

THE OBSERVER

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NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

Students face breakfast decision

By SAM STRYKER
News Writer

A battle of the bagels commenced on Jan. 22 when popular chain Einstein Bros. opened a location on South Bend Avenue, just a few doors down from local establishment Studebagels.

Merry Smith, owner of Studebagels, said business has held steady since Einstein Bros. opened.

"It's only been a month or so, but we really haven't seen a difference yet," she said. "We looked at last year's numbers from the same time and we're about identical."

Smith said this is not the first challenge Studebagels has experienced in 18 years of business. She said the company continues to focus on producing the best product.

"There actually have been a couple of different bagel shops around, and a lot of places offer bagels, but nothing has opened this close," Smith said. "We just roll with what we know. We try to do the best we can."

Smith said rather than view Einstein Bros. as detrimental to Studebagels' business, she sees a chance to improve her restaurant.

"I think it will make us even better. Competition is always good," she said. "We



EILEEN VEIHMEYER/The Observer

Saint Mary's sophomore Brigid Hurley purchases an item at the new Einstein Bros. Bagels location in South Bend Thursday. The store presents a challenge to local standard Studebagels.

may have to step up our game a little bit, and do some different things."

Business has started strong for Einstein Bros., owner Michael Newton said.

"[Business has been] good, very good," he said. "We have been fortunate so far. ... [Notre Dame students] are a big part of our business. We look for everyone in the community, including Notre Dame students and local college students."

Einstein Bros. has offered coupons on campus in addition to giving away free breakfast sandwiches for a year to their first 100 cus-

tomers, Newton said. He said these promotions have helped draw students to the restaurant.

"The redemption rate has been quite impressive," Newton said. "It definitely has been nice to see the kids come in and use those coupons. I think they have been quite happy so far."

College students will remain a big part of business once the coupons expire, Newton said. He said drawing in customers initially was important to introducing the Einstein Bros. experience.

"I think this was a great way to introduce ourselves to

the community and say, 'Hey, we're in town. Why don't you come in and let us take care of you,'" Newton said. "Hopefully they like the product and they'll come in again, with or without a coupon."

Smith said she estimates 30 percent of Studebagels customers are Notre Dame students. In addition to a 10 percent student discount, she said the warm atmosphere of Studebagels draws the college crowd.

"Some of the kids who come by at night to see the bagels made, I have become

see BAGELS/page 5

Bands, SUB present 53rd jazz festival

By KRISTEN DURBIN
News Writer

Notre Dame's 53rd annual Collegiate Jazz Festival will unite professional and student musicians this weekend.

The two-day, student-run festival, sponsored by the Notre Dame Bands and the Student Union Board, routinely attracts world-class judges and ensembles, director of jazz studies and faculty advisor Larry Dwyer said. This year's edition of the country's oldest collegiate jazz festival features nine collegiate bands and one ensemble comprised of the festival's judges.

"The festival is nationally known as one of the best festivals bands can come to, so we always get really great college bands to play here," Dwyer said. "We've also been able to attract a who's who of great jazz names to serve as judges over the past 50 years."

Dwyer said prominent jazz musicians, including this year's judges, The Clayton Brothers Quartet, are attracted to the festival because it provides a unique opportunity to work with college-age amateur musicians at an

see JAZZ/page 4

Students network at rescheduled Career Fair



ASHLEY DACY/The Observer

Lands' End representative Courtney Sikorski, center, speaks to students at the Winter Career Fair Thursday.

By AMANDA GRAY
News Writer

Even though the snowstorm that hit campus Feb. 2 caused many headaches and forced the Winter Career Fair to be cancelled, the Career Center's rescheduled Career Fair was a

success, said Kevin Monahan, associate director of the Career Center, said.

"Students have been very supportive as they realized the crippling effects the weather would have had on the Career Fair and the safety issues involved if we

see FAIR/page 5

Huntington wins SCC runoff

By MEGAN DOYLE
Associate News Editor

After the results were delayed for more than 24 hours due to campaign violations, the officers for next year's Senior Class Council were named late Thursday night.

Anne Huntington will serve as senior class president. Her council will include Mike Oliver, Brittnei Alexander and Tyler Harmsen.

Huntington's ticket won 472, or 57.42 percent, of the votes, while the opposing ticket won 350 (42.58 percent) of the votes.

The Judicial Council reported 822 total votes, and 50 voters abstained from choosing a particular ballot.

Huntington and her ticket defeated Parker King, Ben German, Alicia Elliott and Brinya Bjork to win the election.

Huntington said she was

Election Results Senior Class Council Run-off			
Senior Class Council (2012)			
President:	Secretary:		
Anne Huntington	Brittnei Alexander		
		57.42%	(472 votes)
Vice President:	Treasurer:		
Mike Oliver	Tyler Harmsen		
President:	Secretary:		
Parker King	Alicia Elliott	42.58%	(350 votes)
Vice President:	Treasurer:		
Ben German	Brinya Bjork		

LAUREN KALINOSKI | Observer Graphic

excited for the ticket to assume their positions.

"In our campaigning, we really came together as a team and saw who worked where best," she said. "We have a really good idea of what we

want to do and how we want to do it."

"We want to do some small events to get our class ready to move off campus," she said.

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THE OBSERVER

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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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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: WHICH NINTENDO CHARACTER DO YOU MOST ASSOCIATE WITH?



Becca Passarelli
freshman Pangborn

“Mario”



Michael Verraveto
freshman Dillon

“Donkey Kong”



Jack Leniart
freshman Alumni

“Mario”



Christina Murray
sophomore Pangborn

“Yoshi”



Kelsey Behan
junior Ryan

“Yoshi”



Cam Thorpe
junior Duncan

“Starfox”

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



GRANT TOBIN/The Observer

The Men’s 2nd Varsity 8+ practice Tuesday afternoon as they prepare for the upcoming spring season. The team will spend spring break training in Oak Ridge, Tenn.

OFFBEAT

Ohio man drinks beer during DUI stop

ELYRIA, Ohio – Police in northern Ohio say a man who was asked during a traffic stop whether he’d been drinking took a swig from an open can of beer and told the officer, “Yes.”According to Cleveland’s WJW-TV, the Elyria (eh-LEER'-ee-uh) police report says 25-year-old Stephen Supers was pulled over early Wednesday because the officer had observed him speeding. The report says that after Supers took the drink in front of the officer he failed a series of field sobriety tests. Supers is scheduled to

appear in court Tuesday on charges including driving under the influence, driving under suspension and possession of marijuana. A message was left at his home phone number in Elyria on Thursday. Court records do not list his attorney.

Ferris wheel to be built on Las Vegas strip

LAS VEGAS – A 500-foot (152 meters) Ferris wheel, which would be the tallest in the Western Hemisphere, may be built on the famed Las Vegas strip, officials said. A developer won permission to construct the Ferris wheel as the centerpiece of an amusement park and

retail centre planned for a vacant plot of land on the Strip, opposite the Mandalay Bay Hotel and Casino.

If built, it would be the third-tallest Ferris wheel in the world and, at 500 feet, would be the maximum allowed by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration.

The site is less than half a mile (0.8 km) from McCarran International Airport, where more than 35 million passengers land every year.

Developer Howard Bulloch got the green light for the project from Clark County commissioners on Wednesday.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Friday at 3 p.m. in Rolfs Sports Recreation Center, relay for life is holding an event. For \$3 a yard, you can tape Dayne Christ to a wall. Also, the RecSports interns will be receiving pies in the face for \$1. All proceeds benefit relay for life.

The Academy Award winning film, **The Fighter** starring Mark Wahlberg, Christian Bale and Amy Adams, will be shown Friday in DeBartolo Hall at 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. The cost is \$3.


Saturday at 6:30 p.m. the film **Strong Bodies Fight**, will make its midwest premiere, in DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The film is a documentary about Bengal Bouts, an 81 year old Notre Dame tradition. Director William Donaruma 1989, Producer Mark Weber, 2009, and Cinematographer John Klein, 2006, will all be at the premiere. The cost is \$3.

Saturday at 7 p.m., the Collegiate Jazz Festival will be held in Washington Hall. Students get in for free. The concert will feature bands from Alma College, Central Michigan University, Middle Tennessee State University, University of Missouri St. Louis and Bowling Green University.

Saturday at 9:30 p.m. Lewis Hall is hosting LHOP: Lewis Hall of Pancakes. For \$3, all the pancakes you can eat will be available in the Lewis Hall kitchen. All proceeds will be given to the Food Bank of Northern Indiana. The event runs until Sunday at 1:30 a.m.

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	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
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College students to perform two operas

By ALICIA SMITH
 Associate Saint Mary's Editor

Saint Mary's College will look to hit the right note this weekend as six students perform two short operas this weekend.

The performances of “The Old Maid and the Thief” and “The Telephone,” both by Gian Carlo Menotti, will showcase the talents of students involved in a one-credit opera workshop, associate professor of music Laurel Thomas said.

“In the semesters we do opera workshop, students can receive one credit for taking the class,” she said. “The term ‘opera workshop’ is used quite loosely, in the sense that we might do a one-act opera in its entirety, or we might do several scenes from different operas, which is how the term is usually used.”

Thomas said the College presents a staged musical performance each year within the music department, with the exception of every fourth year, where the College teams the music and theatre departments to create a full-length musical.

“Every fourth year we do a large musical together,” she said. “We are currently in discussion about doing a smaller musical every other year, and we tried this last fall when we collaborated to produce ‘Into the Woods’ by Stephen Sondheim.”

Thomas said she is responsible for selecting music each year that caters to the students’ skill set.

“I always choose the opera or opera scenes based on the

students in the department who are musically capable and interested in working hard on a production,” she said.

Thomas said the operas she selected this year are comical, and will showcase each performer’s talent.

“I hope that people will enjoy the music, find the singing of high quality, but mostly, that they will be able to laugh and have fun,” she said.

“The Telephone” runs about 20 minutes long and is about a female character, Lucy, who is on the telephone with Ben, who is trying to propose to her.

“It is an earlier case of a problem we still have today — technology getting in the way of true communication,” Thomas said.

The plot of “The Old Maid and the Thief” reflects the history of 1930s — the era in which it was written.

“‘The Old Maid and the Thief’ reflects Menotti’s view of this town and its inhabitants,” she said. “Though it is a comedy, the female roles in this opera are not necessarily all likeable. It was the first opera written for radio broadcast, another indication of its era.”

The operas will be held on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in the Little Theatre in Moreau Hall. Tickets are free for students and cost \$10 for adults, \$8 for senior citizens and \$8 for faculty and staff of the University of Notre Dame, Saint Mary’s College and Holy Cross College.

Contact Alicia Smith at
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Election

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She said these events might include a presentation from a South Bend law enforcement officer about local rules that might affect students.

The ticket said they plan to host events to bring their class together during their last year at Notre Dame. Huntington said they would host a networking barbeque at the beginning of the fall semester and a senior tailgate, as well as smaller events at local restaurants.

While the results of sophomore and junior class council elections were released Wednesday evening, the results of the senior class council election were held until Thursday due to an alleged violation of campaign rules.

An allegation was made against King and his running mates German, Elliott and Bjork. The ticket sent a campaign e-mail using a dorm listserv, according to a Judicial Council press release. The student body constitution forbids the use of listservs in campaigning.

The Election Committee decided Wednesday night to invalidate eight votes, or roughly ten percent of the rising seniors living in the hall in question, that were cast for King’s ticket. The ticket appealed the sanction, and the Election Committee met late Thursday evening to review the appeal.

Vice president of elections Michael Thomas said the Election Committee reviewed the appeal and decided to change the sanction.

“They must apologize to the other ticket in the runoff election for the violation of section 17.1(e) of the Student Union constitution prior

to the results being announced,” Thomas said. “The ticket must also attend a Knott Hall government meeting at which they must apologize for the misuse of the Knott Hall e-mail list.”

King said he felt the winning ticket would be a successful in their term.

“It is unfortunate that there were so many complications,” King said. “But Anne is going to do a great job next year.”

Contact Megan Doyle at
mdoyle11@nd.edu

Write news. Be cool.
 E-mail lmccryst@nd.edu

Jazz

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entirely student-run festival.

"When we ask former judges why they like coming to this festival, the most common answer is because it's student-run," Dwyer said. "They really appreciate that there's not some professional guy telling them what to do, and they love to work with excellent college musicians to get a chance to impart some expertise and methods to them."

Festival co-programmer senior Theresa Gildner said the world-class professional talents who judge the festival each year amaze her.

"It always fascinates me to see how many famous jazz musicians have been judges in past years," Gildner said. "It's a really cool aspect of the festival."

Although the festival is noncompetitive, the judges provide detailed critiques and scores for each band, including clinics immediately following their performances, Dwyer said. Judges also perform at the festival each year, and Friday's "Judges' Jam" will feature the Grammy-nominated Clayton Brothers.

Among the groups performing over the weekend are the University of Notre Dame Jazz Band I, the University of Illinois Concert Jazz Band and the Alma College Percussion Ensemble. The festival will also feature the University of Western Ontario Jazz Ensemble, marking the first performance by an international band in the festival's 53-year history, Dwyer said.

For the first time, Notre Dame's Jazz Band I will perform a song with the Voices of Faith gospel choir, Dwyer said. Sophomore jazz vocalist Allison Jeter will also perform with the Notre Dame ensemble.

Gildner said she is excited to hear her peers perform a wide variety of jazz music at the festival.

"The Alma College Percussion Ensemble will open the show on Friday, and they have a really unique sound that you don't usually hear in jazz," Gildner said. "They use steel drums and several other percussion instruments, and sometimes they use string bows on their marimbas, so it's really cool."

Dwyer said he hopes the high caliber of this year's performances will draw a large number of students to the festival, in spite of what may be an unfamiliar genre.

"A lot of people don't know a lot about jazz, so if they come to the festival, they might not know what they're going to hear," Dwyer said. "But it's always an exciting show because every band comes to the festival with their killer stuff, and students get to hear their peers play at a high level."

Gildner said she hopes the festival will help introduce her classmates to a genre of music they are not used to listening to.

"We want to get more students involved with the festival because there's a generation gap with jazz," Gildner said. "It's a great art form, so it's cool to have the opportunity for students to experience it on campus."

Performances begin at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday in Washington Hall. Admission is free for all Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and Holy Cross students, but advanced ticketing is recommended and available in the LaFortune Student Center box office. For the general public, tickets are \$5 per night or \$8 for both nights. An individual ticket is required for each night of the festival.

Contact Kristen Durbin at kdurbin@nd.edu

Panel discusses sustainability in cities

By REBECCA MORIARTY
News Writer

South Bend and the University of Notre Dame must work with individuals to become more sustainable, members of the Sustainable Cities Panel determined.

Students for Environmental Action hosted the event Thursday.

Officer for Students for Environmental Action Regina McCormack said citizens hold the key to improving sustainability.

"We often talk about what cities can do to be more green, but today we want to extend the conversation to what individuals can do," she said.

Director of the Office of Sustainability Heather Christophersen said sustainability is an integral part of Notre Dame's mission.

"It is important to our Catholic faith," she said.

Christophersen said the Church has made changes to be

more sustainable, starting from the top. She said Vatican City is the first carbon-neutral country in the world, with the Vatican Museum adding solar panels to its roof. Notre Dame has adopted the Church's view about the importance of sustainability, she said.

"The negative impacts of climate change often falls most heavily on the poor and as Catholics, it is our duty to care for the poor," Christophersen said.

Christophersen said sustainability has an effect on the reputation of a university. The University hopes to decrease its carbon footprint and its waste output, in addition to teaching students about green living, she said.

"[Notre Dame] hopes to educate us to change our behaviors on campus in the hope that we will take those behaviors and practice them at home also," Christophersen said.

Christophersen said the University has encouraged sustainability on campus, with a

new community garden, more courses regarding sustainability and special events such as the dorm energy competition and Energy Week.

Municipal Energy Director Jon Burke said South Bend has begun to encourage sustainability. The city just started an office of energy in September, he said.

"We're in the embryonic stage," Burke said.

Burke said South Bend's solution to become more sustainable starts with each citizen of the city.

"Programs to increase sustainability aren't going to be enough," he said. "The solution is really going to come when individuals decide they are going to adopt a sustainable lifestyle."

Burke said students must always play an important role in improving sustainability.

"I plead to you to get involved with sustainability because it's going to affect you a lot more than it will affect me," he said. "For centuries students have been the driving force for social

change."

Architecture professor Lucien Steil said constructing economically friendly structures is important. He said buildings are the greatest source of carbon emissions.

"We have to become citizens of the planet again," Steil said.

Industrial design professor Ann-Marie Conrado said products we use daily can be detrimental to the environment. She said the University is recycling-friendly.

"On this campus, the only thing that isn't recyclable is food waste," Conrado said.

Conrado said current recycling bins do not cater to this, as the area for recyclable waste is significantly smaller than the area for trash. She said improving the small things goes a long way in working towards sustainability.

"Through design we can actually educate and change behavior," Conrado said.

Contact Rebecca Moriarty at rmoriar2@nd.edu



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Fair

continued from page 1

pushed forward and tried to host the event in February,” he said. The Fair was postponed for more than a month until Thursday, when it ran from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Joyce Center Heritage Hall. The Diversity Reception ran from 12 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Monogram Room. Monahan said it was the first time in his 10 years with the Career Center that a career fair had been postponed. “As early as Monday of that week, we had received news of thousands of flight cancellations and anticipated shutdowns of

major highways. Postponing the fair was the right decision as the well being of students, staff, and employers was our top concern,” he said. “Within 24 hours, we had already rebooked the Joyce Center and started communicating details to companies and students about the new date.” With the extra time the Career Center was able to keep the majority of the original firms set to attend, while bringing in a few more companies, including Land’s End, Chrysler and Frito-Lay, Monahan said. 104 firms were in attendance Friday, and firms also adjusted on-campus interview schedules during February and March. “Some firms kept their original on-campus interview dates while

others pushed back until after the fair,” he said. “Overall, spring on-campus recruiting is up about 25 percent from last year.” Junior Rachel Chalich said she has been to every Career Fair while attending Notre Dame, except while she was abroad last semester. “I think that there were just as many students at the fair today as there have been in past years,” she said. “It seemed like there were fewer employers, but the event was logistically set up differently, so it is really hard to be certain.” Chalich said her biggest worry about the Career Fair being pushed back was the availability of positions. “Of those in attendance, I am

curious as to how many actually had jobs and internships available or if those positions had already been filled,” she said. “I was fortunate enough to be unaffected by the change in date. My recruiters still kept on the same schedule; they just didn’t have the Career Fair as a resource.” Monahan said this is not the first time the Career Center has held an employer fair in March. As of 10 years ago, the Career Center hosted a career fair in January and a separate internship fair in March. “Taking feedback from students and employers, we decided to move to one fair during the spring semester,” Monahan said. He said the Career Center estimates around 2,000 students

attended, which is typical for on-campus career fairs. “I anticipate more first years and sophomores attending than in the past in order to get a head start on their career search efforts,” he said. Chalich said she began using the Career Fair as a freshman. “I think we’re spoiled by the work they do, and then you talk to friends who go to other schools where the ‘Career Center’ is one person behind a desk,” she said. “The staff at the Career Center know the industries, they know the employers, and they know the steps needed to get you where you want to be.”

