
Def. Coordinator

2010 Schedule

Sept. 2	Florida A&M — W
Sept. 11	@ Ohio State — L
Sept. 23	@ Pittsburgh — W
Oct. 2	@ Clemson — W
Oct. 9	Florida State — L
Oct. 16	@ Duke — W
Oct. 23	North Carolina — W
Oct. 30	@ Virginia — L
Nov. 6	Maryland — W
Nov. 13	@ Georgia Tech — W
Nov. 20	Virginia Tech — L
Nov. 27	South Florida — L

Head-to-Head

MIAMI OFFENSE	ND DEFENSE
Scoring: 27.08 ppg (58th)	Scoring: 20.5 ppg (29th)
Total: 422.58 ypg (31st)	Total: 353.17 ypg (47th)
Rushing: 190.42 ypg (26th)	Rushing: 146.75 ypg (55th)
Passing: 232.17 (49th)	Passing: 206.42 ypg (42nd)
Turnovers against: 32 (117th)	Turnovers for: 21 (57th)
Fumbles lost: 9 (52nd)	Fumbles rec.: 7 (86th)
Interceptions: 23 (119th)	Interceptions: 14 (34th)
Sacks Allowed: 16 (26th)	Sacks: 26 (47th)
T.O.P. for: 28:26 (97th)	T.O.P. against: 32:50 (113th)

Statistical Leaders

MIAMI OFFENSE	ND DEFENSE
QB JACORY HARRIS 132-245, 1,646 yds, 14 TD	MLB MANTI TE'O 65 solo, 127 total, 9.5 TFL
RB DAMIEN BERRY 166 rush, 841 yards, 5 TD	MLB CARLO CALABRESE 26 solo, 59 total, 2.5 sack
RB LAMAR MILLER 94 rush, 639 yards, 5 TD	LB DARIUS FLEMING 46 total, 10 TFL, 6 sack
WR LEONARD HANKERSON 57 rec., 958 yards, 12 TD	CB GARY GRAY 59 total, 5 TFL, 1 INT
WR TRAVIS BENJAMIN 38 rec., 691 yards, 3 TD	S HARRISON SMITH 50 solo, 86 total, 4 INT

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COMMENTARY

History may lead to looking forward

It was all about looking forward the last time the Irish played in a bowl game, in Hawaii on Christmas Eve 2008. Notre Dame's 49-21 dismantling of Hawaii ended a nine-game bowl losing streak and was supposed to jump-start a successful 2009 season under Charlie Weis.



Matt Gamber

Sports Writer

So, when the Notre Dame-Miami matchup was finalized Sunday, my first instinct was to look forward, to view the Sun Bowl as a preview of the three-game series between the Irish and Hurricanes that is set to begin in 2012 at Soldier Field in Chicago. I thought we'd see the New Year's Eve bowl as a chance to enter 2011 with some serious momentum, especially considering Notre Dame's three straight big wins.

It seems I underestimated what a game between the Irish and Hurricanes still means, 20 years after they last met.

After all, I was 18 months old the last time these two teams played. Until a Wikipedia search Sunday, I couldn't remember the scores of those fierce showdowns in 1988, 1989 and 1990. Until finding Youtube highlights Monday, I had seen more of Lou Holtz in an ESPN studio than on a college football sideline, and I had watched more clips of Rocket Ismail in street clothes at pep rallies than in an Irish uniform, igniting Notre Dame Stadium the way he did best.

I can't fully understand the Notre Dame-Miami rivalry that was characterized by genuinely bad blood that boiled over in a 1988 pregame brawl and epitomized by Lou Holtz's legendary request to "save Jimmy Johnson's ass for me." These bitter showdowns are what a previous generation of Irish fans lived for, and what our current generation longs for.

By looking back, especially at the way the Irish beat the Hurricanes in 1988 and 1990, I somewhat surprisingly feel encouraged with where the Notre Dame program is headed. Of course, this isn't the 1988 or 1990 team, for Notre Dame or for Miami — both are 7-5, the former with losses to Navy and Tulsa, the latter without a head coach.

But, to me, the arrow is pointing up for the Irish. What better way for Notre Dame to finish the season than with a win over a historic rival the Irish haven't played in two decades, during

which Irish championships have gone from an expectation to a pipe dream.

This may be a stretch, but for all the differences between those Notre Dame teams and this one, I couldn't help but see dashes of similarities, glimmers of hope that indicate Brian Kelly just might be putting the fight back in the Fighting Irish.