Contact Amanda Gray at agray3@nd.edu

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Bagels

continued from page 1

sort of their mother. I think we offer them more than just food. We bake them with love,” Smith said. “It’s not like some place else. There is only one of us.” Smith said she appreciates the interaction the Studebagels staff has with students. “We like to have them come in because we learn from them everyday,” she said. Newton said one of Einstein Bros. strongest facets is the level of commitment he and his wife Melissa, co-owner and operator, bring to the business. “I think the [goal] of every restaurant is to execute well. Not everyone does that, but we have consistent, excellent service,” he said. “We do it with a personal touch. My wife and I are in the store pretty much from open to close.” Health-conscious food is also part of Einstein Bros. appeal to college students, Newton said.

“When you come into Einstein Bros., you’ll see we’re more health-oriented. We use fresh products and we bake everything on site,” he said. “We have a lot of good stuff.” Studebagels focuses on providing fresh food, with home-made bagels, cream cheese, and original recipes, Smith said. She said Studebagels is able to offer a wider variety of specialty items than Einstein Bros. “We offer a lot of things they cannot do because they are a chain,” Smith said. “We make heart bagels on Valentines Day, different colored bagels for different sporting events and different schools, some things that are just unique.” Senior Sarah Weiler, a regular Studebagels customer, said it is important to support local businesses. “As long as we have local businesses, why not support them, especially because they were here first,” she said. “It’s not the most important thing students can do, but it is probably for the better.” Senior Jessica Spiewak, who received a ticket booklet for 52 free breakfast sandwiches as one of Einstein Bros. first 100 customers, said she remains a loyal Studebagels customer. “It’s definitely a temporary thing,” she said. “I never spend any money when I go to Einstein Bros., and as soon as I run out of these coupons I will start going back to Studebagels again.” The friendly atmosphere of Studebagels is what draws college students, Weiler said. “It’s more like a coffee shop where you can sit with friends. I wouldn’t think of a

chain restaurant in that way as much,” she said. “I go to Studebagels because it is fun to go and chat about the weekend and what everyone is up to.” Spiewak said as a local business, Studebagels is unparalleled in the attention to detail they bring to their food, such as the variety of bagels and rotating coffee flavors. “I think it is all the extra little touches that local businesses can add to things, unlike corporate chain-type of atmosphere,” she said. Despite what Studebagels offers, Spiewak said Einstein Bros. poses a difficult challenge for the locally owned business. “I’m kind of worried about them actually. Einstein Bros. has been pretty crowded,” she said. Spiewak said since Einstein Bros. offers free wireless Internet, many students see the restaurant as a place to enjoy a meal while working on schoolwork. “I have noticed from going to Einstein Bros. that people have been doing their homework there,” she said. “They have been hanging out, eating snacks with their computers out. I don’t feel like they do that at Studebagels.” Weiler said she is confident Studebagels’ long-standing reputation will allow its business to remain strong. “The novelty of Einstein Bros. might attract students,” she said. “Studebagels has been so popular with students for so long that they will keep going.”

“I think the [goal] of every restaurant is to execute well. Not everyone does that, but we have consistent, excellent service.”

Michael Newton
owner
Einstein Bros. Bagels

“I think it is all the extra little touches that local businesses can add to things, unlike corporate chain-type of atmosphere.”

Jessica Spiewak
senior

Contact Sam Stryker at sstryke1@nd.edu

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INSIDE COLUMN

Thank
you

When we use this space to talk about our work at The Observer, there's a tendency to focus on the nuances, if not the nuisances, that make the publication of a daily college newspaper a unique challenge.

As I reflect today, the last day of my term as Editor-in-Chief, a part of me is relieved it will never again be my responsibility to deal with a malfunctioning printer, a crashing server, a dying computer or a leaking ceiling in our office here in the basement of South Dining Hall.

Another part of me, though, remembers those speed bumps not as challenges, but as opportunities for some team-building comedic relief.

Like the time(s) we've had to restrain each other from going Office Space on printers that could probably qualify for Social Security. Or the time we carried our server from computer to computer like a flash drive just so we could finish the first issue of the year. (The printers were, of course, broken that day, too.)

Or the time, after spending an hour trying to turn on a computer that may as well run MS-DOS, I called our systems administrator to "fix it" — which he did by pushing the "on" switch that was apparently impervious to my touch.

Or the time(s, again) we've sent a staff member running up the stairs to fetch building maintenance while the rest of us tried to stop a leak by catching the water in Solo cups.

You'd think these instances of absurdity would derail the production of our paper. I've come to realize, however, that it is precisely instances like these that highlight the ridiculousness of our collective situation, bring us closer together and allow us to put out a paper every day.

Overcoming these seemingly trivial obstacles — and doing so in a musty, outdated office in the basement of South Dining Hall — is what enables us to make the tough decisions and handle the real challenges of journalism that we, like all newspapers, face.

It's what allows us to step up and spend a 16-hour day in the office when the coverage of an important campus issue demands it, and then come back the next day to put out a paper in a "business as usual" mindset.

It's what allows us to pick each other up, whether it's a busy week academically or a rough day personally, knowing that favor will be returned when you need it most.

It's what allows us to step away and play ICPA, "redecorate" the walls of my house, laugh about cinnamon toast and enjoy a night at Bruno's.

I'll look back on my four years at The Observer and know they weren't perfect. I'll remember those little obstacles and those big challenges. But, most of all, I'll remember overcoming them with all of you.

Thank you for helping me survive my year as Editor-in-Chief. And thank you for making it one heck of a ride.

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

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu



Matt Gamber

Editor-in-Chief

Let's use our heads to protect them

In the span of 10 days in February, two Notre Dame alumni took their own lives.

Both men represented their alma mater, though in different ways: One was a superstar, an All-American football player and eventual Super Bowl winner. The other was an average student, an interhall football player and eventual Notre Dame dad.

Now, the brains of both Dave Duerson and Peter Grant are in a lab at Boston University, as part of a study of Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE).

The Boston University website connected to the study describes CTE as "a progressive degenerative disease of the brain found in athletes (and others) with a history of repetitive brain trauma." It lists boxers and football players as the most likely to have CTE, with symptoms — memory loss, aggression and depression, among others — appearing "months, years, even decades" after the athletic involvement that led to brain trauma.

In short, when student boxers take the ring for the final round of Bengal Bouts tonight, or when the Irish football team begins spring practice two weeks from today, someone could take a hit that haunts him for the rest of his life.

Much of the study and discussion of head injuries has focused on the National Football League, but we've seen it isn't just professional or even varsity athletes who can be affected by this problem.

Just this week, Notre Dame professor Mayland Chang announced that the NFL would be funding her research into a compound that could, hopefully, help to prevent brain damage when administered directly after a head injury.

This is a commendable first step in expanding the conversation onto campus. Now, Notre Dame needs to become even more of a leader in research, safety and education about head injuries.

Bengal Bouts, Baraka Bouts and full-pad interhall football are all signatures of Notre Dame student life. So is the Notre Dame football team, of course.

And because boxing and football are so integral a part

of this campus' fabric, there is no better place to begin a wider movement of learning and protection.

The studies are not yet concluded and all the facts are not yet known about CTE or the risks involved in these sports. But that doesn't mean our students, from the highest levels of athletic activity to the lowest, shouldn't be made aware of the possible future consequences. And it doesn't mean Notre Dame shouldn't be working hard to find out more.

Interhall players are currently made to watch a video about how to tackle without causing injury; but they are not informed of the possible decades-later consequences a concussion, or even many lesser hits, could cause.

The same is true of students who compete in the Bengal and Baraka Bouts. Boxers hear about how to avoid serious head injuries, but do not learn about long-term effects.

Informing students of the risk — not simply that of a concussion and its aftereffects, but also the risk that comes from every collision — is a first step RecSports should take immediately. Would it change a lot of minds about participating in these favored activities? Probably not, nor should it.

But students need to have all the information available, so they can make a conscious decision and can take any necessary precautions.

The University should also be actively working to find the safest possible ways of practicing and playing the game of football to prevent head trauma, and implementing new findings as quickly as it can.

There are few schools that can boast premier research abilities and an all-consuming love of athletics on a varsity and non-varsity level.

There is only one school that can combine those two things with a Catholic character of love and concern for every student and graduate to form the core of its identity.

It is time Notre Dame leads the way in research and education about head trauma, and makes a concerted effort to protect its athletes and its alumni, its superstars and its average students, from the type of tragedies that struck our community in February.

THE
OBSERVER
Editorial

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Not in a
different league

Andrew ("Let's be fair," Mar. 3),

Firstly, I have many wonderful relationships with people at Notre Dame, none of which are strained by the idea that Saint Mary's students don't study. Everyone I know considers that a thoroughly antiquated idea.

Secondly, you state that Notre Dame is in a different league from Saint Mary's, but also reference the National Liberal Arts College ranking list. Hopefully, a student who goes to the No. 19 ranked university in the country would understand that these colleges and universities are in a list because they are comparable. Notre Dame and Saint Mary's are both four-year, Catholic, liberal arts programs. The curricula of both of our schools have a strong focus in developing general knowledge and intelligence. I am sure that you can see the how your Fighting Illini/Chicago Bulls analogy is inappropriate in this situation because they are really from two different leagues, while our schools are not.

Thirdly, maybe you did perform "simply extraordinary feats" in academics or athletics to get into Notre Dame (or maybe you were a legacy), but so did other students all around the country. It is clear that humility was not a factor in your acceptance.

Cheers,

Catie Salyer
senior
Holy Cross Hall
Mar. 3

Return the respect

I want to believe that you wrote in with good intentions, but I found your letter to the editor ("Let's be fair," Mar. 3), far more condescending than helpful. In your letter you explain that Saint Mary's students do your "premier university" a disservice when we equate the two schools, as "Notre Dame students have performed simply extraordinary feats in academics, community service, athletics and other areas." Claiming this as a point of distinction between our two schools is as inaccurate as it is intellectually dishonest. The women of Saint Mary's College have also accomplished "extraordinary feats," and we continue to carry over this tradition of excellence into our college years and beyond.

You are correct when you say that our institutions belong to different leagues; but please note that this is not due to inferiority, but rather fundamental differences in educational styles, values and culture. I value the distinguished all-women's education I am receiving, as I am sure you value the education you are receiving. Using ridiculous basketball analogies to place your school at the professional level and mine at the intercollegiate level is damaging, unfair and perpetuates the same vicious cycle that you ostensibly wrote in to complain about. Your letter, a call to fairness, promotes the exact attitudes and stereotypes that contribute to lower evaluations of Saint Mary's College.

I love my school, and I respect my brothers and sisters across the street. All I ask is for this same respect in return.

Jamie Schmidt
junior
Le Mans Hall
Mar. 3

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Keep your fears to yourself, but share your courage with others."

Robert Louis Stevenson
Scottish author

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It is our choices ... that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities."

J.K. Rowling
British author

The freedom to be an ideological hypocrite

The U.S. Supreme Court this week handed down an almost unanimous landmark ruling in *Snyder v. Phelps*. The 8-1 decision upheld, as First Amendment protected public discourse, a small church's hate-filled shouts and picketing at the funeral of a Marine killed in Iraq in 2006. The Westboro Baptist Church's leader, Fred Phelps, led many protests in which he and followers sullied funerals of fallen warriors with signs like "You're going to hell" — a perverse hypocritical religious profession that death in war is God's way of punishing the U.S. tolerance of homosexuality. It is difficult to find even the most ardent advocates of free speech who are delighted that the court approved such a classless ploy as protesting at private military funerals. The venomous tactics Phelps, a so-called church pastor, employs reeks with hypocrisy in the face of the overriding Christian tenet of love.

Phelps never limited his outbursts to slain military hero's funerals. In 2007, his followers disrupted Christian minister and Moral Majority founder Jerry Falwell's funeral. According to Phelps, Falwell was too soft on homosexuality when he accused the children's television show character Tinky Winky of being a closeted gay but stopped short of action.



Gary Caruso
*Capitol
Comments*

Paradoxically, Falwell himself lost a First Amendment challenge nearly 20 years earlier when the Supreme Court ruled against him in favor of *Hustler* magazine, which had run a parody of the fundamentalist religious leader.

More recently, Westboro Church members spewed hate speech at synagogues in their anti-Semitic campaign that claimed all Jews are sinners. Phelps cancelled a plan to picket the funerals of those gunned down along with Arizona Rep. Gabrielle Giffords. He seemed to abandon that effort when absolute public furor emanated from all quarters of society.

Most purists will hold their noses to support the absolute freedom of expression for distasteful language. Our high court established a long tradition of historical precedents and principles unique throughout the world — freedom to express such diverse beliefs as anti-American sentiments through flag burning (*Johnson v. Texas*), vituperative anti-Catholic speech (*Cantwell v. Connecticut*) and neo-Nazi expression embodied in a parade march through a community of Holocaust survivors (*National Socialist Party of America v. Village of Skokie*). Regardless of how morally reprehensible or antagonistic the expression, freedom to articulate beliefs has ruled supreme.

In defense of Phelps, the American Civil Liberties Union noted in its friend of the court brief, "Outrageousness, in the area of political and social discourse, has an inherent subjectiveness." The ACLU noted the court in the *Falwell/Hustler* case was

correct in reaffirming that "a bedrock principle underlies the First Amendment ... that the government may not prohibit the expression of an idea simply because society finds the idea itself offensive or disagreeable." But therein lays a second hypocrisy, that of the court's lone dissenting "decider," Justice Samuel Alito Jr.

Fast accumulating the most ardent conservative record on the court during his five-year tenure, Alito's rulings thus far usually fall against established precedent or dominant positions of lower courts when favoring business interests or opposing governmental interests. Alito unabashedly wears his conservatism as a badge of honor both on and outside the court. As a speaker or guest at fundraisers for conservative organizations like the Manhattan Institute, Alito depicts such attendance as "not important."

In his lone dissent this week Alito wrote, "Our profound national commitment to free and open debate is not a license for the vicious verbal assault that occurred in this case. But respondents, members of the Westboro Baptist Church ... brutally attacked Matthew Snyder, and this attack, which was almost certain to inflict injury, was central to respondents' well-practiced strategy for attracting public attention."

Last year, in *United States v. Stevens*, Alito also stood alone in opposition to his eight colleagues again professing a greater willingness to curtail speech. By an 8-1 vote, the court struck down a federal law banning videos that depict cruelty to animals as too broad a restriction of

speech. Alito supported the ban, likening the limits to the unprotected freedoms of pornography.

In his first term alone, Alito cast the deciding votes weakening the McCain-Feingold campaign finance law and expanding corporate free speech in *Garcetti v. Ceballos*, but limiting free-speech whistle-blower protections for public employees who exposed government fraud. This flip-flop hypocrisy is typical of a so-called strict constructionist who speaks from both sides of his mouth — in one breath, "The constitution is not a living document, so follow what is written." Next the caveat, "Except when those illegal aliens sneak in to give birth to a child. Don't follow what is written; just deny that child citizenship."

It should be no surprise then that Alito broke with protocol at a State of the Union Message to visually mouth his disagreement with President Obama's warning of consequences arising from the court's corporate free speech expansion in the McCain-Feingold ruling. After all, in Alito's eyes, free speech can only be what he deems is free.

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Implications of the "non-athlete" shirt

I agree with both of your viewpoints ("Non-athlete shirts a reminder," Mar. 1) and ("Prejudice runs deeper," Mar. 2). The isolation and pain that stirs inside of you when people assume you are at Notre Dame only because you are an athlete is something that you do not share alone. It is a terrible feeling and it disrespects both your intelligence and hard work. Alex, you make a great point noting that most of our society is not accustomed to seeing African-Americans as intelligent. Looking at the media and in the news, most positive images of African-Americans are either of those in sports or entertainment.

However, I disagree with both of you on what the "Non-Athlete" shirt means. As a member of the Notre Dame Athletic Department, I was greatly disappointed with the shirt and its meaning. While its intention is to show that African-American students do not have to be athletes to be here on campus, it cannibalizes the African-American athlete and all of their daily struggles in order to exceed both in the classroom and in their sport or athletic event.

As an African-American athlete here on campus, not only do you have to navigate the social generalizations and stereotypes that people assume about you, but you also have to try to balance both an academic and social life and if there is any extra time, a social life as well.

Now I am not saying this is the life of all African-American athletes on campus or that we have it any harder than regular African-American students, but creating a shirt whose meaning is, "I am black at Notre Dame and not an athlete" does nothing to solve the problem. Instead of segmenting a portion of the community, integrate them by asking for more input. It is only when different spectrums and voices join together that change can truly occur. My mother always taught me that the color of your skin does not matter, but your character does. If Notre Dame wants to move towards a more integrated campus, then we need to have respect for all, even amongst our own cultures.

C. David Jones
sophomore
Sorin College
Mar. 2

Let's be real

When I announced that I would be attending Saint Mary's, I was surprisingly often met with the response, "Isn't that the imposter Notre Dame?" Simply put, Saint Mary's is not Notre Dame nor should it be. The schools are indeed similar in their use of brick and their goal to achieve education of the mind without sacrifice of the heart. However, they offer vastly different academic opportunities with one school's style and efforts not inherently being better than the other's.

In his attempt to be fair, Mr. Moser ("Let's be fair," Mar. 3), claimed that Saint Mary's and Notre Dame are in different leagues. However, in his statement he implied that the league in which Notre Dame is classified is superior to Saint Mary's league. Now I agree that Notre Dame and Saint Mary's should not be compared because one is a university and one is a college. Therefore, they are not even the same type of institution.

Notre Dame offers more research-based learning while Saint Mary's is grounded in the liberal arts tradition. Saint Mary's College is not just a school made up of 2,000 Notre Dame rejects. There are many women here who never even considered Notre Dame because they were drawn to the small liberal arts education and traditions which Saint Mary's offers. Moreover, believe it or not, there are women who turned down Notre Dame to attend Saint Mary's. I commend the efforts of Notre Dame students to succeed academically, socially and in their communities, but for Mr. Moser to assume that Notre Dame students have worked harder and have achieved greater success in their various endeavors than their Saint Mary's peers is nothing short of arrogant.

So yes, there is a stereotype of Saint Mary's women being ignorant and promiscuous creatures who rely on Domer males for a future. Now I respect that Mr. Moser as a Keenan Knight attempted to chivalrously defend our honor, but perhaps if he would dismount from his white horse, he and his fellow Domers would realize how capable we Saint Mary's women are and start to feverently fight against that figurative dragon — our stereotype.

Susan Head
freshman
McCandless Hall
Mar. 3

Why can't we be friends?

Let me assure you ("Let's be fair," Mar. 3), that if you were attempting to write an article that does not slight "the intelligence or effort" of Saint Mary's women you have failed miserably. Here at Saint Mary's we hold the same values and work just as hard if not harder than our neighbor across the street. Saint Mary's women equate the two schools because the schools are extremely similar. To say that I belong in a different league than you is demeaning and incredibly wrong. Just because you go to Notre Dame does not mean that you are any better than me. You don't know me and it's obvious you don't anything about the women here at Saint Mary's. When you arrogantly refer to Saint Mary's as the Fighting Illini and Notre Dame as the Chicago Bulls you are overlooking just how similar our learning institu-

tions actually are. What you fail to realize is that we are in the exact same league; in fact we should be on the exact same team. I love both Notre Dame and Saint Mary's and I am proud of our historical connection. Only once everyone starts to accept the fact that both learning institutions are incredible prestigious can we all move forward.

Jessica Vraviss
junior
off-campus
Mar. 3

Phillip Treacy to adorn Royal Wedding

By ADRIANA PRATT
Associate Scene Editor

An Irishman whose childhood dreams swarmed with fantasies of fairytale weddings might just get to be part of one this April. Reports say that London-based hat-designer Philip Treacy will be enlisted by the Royal Family to vamp up the garb of Kate Middleton and her bridal party on the big day.

"As a small child, I loved to watch the weddings [in Ahascragh, Ireland]. They were the equivalent of fashion shows to me. The dresses that people wore, I couldn't believe them, they were incredible. It seemed so glamorous to see these creatures appear in these extraordinary clothes, as we didn't have much glamour where I come from," Treacy wrote on his online biography.

Treacy, a connoisseur of the hat-making industry, began sewing at the age of five, piecing together outfits and hats for his sister's dolls. Since then, he has moved onto life-size clientele and today his creations adorn the heads of Sarah Jessica Parker, Lady Gaga and even the Duchess of Cornwall, Camilla Parker Bowles.

His expertise is so renowned that Lady Gaga applied to be his intern last spring after the two spent time putting together futuristic headgear for her stage ensembles. Gaga continues to wear Treacy's label and has been seen in his creations at the VMAs and in various music videos and interviews.

Parker wore Treacy headdresses to the London premieres of both "Sex and the City" and "Sex and the City 2," proving her loyalty and solidifying her status as a fan. The star paired a pale green Alexander McQueen gown with a butterfly-infused Treacy confection at the premiere of the first movie.

Two years later, Parker followed up this appearance on the red carpet with an electrifying black McQueen-and-Treacy combo again, stunning viewers while simultaneously paying homage to the recently deceased McQueen.

Both celebrities and fashion designers alike recognize Treacy's talent. In 1991, Treacy won his first British Fashion Council award as British Accessory Designer of the Year and was asked by Karl Lagerfeld, chief designer at Chanel, to design for the company. In 1999 Treacy designed hats for Alexander McQueen's white Haute Couture collection at Givenchy in Paris. In 2003, he won The Dream Weaver award alongside Jean Paul Gaultier, Dolce and Gabbana and Donna Karan.

Treacy has also expanded his craft to include bags, gloves, glassware and furniture. His most notable and extravagant pieces lie in the world of headwear, though. He has stunned fans with unthought-of designs and constantly reinvents one of the most basic fashion pieces. From telephone-shaped hats to ethereal crowns, Treacy has proven he can do it all.

How his crazy and creative concoctions will fit in with the style of the more conservative Middleton remains to be seen.

Who enlisted Treacy to construct two classy covers for her wedding day coif?

Camilla Parker Bowles, Duchess of Cornwall and wife of Prince Charles. Thus, we know the milliner is capable of putting together demure designs and polished pieces.

Look to Treacy's Autumn/Winter 2011 Ready to Wear collection for proof of his subtle mastery. Teal, fuchsia, lavender and a musky brown dominate the scores of hats, some with an air of mystery and others exuding confidence. From a single flower to bouquets of blooms, the accents atop the models' heads spell out utter sophistication.

Treacy is sure to create memorable and elegant pieces for Middleton on the day she transforms from a commoner into a princess. Her Royal wedding will be the perfect occasion for all of Treacy's dreams to come true.

Contact Adriana Pratt at
apratt@nd.edu



"More Fighting Than Irish"



By WARD PETTIBONE
Scene Writer

If you're not ready for a brawl by the end of "Going Out In Style," there's not much anyone can do for you. Dropkick Murphys' seventh studio album, released just in time for St. Patrick's Day, is chock-full of what the Murphys are known for: drunken vocals, driving Celtic melodies, and bagpipes - lots and lots of bagpipes. Listening to this album is like being steam-rolled by a shamrock.

The Murphys follow their formula, but it is a formula that works: the album is bold, brash, and fun. The band have said it is a concept album, following the story of a character named Cornelius Larkin, but it is not an easy story to follow, what with all the slurring and shouting.

"Hang 'Em High" is a strong opening and one of the best tracks, setting the tone for an album that is upbeat and more than a little tipsy, but not afraid to be reflective and sentimental. "Broken Hymns" is, not surprisingly, one of the quieter songs - at points it could even be called "beautiful" - but none of that stops lead singer Al Barr

from belting lines like "No prayer, no promise, no hand of God could save their souls that April day / Tell their wives that they

fought bravely as they lay them in their graves" with all the inebriated boastfulness he's got.

That's not to say it's all drunken screaming (though there is no lack of that). Subtlety is not the Murphys' forte, but

there are moments that recall Ireland's verdant hills more than its pubs (the first thirty seconds of "Deeds Not Words," for example). After about seven tracks, though, the mile-a-minute drums and frenetic electric guitars start feeling repetitive. The relative calm of "1953" is a welcome sound,

though it certainly won't put listeners to sleep.

"Peg O' My Heart" has a cameo by Bruce Springsteen, of all people. But his unexpected arrival is far from jarring - in fact, his familiar rough voice fits right in and lends the song some variety. The album ends weakly with the unremarkable "Irish Rover," which by this point is just more of the same. Of course, by now, most St. Patrick's Day listeners wouldn't even notice.

The Murphys are not doing anything new with "Going Out In Style". Little has changed since "The Warrior's Code" (which included "I'm Shipping Up to Boston"), aside from a new mandolinist and Tim Brennan taking up the guitar. Many of the songs begin to blend into each other even if all you've had to drink today is mineral

water.

Still, "Going Out In Style" is a fine album. The Murphys are in top shape instrumentally, and they race through the thirteen tracks with only a few pauses for reflection (the drinking joke makes itself). The band wanted to give fans a good time, and in that regard, they succeeded.

If there is one album you should buy between now and March 17th, this is it.

Contact Ward Pettibone at
wpettibo@nd.edu

Going Out in Style
Dropkick Murphys
Label: Born & Bred Records
Recommended: "Hang 'Em High," "Peg O' My Heart," "Going Out in Style"



By COURTNEY COX
Scene Writer

One of indie music's most dynamic artists will fill Legends Saturday night.

Dan Deacon, a Baltimore-based electronic phenom whose 2009 album "Broomst" received rave reviews, changed the way electronic music is perceived in the ultra-judgmental hipster scene.

Deacon's music can be characterized as sort of pseudo-dance music. The build up to the truly thrilling moments in his music is decidedly slow, but it's worth the wait. For example, "Snookered," a song off "Broomst," runs close to eight minutes. He takes listeners on a journey from the beginning moments of the song and once the end is reached it's difficult to determine just how many songs were packed into the span of time spent listening to Deacon's captivating manipulation of bizarre instruments and auto-tune.

More captivating than Dan Deacon's music, and the reason his performance at Legends is so highly anticipated, is his showmanship.

"WFVI selected Dan Deacon in part because of his renown as an interactive and entertaining performer and in part because of the quality and innovation of his music," said Nicolle Walkling, station manager of WFVI - which combined with Legends to host Deacon.

Deacon is notorious for his

onstage antics. A regular on the festival scene, he has been known to direct crowds numbering close to 20,000 people in different acts that serve to enhance his musical talent. At Lollapalooza in 2009 he compelled members of the crowd to join together into a gigantic conga line that weaved throughout the rest of the audience. Some members of his own band even joined at the end of the line.

He has also been rumored to get crowds to form a circle spiraling inward towards the center, where Deacon himself performs until he departs via airlift.

In fact the interaction with the crowd is Deacon's defining character. When not playing for large crowds he performs in the center of the audience so that they are close to the action and able to feel as though they are truly part of the experience rather than just watching someone perform.

In choosing Dan Deacon as their Spring concert, WFVI is attempting to revolutionize the concert experience on campus, Walkling said.

"We wanted to bring someone to the campus of Notre Dame who would defy the expectations and conventions of a typical concert," she said. "Dan Deacon's high-energy electronic music and participatory performances were exactly the sort of welcome departure that we wanted."

If Deacon performs in the unique way for which he has become renowned, the perform-

ance is likely to live up to the title of the venue in which it is held and truly be legendary. The only thing that remains to be seen is whether the same place that hosts "Hip Hop Night" can be conducive to a performance as innovative as a Dan Deacon concert.

Walkling believes that Deacon will be able to pull out all the stops for an incredible performance.

"I do expect the same sort of extravagant live show this weekend. Deacon loves to bring a unique sort of interactive quality to his shows, whether it's actually performing in the crowd or encouraging dancing among the audience," Walkling said. "For example, I saw a video once of him forming a giant, high-fiving whirlpool in the crowd. I can only hope that Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and Holy Cross students get to experience the same sort of unique concert-going experience this Saturday."

Contact Courtney Cox at
ccox3@nd.edu

On campus

What: Dan Deacon Concert
Where: Legends
When: Saturday, March 6, at 10 p.m.
How much: Free for ND/SMC/HC
Learn more: nd.edu/~wfvi

NFL

Owners, NFLPA agree to one-day extension

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — America’s favorite sport is still in business — for another day.

The NFL and the players’ union decided Thursday to keep the current collective bargaining agreement in place for an additional 24 hours so that negotiations can continue.

“The parties have agreed to a one-day extension,” federal mediator George Cohen said in a one-sentence statement after the sides met with him for about eight hours. The CBA was set to expire at midnight, which would likely have prompted the first work stoppage since 1987 for a league that rakes in \$9 billion a year.

“For all our fans who dig our game, we appreciate your patience as we work through this,” union executive director DeMaurice Smith said as he emerged from the talks. “We are going to keep working. We want to play football.”

Said NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell as he left: “We are working as hard as we can.”

Allowing the CBA to expire could put the two sides on the road to a year without football, even though opening kickoff of

the 2011 season is still six months away. The labor unrest comes as the NFL is at the height of its popularity, breaking records for TV ratings: This year’s Super Bowl was the most-watched program in U.S. history.

If the CBA expires, the owners could lock out the players, and the union could decertify to try and prevent that through the courts — something the NFLPA did in 1989. It formed again in 1993.

NFL lead negotiator Jeff Pash said the sides had “good discussions and exchanges,” and “we’re going to be back here (Friday) morning.”

A person with knowledge of the talks said the 24-hour extension was an opportunity to decide whether there would be a willingness to extend negotiations further.

The person, who spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity because the talks were supposed to remain confidential, said the sides were apart on economics, but have agreed on other topics. The person would not say what the two sides do agree on.

Washington Redskins player representative Vonnie Holliday cautioned that the two sides

are “still apart” on a pact to replace the current CBA. “I don’t see how we can be that close right now unless somebody is going to pull a rabbit out of the hat,” he said. “I just don’t see it.”

While the league and players’ union met for a 10th day with Cohen, even President Barack Obama weighed in when asked if he would intervene in the dispute.

“I’m a big football fan,” Obama said, “but I also think that for an industry that’s making \$9 billion a year in revenue, they can figure out how to divide it up in a sensible way and be true to their fans, who are the ones who obviously allow for all the money that they’re making. So my expectation and hope is that they will resolve it without me intervening, because it turns out I’ve got a lot of other stuff to do.”

Besides Goodell, also on hand for the NFL were Pash, outside counsel Bob Batterman, New York Giants owner John Mara, Green Bay Packers president Mark Murphy, Washington Redskins general manager Bruce Allen and several other league executives. Mara and Murphy are

members of the league’s labor committee, which has the authority to call for a lockout if a new agreement isn’t reached.

“We’ll stay at it as long as it takes,” Pash said as the day began.

They’ll be staying at least into Friday.

The biggest sticking point all along has been how to divide the league’s revenues, including what cut team owners should get up front to help cover certain costs, such as stadium construction. Under the old deal, owners received about \$1 billion off the top. They entered these negotiations seeking to add another \$1 billion to that.

Among the other significant topics: a rookie wage scale; the owners’ push to expand the regular season from 16 games to 18 while reducing the pre-season by two games; and benefits for retired players.

Since the 1987 players’ strike that shortened the season to 15 games — with three of those games featuring nonunion replacement players — there has been labor peace in the NFL. The foundation of the current CBA was reached in 1993 by then-Commissioner Paul Tagliabue and union chief

Gene Upshaw. It has been extended five times as revenues soared, the league expanded to 32 profitable teams, and new stadiums were built across America to house them.

The contract extension reached in 2006 was the final major act for Tagliabue, who then retired, succeeded by Goodell. An opt-out clause for each side was included in that deal, and the owners exercised it in May 2008 — three months before Upshaw died.

Smith replaced Upshaw in March 2009.

Joining Smith at the mediation session Thursday were union president Kevin Mawae, New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees, Indianapolis Colts center Jeff Saturday, Pittsburgh Steelers backup quarterback Charlie Batch and several others, including current and former players. More than a dozen TV cameras and twice as many reporters waited on the sidewalk outside the mediation headquarters, along with a few fans.

A George Washington University student held up a yellow homemade sign: “Don’t Make Me Watch Hockey,” it read.

MLB

Indians outfielder Sizemore recovering from surgery

Associated Press

GOODYEAR, Ariz. — Grady Sizemore takes one final, healthy cut in the batting cage and scoops up a few stray baseballs scattered on the infield grass. After pausing to sign autographs for a few fans, he heads off to the next phase of his daily workout.

By himself. A consummate team player, Sizemore’s on his own.

He jogs past teammates, who shuffle by in groups of two and three heading toward the Indians’ clubhouse. They stop and stomp their metal cleats on the sidewalk to remove dirt before heading inside for lunch. Sizemore’s on a different schedule.

Arriving at a back field behind Cleveland’s training complex, Sizemore takes another step in recovery from microfracture surgery on his left knee. With two trainers watching, the three-time All-Star center fielder runs half-speed around three orange cones.

He repeats the drill several times. It’s a strange sight:

Sizemore, blessed with such great speed, moving so deliberately.

On another sunswept March morning in Arizona, the nearby Estrella Mountains provide a gorgeous backdrop as Sizemore continues his own uphill climb.

It’s a tedious ascent.

“I’m not looking to push things,” Sizemore said. “I don’t want to make things worse. We’re taking slow steps. We’re going to get there. I’m just being patient.”

Earlier this week, Indians general manager Chris Antonetti acknowledged for the first time that it’s unlikely that Sizemore will be ready by opening day on April 1. That’s been the 28-year-old’s stated goal all along, but it now appears that Sizemore’s 2011 debut with Cleveland will be delayed.

And, at this point, no one knows with any certainty when he’ll be back in manager Manny Acta’s lineup.

Barring any problems, the team anticipates that Sizemore, cleared this week to begin agility drills, will

play Cactus League games in two weeks. However, nothing is set in stone. There’s no need to rush. The Indians aren’t nearly as concerned with Sizemore being with them at the start of this season. They want him for the finish.

After all, they need him for this year — and beyond.

He’s the face of the Indians. Sizemore’s been the team’s most popular player almost since the moment he was called up from the minors in 2004. His chiseled looks made him an instant hit with Cleveland’s female fan base. And his rare combination of speed, power and all-out hustle won over the guys.

Former GM and current team president Mark Shapiro once dubbed Sizemore “one of the greatest players of our generation.” He seemed indestructible, playing in all 162 games in 2006 and 2007, and 157 in 2008. Sizemore wouldn’t take a day off, further endearing him to Cleveland’s blue-collar constituency.

But his 2009 season was sabo-



AP

Indians outfielder Grady Sizemore signs autographs before a spring training game. Sizemore will return to the field after knee surgery.

tagged and cut short by injuries. He made it through just 33 games last year before undergoing surgery in Vail, Colo., on June 4, when Dr.

Richard Steadman drilled holes into Sizemore’s knee cap, causing bleeding to hopefully stimulate cartilage growth.

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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Ryan: Did this happen on company property?

Michael Scott: It was on company property, with company property. So, double jeopardy, we're fine.

Ryan: I don't think-- I don't think you understand how jeopardy works.

Michael Scott: Oh, I'm sorry. What is, 'we're fine'?

Jim Halpert: Does that include 'that's what she said'?

Michael Scott: Mmhh, yes.

Jim Halpert: Wow that is really hard. You really think you can go all day long? Well, you always left me satisfied and smiling.

Michael Scott: Mmmm... THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID!

Jim Halpert: One day Michael came in, complaining about a speed bump, on the highway... I wonder who he ran over then.

Because the house always wins. Play long enough, the house takes you. Unless, when that perfect hand comes, you bet big. Then, you take the house.

Storrs

continued from page 16

lowing a tough loss to Big East foe Syracuse. But this time around, the Irish travel to Storrs, Conn., a site that has not treated them well. “We have not won in Connecticut since I have been here,” Brey said. “Our poise and concentration needs to be there for a full 40 minutes.”