While the 1988 national championship team was perfect in record, it wasn't perfect for 60 minutes every game. Against the Hurricanes that year, the Irish gave up 21 second quarter points after taking a 7-0 lead. Notre Dame took a 31-21 lead into the fourth quarter of that game but gave up a fourth-and-goal touchdown with 45 seconds to play that pulled Miami within an extra point of tying or a two-point conversion of winning.

Perhaps it's just me, but to hear the praise of those Notre Dame teams and the criticism of their contemporaries, I'd have thought the Irish never surrendered a lead or gave up a fourth-down conversion with a game on the line.

True, the Irish stepped up when they had to, breaking up that two-point conversion and finishing the victory on their way to a national championship.

But consider the tone after Notre Dame's recent victory over USC, when the Irish nearly gave away their chance to beat the Trojans before rallying late and creating a key turnover in the final minute.

While the level of competition and the level of importance of the games I mention are nowhere near comparable, my point is, maybe we forget what made the Holtz era at Notre Dame special. It wasn't that the Irish blew out every opponent, big or small, ranked or unranked, without ever having to overcome adversity. Rather, it was that the Irish did overcome that adversity, that they made plays in the biggest situations, that they closed out games the way championship teams do.

When I looked back at the old tape, I thought I'd come away disappointed about the kind of big games I'd never see as a Notre Dame student. Instead, I saw hope that maybe we're seeing the beginning of something special here.

Unlike a Hawaii Bowl victory, beating Miami — even if it's not pretty — on New Year's Eve might just provide the kind of look forward for which Irish fans long.

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

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

Sun Bowl evokes memories of 1980s



Amid their many heated meetings in the 1980s, Notre Dame and Miami brawled in the tunnel before their 1988 match-up. No. 4 Notre Dame topped No. 1 Miami 31-30 on Oct. 15, 1988.

By LAURA MYERS

Sports Writer

The Sun Bowl will be the first game Notre Dame and Miami have played against each other in more than 20 years. The games it follows, though, are still remembered as some of the best in college football history.

"This matchup certainly brings back the memories of some of the great games that were played," Irish coach Brian Kelly said in a press conference Monday.

One of those great games, the 1988 contest in which No. 4 Notre Dame defeated No. 1 Miami, 31-30, was listed by USA Today in 2007 as one of the best of the past 25 years.

That game, dubbed "Catholics vs. Convicts," thanks to a clever student-made T-shirt, began with a fight in entrance of the Notre Dame Stadium tunnel and a rousing speech by then-coach Lou Holtz, who told his team, "save Jimmy Johnson's ass for me." It contained a controversial fumble ruling, and it ended with Hurricanes coach Johnson attempting a two-point conversion when he could have tied it with an extra point at the end of the game.

Of course, the season ended

with Notre Dame on top, the win over Miami a stepping-stone for the Irish to capture their last national championship.

It was Holtz's quote that Kelly said he remembered the most.

"That's classic," he said. "I still think of that one and go, that's probably one of the best all time lines leading into a football game that I can imagine."

Kelly's other memories were less specific.

"The great players in it. I remember that," he said. "The intense rivalry. Intense. It got downright ugly at times."

And it did. Though Notre Dame leads the series, which began in 1955, by a mark of 15-7-1, many of Miami's wins were painful.

In 1985, Miami defeated Notre Dame 58-7, and was accused of running up the score, possibly beginning the tension that lasted through the next six seasons.

Through the latter half of the 1980s, Notre Dame and Miami were two of the top teams in college football. The Hurricanes won championships in 1987 and '89, while the Irish won it all in 1988. The two often played spoiler to one another.

In 1987, the first time the

Irish faced the Hurricanes with Lou Holtz as coach, No. 2 Miami defeated No. 10 Notre Dame 24-0.

In 1989, the No. 7 Hurricanes ended No. 1 Notre Dame's 23-game win streak with a 27-10 victory, Notre Dame's only loss of the season.

The Irish ended that installment of the rivalry with a victory, though, defeating No. 2 Miami 29-20 on Oct. 20, 1990.

The Hurricanes won a national title the following year, and another in 2001.

While the history adds a level of interest that may have spurred the Sun Bowl to sell out in a record 21 hours Monday, players said it was of secondary importance to the game at hand.

"I don't think it's going to matter at all," senior nose guard Ian Williams said at a press conference Sunday.

Senior running back Robert Hughes, who grew up cheering for the Hurricanes, agreed.

"It's more for the fans with the history and tradition," Hughes said. "It's pretty much specifically our task to go out there and win. We'll be focused on that."

Contact Laura Myers at lm Myers2@nd.edu

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