The Huskies (21-8, 9-8) are led by Kemba Walker, who is the Big East’s second leading scorer, averaging 22.8 points per game. In the Huskies loss in South Bend, the junior guard led the team in points, rebounds, assists and steals but was shut down by Irish senior guard Ben Hansbrough while shooting just 8-for-23 from the field.

Meanwhile, the Irish are coming off a record shooting night (55.8

percent from the field) where they drained a school-record 20 3-pointers, with fourth-year forward Tim Abromaitis contributing nine of them in a 93-72 over No. 19 Villanova victory Monday. Abromaitis and Hansbrough each scored 30 points on a night that seemed as though they couldn’t miss. But even after the big win, the Irish remain focused on closing out the regular season strongly.

“All year long we’ve been able to move on pretty well to the next game,” Abromaitis said after his record-tying performance. “We know this is a great win, and a lot

of emotions run into it, but we have a few days off here to get some rest and fire it back up for [U C o n n] . Hopefully we can end the season with a win there and keep the m o m e n t u m going.”

In their last meeting on Jan. 4, the Irish duo of Hansbrough and Abromaitis combined for 40 points and held only two Huskies shooters to double-figure points.

The Irish won 73-30. Senior forward Tyrone Nash also added 11 points, while leading the rebounding effort with seven rebounds. Nash also earned a double-double with 11 rebounds in Monday’s win, out-rebounding the Wildcats

“We have not won in Connecticut since I have been here. Our poise and concentration needs to be there for a full 40 minutes.”

Mike Brey
Irish coach



JULIE HERDER/The Observer
Fourth-year forward Tim Abromaitis guards the ball from a Villanova defender. Abromaitis made nine 3s to the win.

30-19. The Irish are 21-1 this year when out-rebounding their opponents this season, something that Nash hopes to build on Saturday.

“We still have to take care of our business,” Nash said. “We have to go up to Storrs and beat up on Connecticut. As long as you do

what you have to do, let everything else take care of itself.”

The Irish cap off their stellar season this weekend with a visit to Connecticut at 2 p.m. Saturday.

Contact Andrew Gastelum at agastel1@nd.edu

NFL

Hawk returns to Packers one day after cost-cutting release

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — A.J. Hawk’s absence from the Green Bay Packers didn’t last long.

Hawk’s agent, Mike McCartney, said Thursday that the linebacker signed a five-year deal with the Packers just one day after he was released in a cost-cutting move.

“He’s thrilled to be back with his Super Bowl-winning teammates and a first-class organization,” McCartney said in an e-

mail to The Associated Press.

The team announced the deal Thursday evening.

“We are pleased to have reached an agreement with A.J.,” Packers general manager Ted Thompson said. “We appreciate his work and dedication and look forward to his contributions to our team in the future.”

Hawk, the No. 5 overall pick in the 2006 NFL draft, previously was scheduled to earn \$10 million in 2011. When the Packers

released him Wednesday, they did so with the hope that they could bring him back at a reduced salary.

Thompson said Wednesday the business side of the game drove the decision to release Hawk and he was hopeful Hawk would return. Hawk was free to negotiate with other teams after his release, but clearly focused on the Packers.

Multiple media outlets reported a new deal was imminent after

his release, and McCartney told AP on Thursday morning that the two sides were putting the finishing touches on a contract.

Terms of the new deal were not immediately available.

It came on a day the collective bargaining agreement between NFL owners and the NFL Players Association was set to expire, although the two sides later agreed to a 24-hour extension.

Despite his lofty draft status and hardworking reputation,

Hawk began the 2010 season as a role player. He ended it as a leader of a Super Bowl-champion defense.

After season-ending injuries to inside linebackers Nick Barnett and Brandon Chillar, Hawk once again became a starter and played a critical role in the Packers’ push to their Super Bowl victory over the Pittsburgh Steelers. He was chosen one of the team’s captains in the playoffs.

**North Dining Hall will be closed
all day on Saturday, March 5 for
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We apologize for any inconvenience.**



ND TRACK AND FIELD

Irish ready for last chance to qualify for NCAA



Senior Justin Schneider runs in the 60-meter hurdle event in the Blue Gold Invitational Dec. 3, 2010. Schneider finished fifth in the race.

By SAM GANS
Sports Writer

With the NCAA Championships only a week away, Notre Dame competes in the Alex Wilson Invitational this weekend in the hopes of qualifying participants for the national competition. This weekend marks the final opportunity athletes can qualify for the championships, as Irish coach Joe Piane positioned individual and relay medley competitors strategically in order to increase his players' chances of reaching the tournament.

Piane faced one such decision in the 1200-meter distance medley. With sophomore Jeremy Rae, graduate student Jack Howard and freshman Pat Feeney initially chosen to be three of the four competitors, the final choice came down to two runners.

"[It] was between [junior] John Shawel and [junior] Jordan Carlson," Piane said. "The thing that had us on the fence was Shawel had a bit of a sprained ankle. But I'm going to run him tomorrow because he seems to be in pretty good shape. And that then provides an opportunity for Jordan Carlson to run the next day in the open-mile fresh. If John's ankle wasn't perfect, then I wouldn't do it — I'd put Carlson in there."

On the women's side, Piane is also anticipating seeing a number of runners compete in the Invitational.

"We're excited about [sophomore middle distance runner] Rebecca Tracy, [junior distance runner] Rachel Velarde [and sophomore sprinter] Nevada Sorenson in the hurdles," Piane said. "And we're really anxious to see Michelle Brown run in the 400-meter. She's very good, so hopefully she has a breakout meet Saturday."

Piane emphasized that while it may be the final meet before the NCAA championships, the focus of the upcoming meet will be qualifying for the postseason.

"It's a look to get qualified for the NCAAAs," Piane said. "[Junior] Kevin Schipper hopefully can do it in the pole vault, [and] hopefully our distance medley can do it."

The meet has a unique number of participants. Rather than typical meets in which full teams participate, the invitational consists of many teams who send only a few competitors.

"[Teams] like Georgia Tech will be here, but they're going to send one athlete," Piane said. "So there's probably going to be representatives from as many as 40 or 50 schools. But that doesn't mean they're going to bring 25 people. This is a last chance meet. We'll probably have 700 to 800 athletes at least."

The Alex Wilson Invitational will take place in the Loftus Sports Complex tonight at 7 p.m. and continues Saturday at noon.

Contact Sam Gans at sgans@nd.edu

Johnson

continued from page 16

unity, which has paid dividends on the field and increased their confidence overall, Johnson said.

"I think if we just play our

game, we'll be fine," Johnson said.

The Irish kick off the weekend's games with a matchup against Longwood (8-0) at 10 a.m. Saturday at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex.

Contact Kelsey Manning at kmannin3@nd.edu

Check out The Observer's coverage of Bengal Bouts at ndsmcobserver.com/bengal-bouts

MEN'S GOLF

Current team to face alumni

By CONOR KELLY
Sports Writer

After finishing fifth at the TPC Match Play in Tampa Bay, Fla., three weeks ago to begin the fall season, Notre Dame looks to improve on that performance this weekend as it travels to Whisper Rock Golf Club in Scottsdale, Ariz., for the Alumni Matches. The matches feature the current Irish squad of 11 players pitted against 11 Notre Dame golf alumni.

"It's not really too competitive of a competition," junior Tom Usher said. "But everyone wants to win, and we're looking at this as an opportunity to prepare for the rest of our season."

The Irish are led by No. 1 Usher and Josh Walker at No. 2. However, the bottom three in the lineup came up big for Notre Dame in Tampa to begin the season. Sophomore Paul McNamara, freshman Niall Platt, and junior Max Scodro look to build upon their strong performances at TPC when they lifted the Irish to victory with three clutch wins down the stretch.

Usher lost in a tiebreaker last year for the Big East individual championships title and looks to build upon both that triumph and disappointment beginning in Arizona.

A native of England,

Usher leads a dedicated corps of golfers who have spent the winter honing their shots and completing workouts indoors to prepare for the grind of the spring season.

"This will be our final tune-up before we go to Georgia next weekend to play Yale," Usher said. "All the boys are coming and it should be a good time."

It will be just the second time out on the links in a competitive match for the No. 26 Irish, as the South Bend winter has limited the playing schedule. For a team that has been training indoors for the majority of

the winter, any time on the course is precious, as a number of players flew to Scottsdale last weekend to train.

Following the Alumni Matches, the Irish will compete every weekend until the Big East championships at the end of April. For a team with eyes on a conference title and perhaps more, the Alumni Matches will be the final pit stop before a grueling season of travel.

The Alumni Matches begin March 5 at Whisper Rock Golf Club in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Contact Conor Kelly at ckelly17@nd.edu

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JULIE HERDER/The Observer
Mick Doyle hits a pitch last season against Toledo April 27, 2010. This weekend the Irish face Manhattan and Winthrop.

Dupra

continued from page 16

formance last weekend.

Senior Cole Johnson (1-1) was credited with a loss despite throwing seven scoreless innings and giving up only one run. Johnson will face the Eagles' Tyler Mizenko in the second half of a Friday doubleheader and looks to improve upon his already-strong 2.03 ERA.

Senior Todd Miller (1-1) threw a strong 6.1 innings in the second Sunday game last weekend and will start Saturday against Winthrop's Matteo DeAngelo, who has fallen to 0-2 to start the season and brings a 9.00 ERA to the contest. Sunday's pitchers have not been announced.

Strong pitching performances will mean little for the

Irish if their bats do not come alive this weekend. Notre Dame's seven runs last weekend were the fewest in a three-game series in nearly a year, and the team's .151 batting average during the Seattle series was the lowest since a 1999 series against FIU.

The Irish look to emulate their opening-weekend success on offense, which included a 19-run explosion against Purdue.

The Irish face Manhattan at noon Friday, followed by a matchup against Winthrop at 4 p.m. Friday. Saturday features a second game against Winthrop at 4 p.m. and a Sunday game against Manhattan at 11 a.m. All games will take place in Winthrop, S.C.

Contact Allan Joseph at
ajoseph2@nd.edu

Ridgway

continued from page 16

attention-grabbing plays because he makes plays very well over and over again."

Ridgway, a co-captain, said that he will take Drexel (1-2) as just another game on the schedule, and the key will be to stick with the game plan.

"I think [we] pretty much just play the way we've been playing. We look at it as another opportunity, another challenge to go out there," he said. "They've got a couple guys back from last year who are good. Whether it be communication or trust in each other, we've got to play the way we play."

Ridgway emphasized the importance of trusting his teammates on defense.

"For instance, if a guy is guarding his man, we have a trust that he won't get beat at all, which gives us a focus to tighten up on our own man and not give them looks inside," Ridgway said. "Just knowing that your teammates will be in the right place at the right time, and knowing they'll have your backs is a key element of how we play."

Irish sophomore goalie John Kemp said communication is necessary in order for the Irish to beat a Drexel team that they fell to last year.

"I guess they had our number last year," Kemp said. "At ND we're known for our defense. I credit it to the communication we have, and we talk about it before, during and after the game, and that's what's important while playing defense. Other than that, we just go out there and do what we say we're going to do and keep them from scoring."

Kemp is ready to contain the Dragons, an offensive unit that has combined to score 36 goals

in their first three games of the season.

"We game plan for everyone's offense. I know that they have talented attackers; the top three scorers are attackmen," Kemp said. "We're looking forward to it. We've got to go at it intensely."

Kemp said he hopes the student body will be in attendance as the team looks to remain undefeated on the road to a national title.

"Last year wasn't a fluke. We

made it all the way to the championship even though we didn't have that good of a regular season," Kemp said. "We think we're better this year. Hopefully they'll come and support us, and we can hopefully give them a good game."

The Irish face off against Drexel at 1 p.m. Sunday in the Loftus Sports Center.

Contact Megan Golden at
mgolde01@saintmarys.edu

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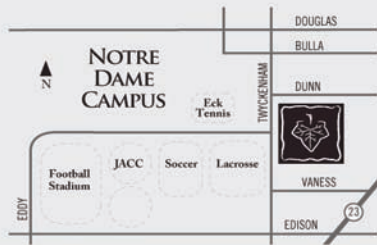
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MEN'S TENNIS

Irish put losses out of sight, out of mind

By ANDREW OWENS
Sports Writer

After suffering losses in their final two matches of the Blue-Gray National Tennis Classic last weekend, the Irish (8-6) have their eyes set on defeating two talented opponents this weekend and putting the losses behind them.

On Friday evening, No. 24 Notre Dame will host No. 18 Texas A&M, as the string of ranked opponents the Irish have faced continues.

"Texas A&M was a preseason top-10 team and is in the top-20 now," Irish associate head coach Ryan Sachire said. "Their talent level is clearly one of the highest in the country and we know they will be a great opponent."

Much of the Aggies' success is due to No. 1 singles player and senior Austin Krajicek. He anchors a talented squad that is successful in a very talented region of the country for tennis. Krajicek even competed in the 2008 U.S. Open.

"Austin is an excellent player," Sachire said.

The Irish will have Saturday off before facing No. 60 Northwestern at the Eck Tennis Pavilion Sunday afternoon. Despite his team not being as highly ranked as the Aggies, Sachire noted that the Irish cannot afford to overlook the

Wildcats.

"Northwestern might be ranked a bit lower than they should be for their talent level," he said. "We know both matches will be very good."

Sachire said the level of competition the Irish have faced would only help them as the season progresses. Notre Dame has faced No. 1 Virginia, No. 4 Illinois, No. 8 Michigan and No. 9 Duke.

"College tennis is really competitive, especially this year," Sachire said. "There are 40 to 50 teams that can all beat each other. The difference is we've played four top-10 opponents on our schedule, which is one of the best in the country."

Even though the Irish have had some tough losses to talented teams, they are certainly a team that any opponent should be concerned about playing.

"For our guys 90 percent of what we have been doing puts us in a position to win," Sachire said. "We just have to continue to put ourselves in the right position and take the next step and win some of these matches."

The Irish welcome Texas A&M to campus at 6 p.m. Friday, with the Wildcats capping off the weekend Sunday at 4 p.m.

Contact Andrew Owens at
aowens2@nd.edu

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ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Irish carry momentum from recent triumphs



PAT COVENEY/The Observer
Irish sophomore Chrissie McGaffigan competes in the Eck Classic Oct. 3. Last weekend she added a singles victory to defeat Virginia.

By MEGAN FINNERAN
Sports Writer

The Irish put former troubles and losses in the past last weekend, enjoying their sweep of the Blue-Gray Tournament in Montgomery, Ala. This weekend, they hope to maintain that momentum as they head into a pair of matches against Indiana and Baylor.

Following an upset of No. 9 Virginia last weekend, Irish sophomore Chrissie McGaffigan said the squad's morale is in a good place.

"Winning the Blue-Gray Tournament and being successful against three top-ranked teams gave us a nice boost in confidence," McGaffigan said.

McGaffigan was among the crucial members of the team that stepped up for a big weekend, starting the championship game with a victory in the first singles match. The No. 19 Irish went on to win each of the six singles competitions to defeat Virginia 4-0.

"I've been working hard on staying focused each and every point, and to try to play smart and aggressively through the entire match," McGaffigan said.

Also contributing to the effort was the freshman duo of Jennifer Kellner and Julie Sabacinski, who triumphed over Virginia's No. 51 pair 8-4.

This weekend, McGaffigan and the rest of her teammates hope to do the same thing.

"My goal is to improve and get stronger with each match," she said. "We all will continue to push ourselves hard and build on our success last weekend."

Friday kicks off with a match against Indiana. Despite a 10-2 record, the Hoosiers are ranked 37th in the country after a 4-3 victory over Kentucky. Indiana carries a roster stacked with three seniors who bring experience to the court.

Baylor, on the other hand, poses a more serious threat to the Irish. The No. 7 Bears recently swept No. 60 Fresno State by a score of 7-0. The Baylor doubles teams may pose a challenge for the No. 1 doubles team of juniors Kristy Frilling and Shannon Mathews and the No. 2 doubles team of senior Kristen Rafael and sophomore McGaffigan.

"Last weekend really was the

confidence booster we needed to go into the rest of the season, especially for this weekend since we play Baylor," Frilling said. "We know we can compete with and beat these top teams."

The Irish travel to Bloomington, Ind. Friday, where they compete against the Hoosiers at 3 p.m. Notre Dame hosts the Bears Sunday at noon.

"Indiana and Baylor are both very good teams, but we are well prepared and eager to compete this weekend," McGaffigan said.

Contact Megan Finneran at
mfinnera@nd.edu

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Favorites

continued from page 16

Championship since the beginning of the season and are expected to be victorious at this weekend's conference championships. Seroff said that as a Notre Dame fencer, high expectations come with the territory and it does not seem to affect the team.

"Not to be pompous, but being a favorite is just part of being a fencer at ND. The senior class has been ranked No. 1 for most of our careers as a result of our incredibly long winning streaks, and some of

the underclassmen haven't even experienced not being number one," Seroff said. "As such, we don't think too much about it, since for the last couple years we've been number one going into NCAA championships, and every year we've come up short. It has taught us that the rankings mean nothing."

The current senior class has been one of the most successful classes in Notre Dame fencing history and Seroff explained how important it was to the seniors to go out as champions.

"This senior class was one of the most highly-touted recruiting classes in recent college fencing history. Since when we

all came in as freshmen, it has only been disappointment, and underachieving," Seroff said. "For the first couple years it was inexperience and growing pains, but we're fresh out of excuses. Other than losing Olympian Gerek Meinhardt to injury, all the pieces are in place — it's time to execute. It's time to take one from the women's soccer team and bring gold home to Notre Dame."

The conference championships will take place all day Saturday and Sunday at the Joyce Center.

Contact Joe Wirth at
jwirth@nd.edu

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CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across**

1 Run in two places at once

10 Savannah growth

15 Nut's suggestion

16 Home of Creighton University

17 Station finder

18 Iron Age people

19 Mythical mortal who helped raise Dionysus

20 Aye's opposite, poetically

21 Used the name

22 See 49-Down

24 Out of top form

26 1925 Literature Nobel

27 Cartoon series

29 Middle of summer?

31 Frog-eating bird

32 Tangle
- 33 Temperature, e.g.

36 Herpetologist's supply

38 Some island dwellers

41 French for "clog"

45 Washington Irving hero, informally

46 Father, e.g.: Abbr.

47 Vigil locale

48 What some veterans recall

50 Japanese brew

53 Burst

54 X'd

56 More than surprise

58 What you may do when you're beat

59 Sunbathing spot

60 Bob Fosse specialty
- Down**

1 Doesn't blow dough

2 Like much oil

3 One often seen with her child

4 Magazine holder

5 Lord ____ (overseer of Scottish heraldry)

6 Press releases?

7 Literally, "to God"

8 Brands ... or carrier of brands

9 ____ vez (Mexican "maybe")

10 Take place

11 Forecaster's concerns

12 Dish topped with crushed peanuts and lime

13 Ball of wax

14 Romp

21 Longtime Rolling Stones bassist

23 Trim, in a way

25 Parisian thinkers?

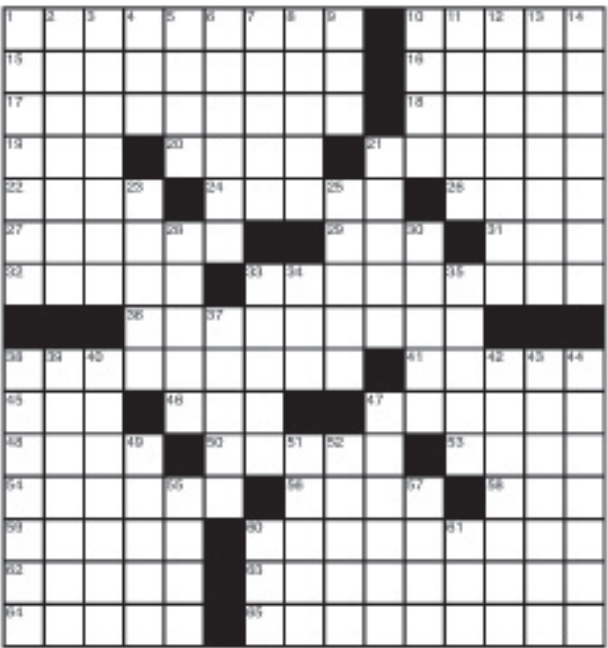
28 Like the Bay of Rainbows

30 Washing machine sound
- 62 Not rounded

63 Minor restrictions

64 Two-bit

65 Dead duck's cry



Puzzle by Kevin G. Der

- 33 Glasses for a scientist

34 It creeps up

35 Upper-class?

37 Small change

38 Like rice in some cereal treats

39 On-demand flier

40 One of 300 at Thermopylae
- 42 Stretches between Ryder Cups

43 Plays without a break

44 Nautical danger

47 Thing often heard in short order?

49 With 22-Across, genius's asset
- 51 It may become a cliché

52 "Animal House" figure

55 President after Auril

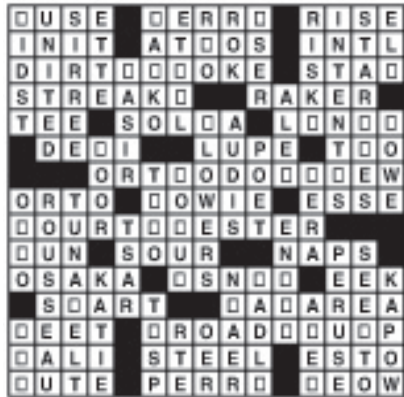
57 Better papers?

60 Hook connection point

61 "Just ____" ("Hold on")

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



TUESDAY VARIETY SHOW

LAURA MCGINN

TERRIBLE MODERN APHORISM:

GIVE A MAN A FISH, AND HE WILL EAT FOR A DAY.

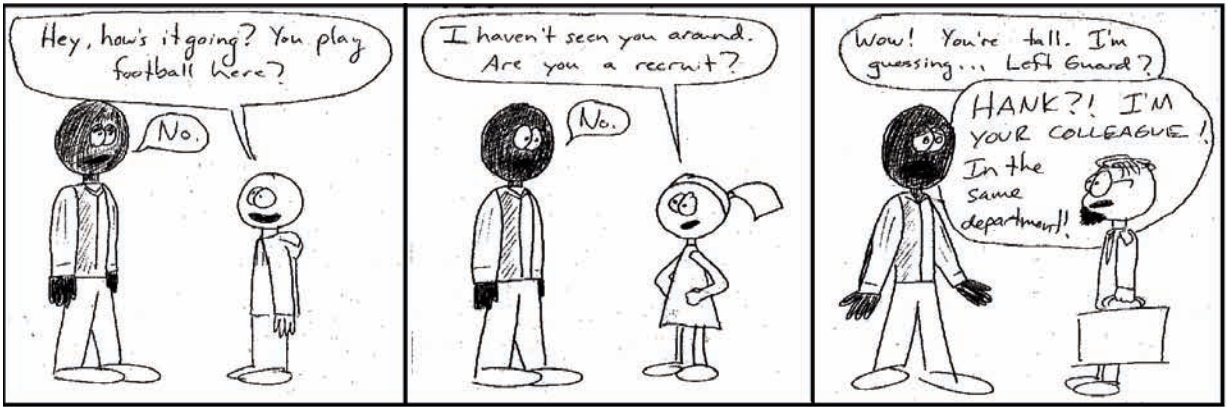
TEACH A MAN TO DOGIE, AND ALL THE LADIES WILL LOVE HIM UNTIL IT'S PASSE.

SHOULD HAVE TAUGHT HIM HOW TO FISH, I GUESS.

L MCG 11

PLEASANDVILLE

JAMES SOLLITTO, CODY ECKERT and JOHN FLATLEY



HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jessica Biel, 29; Julie Bowen, 41; Jackie Joyner-Kersey, 49; Herschel Walker, 49

Happy Birthday: Keep things straight and write down important information. However, don't let your feelings for someone deceive you into thinking you can change others. Facing your emotional fears will be a must if you want to satisfy your dreams, hopes and wishes for the future. An honest assessment will bring the best results. Your numbers are 7, 9, 18, 20, 31, 37, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Hesitation will not help you choose correctly. Feel it in your heart and base what you need to do on intuition, and the right door will open. Deal with partners, institutions and agencies that can affect your life. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): People who have information you want may need a gentle push but, once you get the ball rolling, it will be easy to gain momentum. Don't let your emotions cloud your vision. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll be walking a fine line with regard to work, overspending and dealing with people you owe or who owe you. Follow your instincts but keep whatever you do a secret for now. If you have reservations, back away from the situation. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can be the star by taking action. Everything you touch will turn out well. Making changes that influence others beneficially will put you in control. Do something to improve your appearance or your love life. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't brag about what you have. The way to make others take note of who you are and what you have is through gracious and humble offerings. By allowing others dignity, you will gain respect and attract a romantic suggestion that you cannot refuse. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Keep things tight between you and a partner. Letting too many people in on your plans or secrets will lead to obstacles. Don't be afraid to make unexpected and sudden changes and decisions. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Fix up your residence or size up or down in order to achieve greater comfort or to accommodate a changing lifestyle. Follow your intuition when it comes to relationships. Greater opportunity will come through personal or professional partnerships. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take better care of your health and emotional well-being. Focus on home, family and getting things in order so you can get on with your life. A change that occurs will be beneficial in days to come. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may think you have everything and everyone under control but, when you least expect it, someone will surprise you with a complicated and stressful situation. Acting fast is not the solution, especially if your concern involves a friend, relative or neighbor. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Too much pressure will lead to trouble. Make sure you have a clear picture of what's going on before you take sides. Back away from a personal situation and put more effort into your work. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Emotional deception is apparent. Private affairs must be kept that way or you will be caught in the middle of a melodrama. You can help a friend but don't take on burdens that aren't yours. Protect your assets and don't meddle. ★★

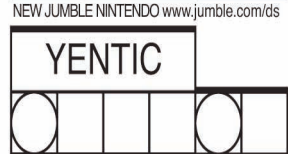
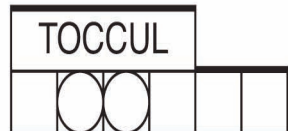
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take on as much as you can and show everyone what you can do. Push for what you want and be relentless when it comes to dealing with slackers or people who talk big and do little. Good fortune can be yours with the right partner. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are sentimental, caring and will go out of your way to please. You are energetic, strong-willed and persistent.

JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

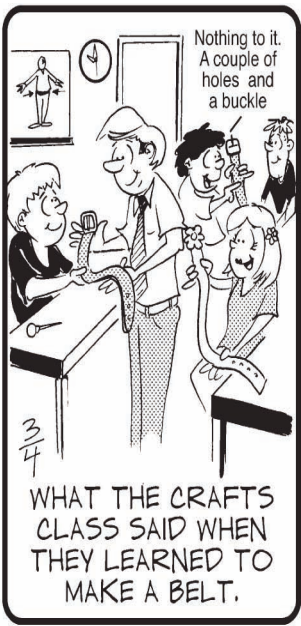
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: INKED VISOR EXOTIC AMAZON
Answer: She went over for some sugar and came home with — SOME "DIRT"



THE OBSERVER

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Title seeking

Brey leads team into season-closing game

By ANDREW GASTELUM
Sports Writer

With one more game before the Big East tournament, Notre Dame has exceeded expectations — and its preseason No. 7 projected finish in the Big East — by locking up a double-bye at Madison Square Garden.

Heading into the last game of the regular season, the No. 8 Irish (25-5, 13-4 Big East) find themselves in great position to claim the regular season Big East title with a win and a Pittsburgh loss to No. 19 Villanova.

"We needed to prepare this week like Saturday is a championship game because it very well may be," Irish coach Mike Brey said at his Thursday press conference.

Standing in Notre Dame's way is No. 16 Connecticut, whom the Irish defeated on 73-70 Jan. 4 fol-



Irish senior guard Ben Hansbrough sets up a play during Notre Dame's 93-72 victory over Villanova Monday. Hansbrough scored 30 points in the win.

KIRBY McKENNA/The Observer

see STORRS/page 11

FENCING

Irish use first place advantage

By JOE WIRTH
Sports Writer

The top-ranked Irish may have an extra leg up this weekend when they host the Midwest Fencing Conference Championships this weekend — that of home-field advantage.

Senior Andrew Seroff explained that he expects the Irish to be challenged and this tournament is great preparation for NCAA tournament.

"Conference championships is always an intense tournament, because not only are we vying for winning the title, but it is also the closest tournament in intensity to the NCAA championships," Seroff said. "It's the best measure of how well the team competes together, under pressure, against quality opponents like Ohio State."

The Irish have been heavy favorites to win the National

see FAVORITES/page 14

ND SOFTBALL

Confidence high with undefeated record still in place

By KELSEY MANNING
Sports Writer

After kicking off the season 9-0, a record start, the Irish look to continue their winning streak against a number of premier programs, including No. 3 Alabama this weekend at the Diamond 9 Citrus Classic in Kissimmee, Fla.

"The whole team is really confident because this is the best start we've ever had," senior captain Heather

Johnson said. "I think everyone's really excited."

After sweeping the field last weekend at the College of Charleston Invitational with a double shutout Saturday and a strong offensive performance on Sunday, the Irish hope to capitalize off their momentum heading into the weekend stretch.

Johnson said, "having quality bats and scoring when people were in scoring position" was a highlight from last weekend's victories in the Cougar Classic.

The Irish did not leave many batters on base, especially in a 10-1 victory over Marist in which the Irish totaled 13 hits, 10 runs, and nine RBIs in 27 at bats.

"We need to keep that up," Johnson said. "Our place hitters did a nice job keeping us in the games."

With stronger competition in the form of Longwood, Alabama, Maryland, North Carolina and Fordham awaiting them this weekend, the Irish will look to keep errors to

a minimum and stay strong defensively.

"Defensively, we've been working on a lot of short game because we were going to see a lot of fast batters," Johnson said. "We're just going have to catch and get rid of the ball as fast as possible, so that's been our main focus this week."

Of the matchups to come, Alabama could be the toughest test for Notre Dame, as the Crimson Tide boast a 16-0 record this season and a 4-0 record all-time against the

Irish.

"[Alabama] should be a good matchup," senior catcher Alexia Clay said. "They are always a really good team and play in a tough conference. Two years ago we played against them and lost 18-1, so it will be interesting to see how we match up with them now."

The team has been making steady progress this season especially in terms of team

see JOHNSON/page 12

MEN'S LACROSSE

Defense leads way at home

By MEGAN GOLDEN
Sports Writer

Continuing their quest for a national title, the No. 4 Irish look to their defense to get revenge on No. 18 Drexel in Notre Dame's home opener.

The Irish (2-0) will be led by the Big East defensive player of the week in senior defenseman Kevin Ridgway, who has provided the Irish with consistency from the defensive unit so far this season.

"The beauty of [Ridgway] as a player is you don't notice him. He's just kind of quietly and effectively doing his job," Irish coach Kevin Corrigan said. "He doesn't catch your eye, but we noticed in film this week that he's doing a great job for us. He's not a guy you see involved in a lot of fancy,



JULIE HERDER/The Observer

Senior defenseman Kevin Ridgway attacks a Rutgers opponent March 27, 2010. Last week he was named Big East defensive player of the week.

see RIDGWAY/page 13

BASEBALL

ND looks to rebound in South Carolina

By ALLAN JOSEPH
Sports Writer

After dropping two of three games against Seattle University last weekend, the Irish head to warmer climates as they participate in the Winthrop Coca-Cola Classic. Notre Dame (3-3) will play four games, two against Manhattan (1-3) and two against host Winthrop (2-5).

Cold weather hampered the Irish in last weekend's trip in the Pacific Northwest, where the Irish picked up a win in the first game and then dropped both halves of a Sunday

doubleheader. Freezing rain made hitting and pitching difficult, as adverse weather conditions clearly played a factor in the final outcome. Despite three solid performances from the starting rotation, the offense failed to put runs on the board.

Senior Brian Dupra (1-1) earned his first win of the season last week with a career-high 11 strikeouts and will start in the opening game of the Coca-Cola Classic against the Jaspers' John Soldinger (1-0). Dupra boasts a 1.38 ERA, which is due in large part to the strength of his shutout per-

see DUPRA/page 13

BENGAL BOUTS

Friday, March 4, 2011

THE
OBSERVER



FRIDAY **FIGHTS** NIGHT

Powers' experience defined by Bouts mission

By ANDREW GASTELUM
Sports Writer

Walking down the stairs into the Pit in the catacombs of the JACC, the sound of a rhythmic, soothing throb — almost that of a heartbeat — came closer and closer. It turned out to be a boxer and his opponent for the day: a punching bag. Yet as the beat came nearer, senior captain Bobby Powers realized that the real heartbeat was actually farther away. Much, much

farther — the very south of Asia to be exact.

That heartbeat is kept alive today by co-president Bobby Powers and the senior captains, both as they trained that afternoon against the bags and through fundraising for a cause thousands of miles away against the odds.

Powers' defining moment in Bengal Bouts isn't the championship he won sophomore year nor is it the fact that he has been in the finals in each of the past four years. Rather, it was venturing to

Bangladesh after his title, seeing how much he has helped a community and how much more he still needed to help it.

"There was a transformation within me," Powers said of his trip to Bangladesh the summer before his junior year. "Going over there and making relationships with people and seeing what the money is going to has completely changed the program. It became a lot more about raising the money and aiding the missions than it was about boxing. The experience really opened up my eyes to a whole different world and how much the people over there need this."

Powers' selfless demeanor gleams through his words, which give credit for his success and that of the program's to his fellow captains — in the purest form of individual sports, a sport in which the concept of "team" is nonexistent.

"You're in the ring and it is just you," Powers said. "You learn more about you in those six minutes than you do in years of your life by just seeing how deep you can dig."

"But on a day-to-day basis it all comes down to the guys here. This team has become a family and we have all put in so much time to boxing and fundraising to make sure we aid these missions," Powers said.

Uninterested in the individual attention yet enamored with how he (or according to Powers: they) turned an individual sport into a team sport,

the captain works on boxing at least six hours each day — four of those without even putting on a pair of gloves.

Powers and his opponents-turned-roommates have worked countless hours pushing themselves to be better in the ring, while focusing more so on building a program that will continue to aid the very same impoverished community that he visited two summers ago.

"We have worked really hard to spread the program out and changed things to run it more like a business so we can send more money back [to Bangladesh]," the senior said. "I would like to see the program continue to grow. If we raise a lot of money this year and see the figures go back down next year then we didn't do our job. Our legacy should be leaving a foundation for this program, giving years ahead a foundation to build on and continue to grow."

All of this comes from Powers, even though he didn't even know what Bengal Bouts was until a friend suggested it to him after playing interhall football his freshman year.

Powers grew up in Indianapolis, very — and

sometimes overly — competitive. With a brother one year younger, a friendly game of backyard basketball quickly and usually came to fisticuffs. Ten years later, substitute Mom with a referee and put gloves on the lad and you

have a champion fighter who has known nothing but the final rounds under the bright lights.

"Growing up with [my brother], we were always pushing each other to get better and that's where it comes in today, working together

with others to always improve," Powers said. "Bengal Bouts in general has shaped who I am."

Now the senior finds himself in his last fight as a Notre Dame student, up against opportunistic, feisty sophomore Ryan Alberdi for the championship belt. Powers plans to fight smart and mechanically.

Of course, the senior wants to win, but he realizes that he leaves Bengal Bouts forever tonight, knowing that he has already won in leaving that heartbeat he heard his freshman year stronger than when he arrived.

Contact Andrew Gastelum at agastell1@nd.edu



MACKENZIE SAIN/The Observer

Captain Bobby Powers lands a punch during his victory over junior Matt Labriola in their semifinal bout Tuesday.

Golab grows from focused freshman to leader and captain

By MATTHEW DeFRANKS
Sports Writer

Dominic Golab has only one boxer to thank for his involvement in Bengal Bouts: Rocky Balboa. The fictional star motivated the Birmingham, Mich., native to give boxing a try, especially since he would no longer be involved in varsity-level athletics.

"I saw boxing as a great way to stay in shape and have that competitive spirit," said Golab, a senior captain.

Golab has done much more than compete in his four years with Bengal Bouts. After making it to the finals last year, Golab returns again this year, this time against undefeated three-time champion Bernardo Garcia in the 176-pound weight class.

"I'm not intimidated by him [and his accomplishments]," Golab said. "Winning is a plus for me and I'm going into the fight relaxed and whatever happens, happens."

Golab's perspective over the four years has changed from a somewhat selfish, win-hungry freshman to a more team-oriented senior captain. Last year, Golab — nicknamed the "Warsaw Warhammer" — faced current captain Mike Doran in the final bout and lost by split decision. While disappointed, Golab had bigger

things to look forward to.

Over the summer, Golab, along with Doran, traveled to Bangladesh to help with the mission Bengal Bouts supports — the Holy Cross Missions in Bangladesh, which provide health care and education in an attempt to battle poverty.

"It was probably one of the greatest experiences of my life," Golab said. "I've learned so much, not only about myself but also about the world and boxing."

Golab gained a new admiration for the Holy Cross brothers, sisters and fathers who work tirelessly to provide for the impoverished in Bangladesh. They only turn away people because they have to, but never because they want to, Golab explained.

"I learned how much I take for granted here at home," Golab said. "Our struggles here are that we have a test the next day while they're struggling to find their next meal."

Golab, who calls former opponent Doran one of his good friends, relates Bengals Bouts to a brotherhood. By training for four or five months with 200 teammates, friendships are forged, Golab noted.

Boxing is, by its nature, an individual sport — yet Bengal Bouts does have captains. As a captain, Golab works with the new novice boxers, main-

ly to improve conditioning but also to teach boxing techniques. Along the way, he tries to impart the respect that is pervasive throughout Bengal Bouts.

"It's not about the individual," Golab said. "It's about the team and people a world away that need help."

Golab enjoys working with other boxers and pushing them to get their best. A co-president as well, Golab, along with fellow co-president Bobby Powers, makes sure the tournament runs smoothly and keeps the Bouts organized.

"If you had told me as a freshman that I would be in this position, I would have told you 'You're crazy,'" Golab said. "It's probably the most rewarding experience I've had."

During his first two years at Notre Dame, Bengal Bouts practice was the only things that got Golab through the daily grind. Although still a beginner at the time, he always looked forward to practice later in the day, even if it meant a few attention lapses in class.

"To me, it's a little more important than paying attention to that lecture," Golab said. "School is important but I feel that I learn so much more in the ring."

For his finals bout last year, Golab's parents visited to see his fight. Golab's mom was unable to even watch the



GRANT TOBIN/The Observer

Senior co-president Dominic Golab faces off with junior Adrian Moreno during his semifinal bout Tuesday.

match, handing the videotaping duties over to a friend.

"My freshman year, I would tell them that I won and my mom would say 'Did you really have to win? Now we have to go through another match,'" Golab said. "But they realize this is something I love to do and it makes me a better person, so they're all for it."

Golab also credited his friends and their support for his heavy involvement in Bengal Bouts.

"I just want to thank my friends, especially those that have been here since freshman year for supporting me," Golab said. "They've been there for me, win or lose, the entire way."

For Golab, that entire way has included a finals appearance, a trip to Bangladesh and maybe a career-capping championship win on Friday night.

Contact Matthew DeFranks at mdefrank@nd.edu

Rivalry with Burroughs fuels Crepeau's determination

By SAM GANS
Sports Writer

Senior Kevin Crepeau has built an accomplished boxing career during his time at Notre Dame. The Michigan City, Ind., native was named one of eight captains for Bengal Bouts this year and qualified for the heavyweight division's title match for the fourth consecutive year.

But one goal has always remained just out of reach: a championship.

Each of the previous three seasons, Crepeau has come within one victory of earning a Bengal Bouts crown. But he could never quite get over the hump against law student Will Burroughs, improving each year, but still finishing 0-3 against the former law student.

"[My] freshman year, I thought, 'Okay, that was my freshman year. [Sophomore] year, I'm going to get him,'" Crepeau said. "And then sophomore year, I put up a good fight, but lost. So junior year, I thought, 'Last year I put up a good fight. So this year I'm going to put up a good fight and win,'

and I put up a better fight, but still lost. Sometimes in boxing you just run into a buzz saw. Will was a little bit of a buzz saw."

With Burroughs having graduated, Crepeau will face a different law student in the finals this time around: Nathan Arnold. Crepeau has mixed emotions about battling a new competitor.

"I'm real happy that I'm not fighting [Burroughs] this year in the finals," he said. "It will be nice to line up against someone different. Three beatings from him was plenty, so I'll try my luck against a different guy. Although I guess if I had one more shot at him, I think I could get him."

Crepeau's attributed his overall success throughout the years to the passion he has for the Bouts, starting before he was even a student. While most competitors do not decide to participate in Bengal Bouts until they arrive on campus, Crepeau knew from the moment he was admitted to the university.

"I'm from the same hometown as Pat Burns, who was president of Bengal Bouts last year. So when I was a senior

in high school, I came up and watched him fight his freshman year and then when I got into Notre Dame, it was around the same time he was fighting, so that's how I got into it. I figured it's something I wanted to do."

While Crepeau has always loved the Bouts, it is not something that is easy, with lots of time and effort put in being necessary.

"The season starts right after Thanksgiving break," he said. "Basically it's every day from right after Thanksgiving until now, Monday thru Friday. [There is] lots of conditioning, lots of aerobics and then heavy boxing after Christmas break."

The workouts can be especially difficult for a heavyweight like Crepeau. But to him, the effort is worth the benefits.

"The workouts are definitely hard, especially for me. I'm not the most in-shape guy. But my freshman year, there was a particularly cool group of senior captains who were [okay with] saying, 'We're here to work hard for an hour and a half and then after that, let's go out, let's have some fun,'" he said. "It was [both] the social and the athletic aspect of it that I liked."

The lesson he learned then is something he tries to emulate as a captain today.

"I feel like boxing is definitely secondary, especially in the heavyweights. There's a tight-knit group of guys because there's only eight of



PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Senior Kevin Crepeau swings at opponent Will Burroughs in last year's Bengal Bouts final. Burroughs won the title.

us. Just the other day, for example, I was teaching [Arnold] tips on how to fight a lefty, because he was fighting Joey Hiben [in the semifinals] and now he's going to be using the tips I was telling him against me in the finals. So I'm kind of wishing I didn't tell him a couple of those things, but that's how it goes. Boxing's secondary to I'd say the club aspect of it."

Crepeau, a finance major, intends to become a finan-

cial analyst for IBM after graduation. Though he does not plan on continuing a boxing career after his career at Notre Dame ends, he says he hopes to stay involved.

"I'm done with boxing [after this year]. Getting hit in the head gets old," he said. "[But] I'm definitely going to still be a part of the Bengal Bouts and stay a part of the program."

Contact Sam Gans at
sgans@nd.edu

Doran reaches third straight championship

By JACK HEFFERON
Sports Writer

Ever since Knute Rockne first organized a student boxing tournament in 1920, thousands of students have dedicated themselves to beating all competitors and becoming a Bengal Bouts champion. For senior captain Mike Doran, though, Bengal Bouts is about much more than having his name called.

Doran first got involved with the bouts as a freshman when several of his friends decided

to enter together.

"Early on I became friends with Nick Severyn, and he told me, 'You've got to do this, it's a great time.' So we got a bunch of freshmen together and went to practice. A couple of guys ended up quitting, but Nick, Bobby [Powers] and I have been doing this ever since, and now we're all captains," he said.

Doran lost in his second fight that first year, but by then he was already hooked on boxing and the Bouts. He came back in his sophomore year and he made an impressive run to the finals. Waiting

for him in the championships was Mike Lee, now a professional fighter, one of Doran's mentors and one of the best boxers in Bengal Bouts history. That night's fight is the one Doran calls the best moment he's had in Bengal Bouts.

"Stepping up into that finals ring, it's totally different from all of the other fights. It's out in the basketball arena, and that place is packed," he said. "Mike ended up beating me, but that experience was unreal. That was my 'Welcome to Boxing' moment."

One year later, Doran began training once again for a title run. After another string of victories, he found himself in a familiar spot: inside the Joyce Center with a shot at a title. This time, Doran came out on top, winning the 180-pound weight class in a split decision over Dominic Golab.

"I've really been able to grow and mature throughout my time in Bengal Bouts here at Notre Dame, but I never thought that I could be winning championships and doing so well," he said.

A few months after that triumph, Doran was selected to be one of four boxers to travel to Bangladesh through the Center for Social Concerns. Doran spent nine weeks teaching English and interact-

ing with the people, and he said that experience opened his eyes to what Bengal Bouts was all about.

"We were only the second group to be sent over, so I wasn't sure what to expect at first," he said. "I primarily taught English, but we taught from primary schools to high schools, and even some adults

and NGO workers. Before this initiative we had just been sending over money, but this allowed us to bridge the gap between us and them. Now, I feel like I really understand the mission of what we're doing here and why we're doing it."

Upon returning from the mission in Bangladesh last summer, Doran knew that he wanted to have a larger influence on the program he had gotten to know so well. He applied to be a Bengal Bouts captain this year, and was accepted to be a leader of the next generation of fighters.

"A lot of the guys I've looked up to have been captains," Doran said. "This program is phenomenal at taking high school boys and turning them into men, and being a captain, having to bring them up and teach them, you play a large role in that process."

In his final year, Doran has

once again outperformed the competition, and finds himself in his third straight championship match. That consistency, coupled with his 11-2 lifetime record, puts Doran at a level of success few boxers have ever been able to achieve. Doran's final match will not be an easy one, as Bill Straccia, a fellow senior, is standing in his way. However, Doran said he was excited for one last chance to step into the ring for a championship.

"I'm feeling really excited for Friday's match," Doran said. "Billy's a great kid and he's really hungry this year. I have a lot of tension between nervousness and excitement right now, but my family's coming out, and I can't wait."

The lights in Purcell Pavilion will turn off eventually after Friday's fights, but Doran's future beyond boxing is anything but dim. He will graduate in May with a degree from the College of Business, but said he would stick around for postseason play with his other team, club rugby.

"After that, I'm moving to Denver to do marketing for Dish Network. I'm a big snowboarder, fisherman and mountaineer, so I'm looking forward to that," Doran said. "I'm very excited about the next stage of my life, but I'll definitely take a piece of this experience with me forever. It's been an honor to fight for Our Lady's University. There's nothing like competing in Bengal Bouts."

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JAMES DOAN/The Observer

Senior Mike Doran throws a punch at Dominic Golab in last year's Bouts final. Doran and Golab are both captains this season.

134 pounds

Niels Seim vs. Jack Lally



PATH TO THE FINALS

Seim

Def. Nicholas Rowek in quarterfinals
Def. Joe Decker in semifinals

Seim doesn't let his small size affect his boxing style, displaying an aggressive, no holding back attitude. He quite often looks for the big punch, which sometimes causes him to take a punch himself. His big hook, however, can also be quite effective.

Lally

Def. Anthony Lucisano in quarterfinals
Def. Daniel Rodriguez in semifinals



Lally takes a more defensive approach. He picks his chances to be the aggressor carefully, making sure he protects himself with evasive footwork. But when he sees the opportunity, he will attack, and has the ability to land punches that can knock the opponent to the ropes.

143 pounds

Brett Sassetti vs. Will Peterson



PATH TO THE FINALS

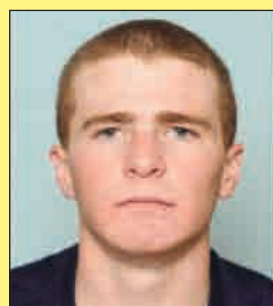
Sassetti

Def. Cameron Shane in quarterfinals
Def. Christopher Torres in semifinals

The Elmwood Park, Illinois native and Carroll Hall resident uses a very aggressive style that consists of putting the opponent on his heels. Sassetti does not back down from a challenge, utilizing a wide variety of combinations which have propelled him to the finals.

Peterson

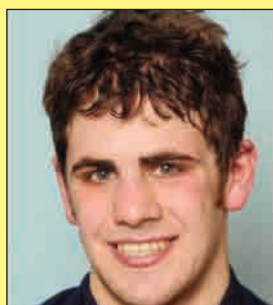
Def. Samuel Kaulbach in quarterfinals
Def. Kevin Dunne in semifinals



Peterson shows an exuberant fighting style. The freshman loves to use a big right hook to put the opponent against the ropes. The O'Neill Hall resident from La Jolla, Calif. lives up to his nickname, "The Thrill," by constantly being on the attack.

148 pounds

Kevin Ortenzio vs. Ryan Slaney



PATH TO THE FINALS

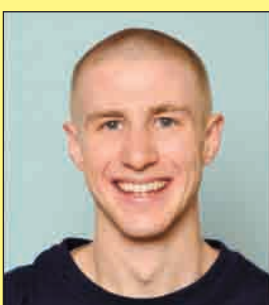
Ortenzio

Def. James Walsh in quarterfinals
Def. Brian Koepsel in semifinals

The junior from Camp Hill, Penn. and Siegfried Hall has a unique style. He is not very aggressive early, but as the second and third rounds progress, Ortenzio makes his move. With the opponent reeling from fatigue, a fresh Ortenzio often pulls away late.

Slaney

Def. Michael Allare in quarterfinals
Def. Benjamin Eichler in semifinals



Slaney, a senior, is experienced, and it shows. From North East, Penn. and Carroll Hall, Slaney provides a stark contrast in style from Ortenzio. He refuses to sit back and put his opponent away early in the fight. His uses of hooks and uppercuts can be lethal.

154 pounds

Thomas Enzweiler vs. Alex Oloriz



PATH TO THE FINALS

Enzweiler

Def. Sean Mullen in quarterfinals
Def. Inoh Choe in semifinals

Thomas "The Mean Justifies the" Enzweiler is a senior who currently resides off campus. Competitors have yet to find a way to combat his punishing hook move. The senior proved his tenacity by coming back from a rocky first round to claim the win in his semifinal bout.

Oloriz

Def. Gregory Cunningham in quarterfinals
Def. Michael Magill in semifinals



Alex "Gatito Loco" Oloriz is a sophomore resident of Morrissey Manor hailing from Laguna Niguel, Calif. This year marks the second time the sophomore has reached the final match. His low stance allows him to land body shots on his opponent.

157 pounds

Paul Hayes vs. Colin King



PATH TO THE FINALS

Hayes

Def. Steven Bischoff in preliminaries.
Def. Daniel Leicht in quarterfinals.
Def. Jeff Ulrich in semifinals

Paul "Hawaii K.O." Hayes, demonstrated remarkable intensity and doggedness in his hard-fought semifinal bout. Although the senior does not always dominate the early seconds of his fights, his thunderous hits often wear down opponents in the final round.

King

Def. Steven Hollis in preliminaries.
Def. Ryan Carey in quarterfinals.
Def. Nicholas Yuan in semifinals.



Colin "The Lion" King, a sophomore living in Sorin College, is not the flashiest of fighters, he has had great success with sound combination sequences and well-timed hits. King's steady pace allows him to gain points over tired opponents late in his fights.

160 pounds

Bobby Powers vs. Ryan Alberdi



PATH TO THE FINALS

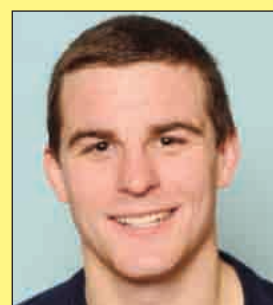
Powers

Def. James Bowers in preliminaries.
Def. Terry Howell in quarterfinals.
Def. Matthew Labriola in semifinals.

Powers has an extremely offensive style and is not afraid to advance on his opponent in the opening seconds of a bout. His long arms allow him to attack while maintaining enough distance to block swings from his opponent.

Alberdi

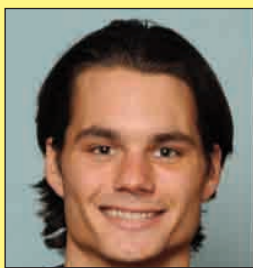
Def. Ryan Alberdi in preliminaries.
Def. Dan Jasinski in quarterfinals.
Def. Mark Iandolo in semifinals.



Alberdi earned his spot in the 160 pound Weight Division final due largely to a vicious left hook that catches his opponents off-guard. He is also particularly adept at deflecting hits from his opponents, which greatly decreases the amount of punishment he takes over the course of a bout.

167 pounds

Brian Salvi vs. Jake Joe



PATH TO THE FINALS

Salvi

Def. Dallas Bunsu in preliminaries
Def. William Hull in quarterfinals
Def. Richard McAvoy in semifinals

Law student Salvi is a composed and patient fighter who does a good job at pacing himself. The punches that Salvi does throw consist of strong combinations that leave opponents reeling.



Joe

Def. Andrew Kwasnieski in preliminaries
Def. John Healy in quarterfinals
Def. David Cray in semifinals

"One Blow" Joe hails from New York and is a sophomore in Sorin. Joe differs from Salvi in that he throws lots of punches, keeping opponents on the defensive and racking up points.

170 pounds

Greg Bennett vs. Nick Severyn



PATH TO THE FINALS

Bennett

Def. Daniel Balcarel in quarterfinals
Def. Connor Skelly in semifinals

Bennett shows impressive passion in each of his fights, taking on taller opponents with strong combinations. He is not easily exhaustible and stays persistent throughout all three rounds.



Severyn

Def. Israel Peck in preliminaries
Def. Joseph Garrity in quarterfinals
Def. Robert Manfreda in semifinals

Senior captain Severyn brings strength and experience to the final. Severyn hits hard and dodges effectively before quickly striking back at his opponents. His strength is in his timing.

176 pounds

Bernardo Garcia vs. Dominic Golab



PATH TO THE FINALS

Garcia

Def. Alphonse Harding in quarterfinals
Def. Giacomo Minafra in semifinals

Garcia is an energetic and exciting fighter with a championship pedigree. His mix of head and body shots make for strong combinations that put opponents on the defensive.



Golab

Def. Joseph Sweeney in quarterfinals
Def. Adrian Moreno in semifinals

Golab edged out a close semifinal bout with his quickness and toughness. He stored energy for the third round in which he came out with a flurry of punches that led the referee to stop the fight.

182 pounds

Mike Urciuoli vs. Tyler Plantz

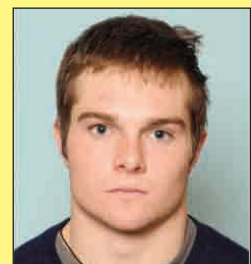


PATH TO THE FINALS

Urciuoli

Def. Erik VanEperen in preliminaries
Def. Leo DiPiero in quarterfinals
Def. William Paape in semifinals

Urciuoli, an off-campus senior, has advanced to the finals with three unanimous decision victories using a versatile arsenal. He mixes in left hooks, right hooks and uppercuts.



Plantz

Def. David Fosselman in preliminaries
Def. Rich Neville in quarterfinals
Def. Tom Carnevale in semifinals

Plantz' stocky body gives him great strength and a low center of gravity, but does not hinder his speed. Plantz ducks into his punches, working his way into the opponent's body from below.

192 pounds

Mike Doran vs. Bill Straccia

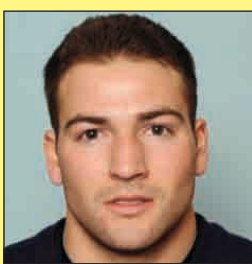


PATH TO THE FINALS

Doran

Def. David Diaz in preliminaries
Def. Pat Griffin in quarterfinals
Def. Alex Macomber in semifinals

Doran, an off-campus senior, has cruised into the final round. The Bouts captain uses his quickness and agility to force many swings and misses from his opponents but is also able to block attempted punches.



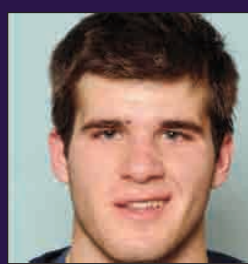
Straccia

Def. Joe Vanderberg in preliminaries
Def. Matt Stolze in quarterfinals
Def. Tim Wallace in semifinals

"The Italian Stallion" is a senior whose impressive physique matches up perfectly with his impressive strength. He relies more on power than technique, relying on big punches to overwhelm his opponents.

198 pounds

Christopher Sarkis vs. Daniel Yi



PATH TO THE FINALS

Sarkis

Def. Robert Kingerly in preliminaries
Evan Wray scratched in quarterfinals
Daniel Hyzak scratched in semifinals

Sarkis has marched to the finals by way of a referee stopped contest and two scratches. By using strong right hooks Sarkis needed just two minutes to beat the only opponent he has fought thus far.



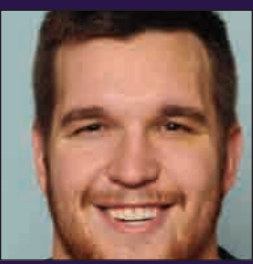
Yi

Def. Anthony Pavlov in preliminaries
Def. Eric Frick in quarterfinals
Def. Brian Salat in semifinals

Yi, a freshman, has proceeded to the finals using his long reach and tall frame, corraling opponents by throwing sharp jabs and sweeping hooks en route to three bruising wins.

Heavyweight

Nathan Arnold vs. Kevin Crepeau



PATH TO THE FINALS

Crepeau

Def. John Baumann in semifinals

Arnold, a former Linfield football player and current law student has the ability to pin his opponent on the ropes and land powerful series of punches.



Arnold

Def. Joey Hibben in semifinals

Crepeau has fought his way to his fourth final in as many years. The strong southpaw, who is 0-3 in the finals, will aim to end his senior campaign with a win.

BENGAL BOUTS

FINALS

Friday **7 PM**

at the **Purcell Pavilion**

Severyn receives guidance from Bouts legend Lee

By VICKY JACOBSEN
Sports Writer

Senior Nick Severyn will compete in his first Bengal Bouts championship fight this Friday night, but his Bengal Bouts story began before he even arrived at campus.

Four years ago, the former high school athlete went looking for a way to stay active when a family friend first suggested that he take up boxing.

"I went to high school with a guy named Mike Lee who fought here two years ago, and he was the first person that turned me on to it," Severyn said. "Boxing seemed like the right avenue for me. Plus, all my friends basically did it, so it was pretty much natural freshman year."

But the road has not always been easy for Severyn — his first challenge was convincing his skeptical parents that boxing was a good idea.

"Mom hated it when I first told her, especially because I was doing rugby anyways," Severyn said. "She raised this intelligent kid and she's seeing his brain go to mush after playing these two vicious contact sports."

After much persuading on Severyn's part, his parents finally relented, and have remained some of his staunchest supporters.

"I got Mike Lee to talk to

them a lot, and they eventually opened up to it," Severyn said. "I think I might have had forged their signature on the first sign up, but other than that they've stayed behind me. They're from Chicago, so they always come up to see all my fights. They've been really supportive throughout the entire process."

Although Severyn and Lee, who became a professional fighter last February, successfully converted his parents into boxing supporters that season, Severyn's triumph did not extend to the ring. Severyn, who competed in the 140-pound weight class, faced a 26-year-old MBA student in his first match, which he lost by split decision.

His luck didn't improve the next year, and he was forced to sit out his sophomore season after undergoing thumb surgery to correct a rugby injury.

Severyn won his first fight as a junior and earned a berth in the semifinal round before falling to Greg Bennett, the eventual champion of his weight class.

While Severyn has never made it to a final match before, some of his friends have enjoyed major success in the ring — a fact that the senior says motivated him during his senior campaign.

"Both my friends Mike Doran and Bobby Powers

make fun of me daily for not winning a championship here yet," Severyn said. "They actually both have an extra year on me because I had thumb surgery sophomore year, but they constantly make fun of me for not being able to wear the champions jacket or the finalist jacket, so my friends ultimately motivate me."

Although friendly ribbing provides plenty of incentive to do well, Severyn is also self-motivated.

"I have something to prove to myself, so I'm going to try and be the best fighter I can be, and hopefully win the championship this year," Severyn said.

Severyn also credits the boxing community at O'Neill Hall with aiding his success.

"Mike Doran, Bobby Powers, Kevin Crepeau — those are all O'Neill guys, so it's really easy to stay motivated with people in your dorms coming in to make sure you're going to practices," Severyn said.

The 170-pound final will undoubtedly be the biggest fight of Severyn's career, but the senior does not expect to be overwhelmed by the moment.

"A lot of other people get hyped up and listen to pump-up music, but I try and stay as calm as possible," Severyn said. "It's hard with the adrenaline rushing through, but I'm



GRANT TOBIN/The Observer

Senior Nick Severyn winds up during his semifinal fight Tuesday. Severyn will face Greg Bennett in the finals in a 2010 semifinal rematch.

usually pretty relaxed. I usually start off the first round a little slow, partially because I'm relaxed, but that's just how I'm used to doing everything. That's how I play rugby, and that's how I do boxing."

Severyn will face Greg Bennett — who eliminated him from competition last year — in the championship bout

Friday. Severyn has already made sure that his friends can no longer tease him for lacking a finalist jacket; if he can reverse the outcome of last year's semifinal bout, he will have a championship to go along with it.

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Wallace finds new competitive thrill in boxing club

By MEGAN GOLDEN
Sports Writer

Since he was a little kid, senior captain Tim Wallace's competitive spirit and outstanding work ethic have driven him toward success.

Growing up with two older brothers and an older sister, Wallace was constantly competing with his siblings, even in sports that they had to create.

"We created 'Ball Tag.' We have a full-sized basement, a basement perfect for any kids because it can just be destroyed.

We had a lot of Nerf balls and stuff, and you could hide around the obstacles. We would just pick up balls and wing them at each other as hard as we could," Wallace said. "Just the basketball games in front of the house and pretty much everything was a competition for us."

Wallace said that, upon coming to Notre Dame, boxing took the place of his high school sports, as he played four years of basketball and tennis.

"In high school I was always really sports-related. That's kind of what boxing filled in. That competitive edge that I had in

high school that I didn't really find until last year," Wallace said. "Obviously those aren't really physical sports, but I learned to be physical."

Wallace was encouraged by a friend to begin boxing during the fall semester of his junior year in Australia.

"What got me into it was I studied abroad first semester last year. I studied abroad with [senior] Bobby [Powers], and he needed someone to work with, so he got me into it," Wallace said.

Wallace said he and Powers worked hard to stay in shape and conditioned intensely in preparation for his first fight in Bengal Bouts.

"In Australia, it was just me and him. It was mostly just him giving me mitts, and then when I learned enough, I would return the favor," Wallace said. "Boxing consists of three two-minute rounds, so six minutes total. Learning to condition yourself for that six minutes takes a work ethic, which I think I got from basketball."

Wallace said he was originally motivated by his competitive nature, but once he was selected to be a captain, he discovered a different source of inspiration behind boxing.

"Purely boxing-wise, I got into it just because it's a competitive sport that I learned to love to do," Wallace said. "The inspiration as far as fundraising and raising money for Bangladesh kind of developed secondly. When I became a captain I realized how much it really makes a difference when the people come back after they travel for summer sessions over there for a couple of months, seeing footage from that and how

much of a difference it made. That's when I started seeing the second part of it, the real purpose behind why we box."

Responding to the ups and downs of a fight requires confidence, and Wallace said mental toughness has proved to be an important part of his boxing career.

"You've got to have confidence in yourself. You've got to continually think you can win," Wallace said. "You're going to take hits, and you know it's going to hurt, but you've got to understand that after you take that hit you've got to do whatever you can to hurt them back."

Before entering every fight, Wallace has a ritual of reading the poem "The Stage," which is posted on the door of the practice facility. He also makes sure to visit the Grotto prior to every bout he fights in.

"It helps to calm me down. It makes you feel like God's on your side," he said.

Throughout his boxing career, Wallace said he believed in the superstition that he would win as long as he did not cut his hair — and the one time he did, his fears were confirmed.

"I never cut my hair, but I had to cut my hair because I was going into the place where I'm going to work [after graduation]," Wallace said. "It was before [the semifinals], and I ended up losing, so maybe that was my deal."

Wallace's parents, who are Notre Dame alumni, have traveled from his home in Auburn, Ind., while his siblings have made the trip from Denver and

Washington, D.C. to see him fight. Although his family is very supportive of his boxing career, Wallace said his mother has a hard time watching him fight.

"She's been to one fight, and she wouldn't watch. She said she stares up at the stands

because she doesn't like watching," Wallace said. "She continually sends articles to me about the brain damage boxing does, and she's convinced that I'm quitting and that since I lost, my boxing career's done."

After graduation Wallace will move to Pittsburgh, where he will be working at Bettis Labs. He said he hopes to continue his boxing career despite his mother's entreaties.

"My first goal is just to find out a gym and get in the circle, and find out what kind of boxing clubs they have there. Then it's just talking to people and maybe scheduling an amateur fight," Wallace said. "I definitely do want to continue it, if for nothing else, definitely for the conditioning because the conditioning is a lot of fun and a great way to stay in shape."

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JAMES DOAN/The Observer

Captain and senior Tim Wallace wraps up fellow senior Bernardo Garcia during their 2010 final. Wallace was eliminated in Tuesday's semifinals.

Junior Ortenzio returns from London with renewed focus

By KELSEY MANNING
Sports Writer

Junior captain Kevin Ortenzio joined Bengal Bouts in order to stay active and expand upon his love of wrestling, but over the past three years he has discovered that he is fighting for much more.

The Siegfried resident from Camp Hill, Penn., and three-year veteran to the Bouts explained that he knew he wanted to be a part of the boxing experience at Notre Dame since he first stepped foot on campus.

"I started freshman year, starting with the first practice of the novices which is during the fall," Ortenzio said. "I came to the first practice because I always knew I wanted to be in the club. I had heard a lot about it and I was really interested."

As the first in his family to attend Notre Dame, Ortenzio's decision to join Bengal Bouts had a lot to do with his experience in wrestling.

"I have a history with high school wrestling and I also wrestled for a good portion of my elementary school and middle school life," he said. "I just felt like if I didn't play something my winters would seem a little empty."

Ortenzio's opponent in the final last year, then senior Kieran Bulger, said of then-sophomore Ortenzio: "I had to take it slow. I figured that since he is such a workhorse in practice he would

probably have good endurance."

A three-year veteran who is known as a hard worker among his peers, Ortenzio attributed much of his training mentality to his wrestling experience.

"[Wrestling has helped] not only in terms of the matches but as far as training goes I really understand my body and what it takes for me to be in shape, so I do that and I prepare myself for every fight like it's my last," he said.

Though he did not come out on top in last year's final, Ortenzio said it was a highlight of his time in boxing and his most memorable fight to date.

"It was a fantastic fight," he said. "Kieran Bulger was a terrific fighter and with him being a senior and me being a sophomore he was definitely expected to win but I gave him a good run and it ended up being a split decision. With the overall experience and how I felt during that fight it didn't matter one way or the other, win or lose. That was a fantastic fight that I will never forget."

After losing to a senior captain in the quarterfinals his freshman year and losing to senior Bulger in the finals last year, Ortenzio is working on his third solid run in the tournament. In this year's final he will face another senior and previous champion in Ryan Slaney. Ortenzio said he was anticipating another great fight.

"He's done very well so far in this tournament so I'm really looking forward to it," he said.

For this Bengal Bouts season Ortenzio returned after a fall semester in London with his eye on another championship fight night. Despite not being on campus fall semester, Ortenzio made sure he made time to train.

"I had another individual who's also in the finals, Greg Bennett, who was abroad with me," Ortenzio said. "We found a gym in London and were able to go once or twice a week and throw some punches and get a feel for it. That was really helpful, but I think the time I gained the most ground was probably over winter break and especially after New Year's. That's when I really started training."

Since then, Ortenzio said he has put in anywhere from 10-14 hours a week in the gym in preparation for this year's tournament, but has realized that is no longer just passion for the sport that motivates him, but his family, the camaraderie in the club, and, most importantly, the Holy Cross Missions in Bangladesh.

"[My family] has been very supportive," he said. "I've been so fortunate that even living in Pennsylvania they've been making all my fights."

With the support of his family and fellow boxers Ortenzio has become particularly dedicated to the true goal of Bengal Bouts — raising money for the Holy Cross Missions, and is even traveling to Bangladesh with ISSLP this summer.

"The reason why I came to



SUZANNA PRATT/The Observer

Junior captain and last year's runner-up Kevin Ortenzio lands a jab during his quarterfinal bout against James Walsh on Feb. 22.

Bengal Bouts and the reason I stick with it today are very different," he said. "A lot of it used to be my wrestling background but I've really come to understand what this whole thing is about, not just the boxing but the Missions themselves. At this point, I've just kind of told myself that wrestling is a pastime; it's not why I do this anymore. It's also the camaraderie that you see here. We're going out slug-

ging it for six minutes and then afterwards we give each other a big hug — where else do you see that?"

Ortenzio will bring his dedication to the cause along with his boxing experience, strength and endurance to fight night Friday, as he takes on Ryan Slaney in the 148 lb. division championship.

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Feduska moves forward after shoulder injury

By CORY BERNARD
Sports Writer

As he has for the last three rounds, junior captain Collin Feduska will arrive at Friday's Bengal Bouts finals in street clothes. Not by choice, however.

The pre-med major with a minor in Science, Technology, and Values injured his shoulder before the 81st annual tournament began. With a history of injuries to the same shoulder, Feduska is no longer able to box.

"I've had shoulder problems in the past, and I've had a bunch of dislocations, so there's too much of a risk of serious injury," he said of his decision to put down the gloves for good. "I had surgery this past summer, but I dislocated it again during a sparring session in the spring right before fights."

Though he acknowledges the difficulty in watching his peers carry on without him, Feduska continues to provide support and advice whenever possible.

"It's tough, especially since it happened a week before the fights," he said. "I'd been training expecting to fight, but now I'm fighting vicariously through other guys when I'm working with them."

Coming to Notre Dame in the fall of 2008, Feduska had plenty of interest in joining Notre Dame's boxing club. His older brothers Michael, a 2004 graduate, and Eric, a 2009 graduate, both boxed as undergraduates. Even his father participated in the club. Growing up with two older siblings subjected Feduska to a variety of physically taxing play-time activities.

"We'd do American Gladiators, where Michael and Eric would whack me with pillows," Feduska said. "We would also all put on lacrosse gear and hit each other with the sticks. It was a rough upbringing at times but it was fun."

During his time at Upper St. Clair High School, just southwest of Pittsburgh, Feduska played soccer and wrestled. He wanted

to continue his active lifestyle and the boxing club became a perfect way to stay in shape while also spending time with Eric.

"I wrestled in high school, which is about the closest experience I'd had," he said. "Initially it was just something to keep me active and to stay in good shape. Also my older brother was a senior when I came in as a freshman and he was doing it so it was a cool activity for us to do together."

From his early days in the gym as an inexperienced freshman to his current status as a junior captain, Feduska has acquired a wealth of boxing knowledge. During his first year, the thought of eventually teaching the craft to others didn't cross his mind.

"That wasn't something that had even entered into my mind," Feduska said of the idea of being a captain. "The captains and some of the coaches get together and decide who has the skill and who has the dedication. My hard work paid off."

Now relegated solely to training rather than participating, Feduska says he enjoys watching younger members develop as boxers from their first day to their first fight, and sometimes even beyond.

"It's always interesting at first, seeing kids come in not knowing what they're doing," he said. "They usually pick it up very quickly, though. We actually have a lot of really talented freshmen this year. Many of them have made it through their first fight or even into the finals."

As a more experienced member, he has also seen the club change its approach to training. He says since his freshman year the preparations in the fall and spring leading up to the tournament have evolved for the better.

"There have been a lot of changes to practices since my freshman year," Feduska said. "We've moved from doing a lot of push-ups and sit-ups and long distance running to sprints and better fight simulation stuff."

Additionally, he says the fundraising aspect has improved.

"This year we also got in contact with a lot of alumni and sent out a bunch of donor cards explaining what was going on, which got us a lot more money," Feduska said. "We are selling more stuff, too. Of course, all of those funds go directly to Bangladesh."

Feduska also realizes the ultimate goal of the boxing club and the Bengal Bouts tournament. He says his job as a leader involves making sure the new members understand this goal, too.

"That's something that comes along later," he said of realizing the tournament's objective. "With a lot of people, they come in trying to prove themselves, but the captains do a good job ingraining in your mind that it's about what you're doing for other people."

Contact Cory Bernard at cbernard@nd.edu





JAMES DOAN/The Observer



MACKENZIE SAIN/The Observer

The Bengal Bouts semifinals Tuesday night consisted of drama, pain, elation and relief — all within 26 fights. The fights, in 13 weight divisions, were simply the prelude to Friday’s finals, which begin at 7 p.m. in the Purcell Pavilion.

For more photos, check out the photo gallery at ndsmcobserver.com



GRANT TOBIN/The Observer



MACKENZIE SAIN/The Observer



JAMES DOAN/The Observer

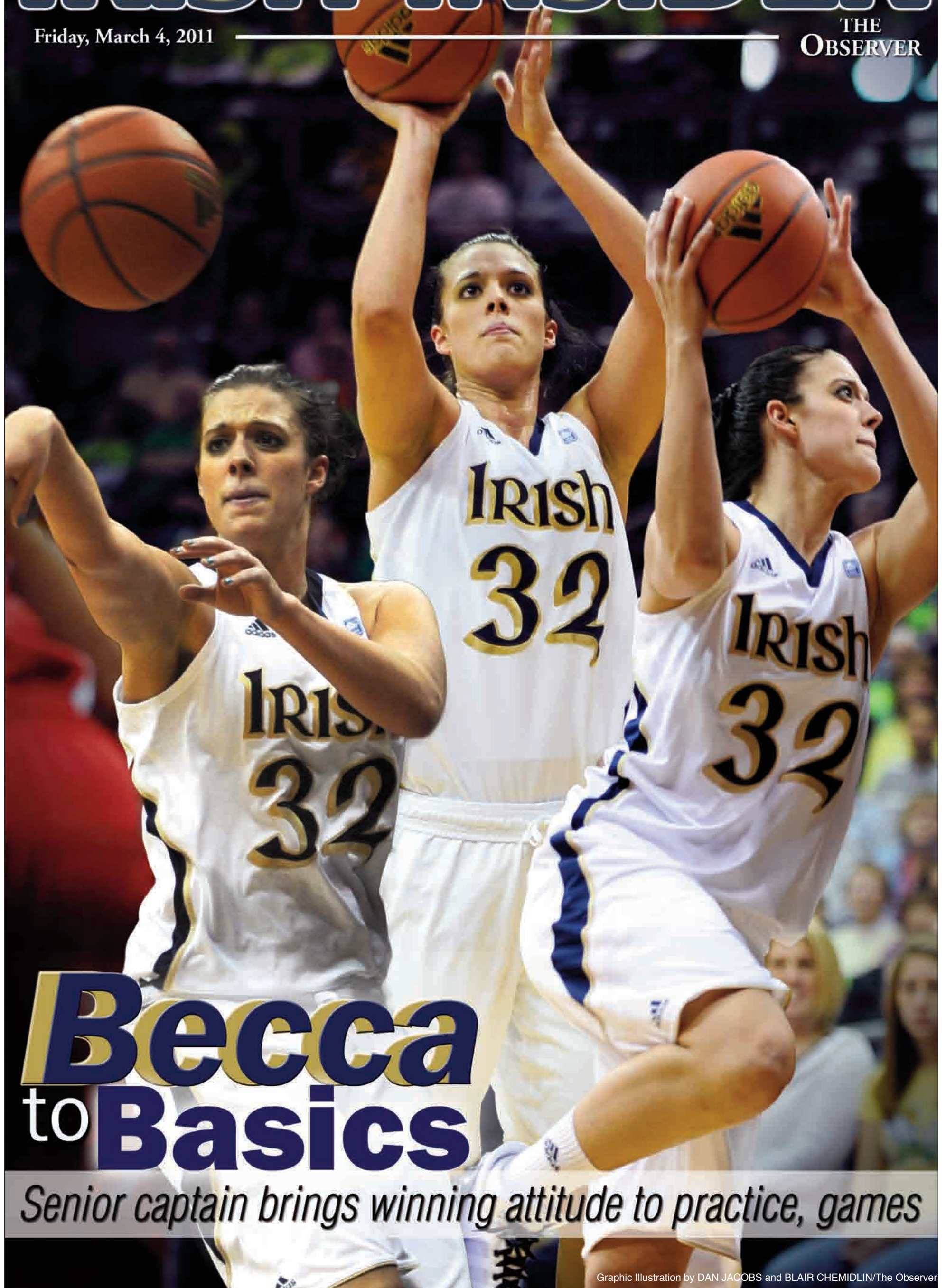


GRANT TOBIN/The Observer

IRISH INSIDER

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THE
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Becca to Basics

Senior captain brings winning attitude to practice, games

Graphic Illustration by DAN JACOBS and BLAIR CHEMIDLIN/The Observer

COMMENTARY

Talent to be tested at Big East tourney

In every sport, there are three signs of a truly great team: Beating up on the 'lesser' opponents. Performing well against the top competition. And third, the ability to overcome adversity.

For this Irish squad, the jury is still out on whether this has been just another very good team assembled by coach Muffet McGraw, or whether this is a special club that rivals the 2001



Andrew Owens

Sports Writer

squad, which won the program's only national title.

The Irish pass the first part of the litmus test with flying colors. No unranked team has defeated Notre Dame, and the closest such game was an

eight-point win at South Florida on Feb. 5, one that was never truly in doubt.

Playing well against the elite teams has not been a problem for the Irish.

The only trouble they have had in this regard is finishing the job — winning the game's crucial final minutes.

Against ranked opponents, Notre Dame is 4-5 this season, but only one of those losses was lopsided — 78-57 at No. 2 Connecticut on Feb. 19. The other four were all determined in the last few minutes.

The most excruciating loss of the season came on Jan. 8, when the Huskies, whose NCAA-record 90-game winning streak had been snapped the week before, went ahead with 14 seconds remaining on a layup by sophomore guard Kelly Faris. The Irish had led for most of the game, and the prospect of knocking conference rival Connecticut off their pedestal atop the Big East would have been a season-changing victory for the Irish. Instead, they were left playing the "what if" game and had the challenge of bouncing back in conference play, which they did.

The only other Big East loss of the season came last Monday, when DePaul sunk

the hopes of the Irish, who were looking to pull off a major road victory and finish second in the conference. Senior forward Felicia Chester hit a clutch layup with six seconds to play to give the Blue Demons the victory. Once again, the Irish were robbed as their opponent snatched victory from the jaws of defeat.

If Notre Dame is going to assert itself as a serious threat to Connecticut's reign over the Big East, the Irish need to come up big in the final minutes of a close game. Until they come away with a signature victory, they cannot be considered among the top contenders for the national title.

The final aspect of the three-part formula of a top team is overcoming adversity. Let's face it — every team gets at least a dose of it during the course of a long regular season. This year the Irish have

had to deal with two in-season departures — junior forward Erica Solomon transferred in December, and highly-touted freshman guard Kayla McBride stopped play in January, both for personal reasons. The

two were important bench players, combining for 15 points per game.

Additionally, the team has had to deal with the previously mentioned excruciating losses. The team has responded after the close losses and quickly put the defeats behind them.

The Big East tournament will be the most telling of indicators as to whether the two losses to Connecticut and the one-point loss to DePaul were signs that Notre Dame is very close to being a top team and just needs to get over the hump, or that the Irish are not in the top tier of the nation's top talent.

For McGraw and her squad, the next two weeks will determine the legacy of this talented group.

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

Contact Andrew Owens at aowens2@nd.edu

Irish compete for title in Hartford



DAN JACOBS/The Observer

Irish coach Muffet McGraw walks off the court following a 79-76 loss to Connecticut on Jan. 8 at the Purcell Pavilion. McGraw is coaching her 24th season of Irish basketball.

By CHRIS MASOUD
Sports Writer

Notre Dame travels to the Mecca of women's basketball this weekend to take on the best the conference has to offer in the Big East championships.

While the XL Center in Hartford, Conn., may be the most attractive site for the conference tournament given the passion of its local basketball fans, a potential matchup against the Connecticut Huskies in the title game puts the Irish at a disadvantage, Irish coach Muffet McGraw said.

"It's not a neutral site," McGraw said. "It's a great site. For the conference, we draw better than anybody in the country. We get really good crowds. The Connecticut fans come out for all the games, not just the UConn game. It's hard to leave there because they really do a good job."

The conference champion has been crowned in the XL Center since March of 2004, a testament to the electrifying atmosphere and financial security provided by the venue.

"We've looked at a couple of alternate sites, McGraw said, "but when you look at the financial side of it, it's really difficult to find a place where we're going to be as successful."

Benefitting from two days of additional rest after securing a second-round bye heading into the tournament, the Irish lack the luxury of preparing for a specific team. However, No. 3 seed Notre Dame (24-6, 13-3 Big East) knows it will face the

winner of a matchup between Louisville (19-11, 10-6), the No. 6 seed, and the winner of an opening round match between No. 11 seed Providence (13-15, 6-10) and No. 14 seed Villanova (11-18, 3-13).

Notre Dame handily took down each of its potential opponents during the regular season, including a 79-43 drubbing of Providence and a 58-43 win over Villanova. While the Irish took down the Cardinals 80-60 during the regular season at home, a rematch between the two teams will be far from the comforts of Purcell Pavilion.

"It's going to be a lot different," McGraw said. "[The Cardinals] are a much better team than they were when they played here. In fact, they played poorly here. A lot of that was our defense. They really didn't play well, and we did a nice job defensively on some of their better players."

Since their loss to the Irish, the Cardinals rebounded to finish the regular season tied for fifth in the conference.

"They're fighting for a shot at the NCAA tournament," McGraw said. "I think they have a great shot at the tournament, but I think for them, they want to keep winning to promote the résumé a little bit more, so it's a huge game for them. For us, it's a question of seeding. We need to play well coming off a loss."

With a bitter taste in their mouths following a gut-wrenching 70-69 loss to No. 2 seed DePaul (26-5, 13-3) on Monday, the Irish eagerly await their next chance to get back on the court and regain

momentum before heading into the national tournament. While last year's squad was eliminated in the round of 16, senior forward Becca Bruszewski said this year's team has the potential to finish its season in Indianapolis, Ind., the site of the Final Four.

"I definitely think last year we fell short of our goal," Bruszewski said. "This year, definitely I want us to bring the same intensity. I want to get us to the finals of the Big East tournament. I want us to go for the title and definitely [the] Final Four. With this team, it's possible. We're young, but we've taken a lot of small learning bumps across the course of the season."

McGraw credits her players' ability to compete on both sides of the ball for Notre Dame's success this season. Despite facing No. 1 seed Connecticut (29-1, 16-0) twice during the regular season, a favorable schedule has positioned the Irish well for the postseason.

"We had a really good schedule," McGraw said. "We played a lot of the teams right behind us at home. We played the teams ahead of us on the road. It was kind of an interesting schedule for us. We got the opportunity to really see what it's going to be in a hostile environment, and now we can take that to Hartford with us."

Notre Dame hits the court Sunday at 8 p.m. for a chance to play in the semifinals Monday at 8 p.m. The championship game takes place Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Contact Chris Masoud at cmasoud@nd.edu

Follow the games LIVE as Andrew Owens blogs courtside from the XL Center in Hartford, Conn.: ndsmcobserver.com/sports/irish-basketball

Big East Bellwether

Indiana native Becca Bruszewski captains Irish through the postseason in her final season

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

Becca Bruszewski came to Notre Dame four years ago because it offered her the perfect package. But she never expected that she'd graduate as one of the top competitors Irish basketball has ever seen.

In fact, she refuses to believe it, although Irish coach Muffet McGraw does.

"She is the most amazing competitor I think I have ever coached," McGraw said after Bruszewski's final game in the Purcell Pavilion on Feb. 26.

Still, the senior forward refuses to take on that title, saying all she does is come to practice ready to go.

"I don't know if I'm the most amazing, but I definitely come ready to go every day," she said.

And this is coming from a girl who hated practice until last summer, when McGraw approached her about being a co-captain.

"She kind of just talked to me about the summer and how I needed to come every day ready to go," Bruszewski said. "I used to hate practice — I couldn't stand it. But now I see it more, from a coaching perspective, how necessary it is and how necessary it is for the team to be ready to go out and play and be prepared for the next game."

Bruszewski has made sure that not only herself but also her teammates are prepared for each opponent they face. From setting the tone in the locker room and at practice to stepping up, both physically and vocally, in games, Bruszewski shares her "will to win" daily with her team-

mates.

"I never want to lose in any possession, any drill. I never want to know that someone's better than me. People talk about, 'Oh, this girl has a lot of hype,' and I don't. That really makes me come a little harder to the game because I want to prove people wrong," she said.

So she does. Standing tall at 6-foot-1, Bruszewski likes to make sure her opponents know she means business in the post with an average 5.1 rebounds per game, and on offense with an average of 9.2 points in the typical 25 minutes she spends on the court.

Playing for Notre Dame is not the first time that Bruszewski has earned notice

on the court, however. A Valparaiso, Ind., native, she had been playing on AAU teams since grade school but brought her talents to South Bend during high school to gain more exposure.

Her experience aided in her high school play as well as got her noticed.

"I started playing AAU more in third grade, played it in middle school and then in high school. And then I started playing AAU here in South Bend to get more exposure. Basketball in high school, I was a one through five," she said. "I was the only girl that played AAU, so whatever we needed to do, I kind of did."

Bruszewski also started to attend more Notre Dame games in high school, falling in love with the atmosphere even more as a member of the Irish squad.

"My whole senior year of high school, I used to come to every home game. I've been in the JACC for every game for five, six years. So it was definitely something I took in,

every aspect of it — the fans in the stands, the coaching staff, just running out of the tunnel, just having everyone cheering for me."

Just like it did in high school and allowing Bruszewski to easily attend home games, Valparaiso's vicinity to Notre Dame has given college more of a hometown feel for her and a chance to excel academically — the perfect package.

"It was obviously the perfect package — the academics, the tradition here, the fans, the basketball. Just definitely a place that's close to home. A lot of family members come to games — just a perfect choice," she said.

Being a student at Notre Dame has not only allowed this marketing student to find her passion in the classroom but to also grow as a player, and as a person.

"I would definitely say it's made me a lot more mature — it's made me look at things from a leadership standpoint and just what I do affects other things and people," she said.

Bruszewski's leadership skills were what led McGraw to nominate her as a team captain for the second straight year, encouraging and guiding her along the way.

"She's grown so much as a leader this year. She's done a really good job of setting the tone for the team, getting them ready for the games," McGraw said.

But Bruszewski had to earn the title for herself and, with her coach's guidance, proved it to her teammates through her hard work and dedication.

"[McGraw] just talked to me about what I need to look for, or how I need to help people out, especially with the new people coming in later because we didn't have our freshman here this summer. The team voted on it — I was really honored by that because my teammates see



PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Senior forward Becca Bruszewski drives to the hoop during Notre Dame's 102-30 exhibition win over Michigan Tech on Nov. 3, 2010.

how I work hard and that I would be a good example for them and the incoming freshmen," Bruszewski said.

As a captain, Bruszewski has taken a few of her teammates, particularly her fellow posts, under her wing. Even if that post is her classmate, senior forward Devereaux Peters.

"I think the only difference between me and [Peters] is I've had that experience that she didn't have those two years sitting out. She was able to watch from the bench and know and see what we need and where she would fit in," Bruszewski said.

"Post-wise, she doesn't really like to bang a lot in the post, so I'll put her in positions where she'll make the pass or she can catch it on the drive."

While Bruszewski does help Peters in setting up the plays, it's not a one-sided effort with the two starters.

"We know how each other plays, and we know how to read each other. We help each other get into the best situation to succeed," Bruszewski said.

Another teammate Bruszewski has singled out is freshman forward Natalie Achonwa, who has been a crucial Irish force coming off the bench this season.

"I've taught Natalie to come ready to go every single day. Right now, the season is long and it's tough, and it's physical. Her watching how I play and how I am — it can be done, it is necessary and it's something the team needs

every day," Bruszewski said.

But she isn't trying to be conceited, because she knows she can learn from her teammates, too. In fact, Bruszewski said Achonwa has helped her to learn a key component for success this season — patience.

"Before this year, I wasn't very vocal but I would just get frustrated really easily. Now, I'm using my words to help people out and let them know where they need to be, trying to take things from their perspective and how they're learning about the game," Bruszewski said.

That patience is something that Bruszewski feels will be essential in her future plans of playing overseas. Her presence on the Irish team, though, will be greatly missed.

"She's really had a great career, really exceeded our expectations. We're really going to miss her next year — her physical play, her mental toughness, her relentless attitude. She works so hard every day at practice. She has really made her mark on the program," McGraw said.

Bruszewski knows that leaving Notre Dame will be hard, but she won't miss 6 a.m. morning practice in the summer.

"It [Notre Dame overall] has been an experience that I was not prepared for, but I learned a lot about myself and other people on the way. It's made me a better person."

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KIRBY MCKENNA/The Observer

Senior forward Becca Bruszewski prepares to be introduced before the season's first game, against New Hampshire on Nov. 12, 2010.

No. 16 SETON HALL Pirates

Record: (8-21, 1-15 Big East)

Regular season: The Pirates struggled from the opening gate, dropping its first 10 conference games before picking up its lone win of the season against Cincinnati. Seton Hall finished conference play with the worst field goal percentage and the fewest assists.

Against Notre Dame: Irish 89, Pirates 38 (at Notre Dame)

How far they go: First round exit against No. 9 seed Syracuse.



Sophomore guard Skylar Diggins evades a defender during Notre Dame's 89-38 win over Seton Hall on Feb. 8.

No. 15 CINCINNATI Bearcats

Record: (9-19, 2-14 Big East)

Regular season: Plagued by injuries, the Bearcats never found their rhythm this season, losing 13 straight conference games at one point before salvaging a win against Marquette to salvage their season.

Against Notre Dame: Irish 66, Bearcats 48 (at Notre Dame)

How far they go: First round exit against No. 10 seed West Virginia.



Freshman forward Ariel Braker drives to the basket during Notre Dame's 66-48 win over Cincinnati on Feb. 26.

No. 10 WEST VIRGINIA Mountaineers

Record: (22-8, 8-8 Big East)

Regular season: Although the Mountaineers finished the regular season 14 games over .500, they failed to play up to their potential. However, the Mountaineers feature a premiere scorer in Liz Repella, who averages 15 points per game.

Against Notre Dame: Irish 72, Mountaineers 60 (at West Virginia)

How far they go: Second round exit against No. 7 St. John's.

No. 9 SYRACUSE Orange

Record: (21-8, 9-7 Big East)

Regular season: The Orange scrapped their way to finish the conference season one game above .500, but failed to make an impact despite a manageable schedule. Syracuse did have the best rebounding average at 41 rebounds per game.

Against Notre Dame: Irish 71, Orange 48 (at Notre Dame)

How far they go: Second round exit against No. 8 Georgetown.

Predicting N



Laura Myers
Sports Writer

When we first set out to make this Insider, I thought about assigning each team (fairly random) odds of winning. After all, I logicked, Notre Dame must have a better chance of winning than does, say, Seton Hall. But I realized that's not true at all. Only one team has a chance of winning this thing, and it's the same team that's won for the past three years. I predict Notre Dame will make the final game, but will fall to Connecticut just as badly as it did two weeks ago. Making the finals, though, will help in NCAA seeding. Notre Dame moved up a ranking in the AP poll both times it lost to Connecticut. A strong showing here should guarantee a three-seed, and maybe even bump the Irish up to a two-seed in the national tournament.

Prediction: Connecticut over Notre Dame, championship game



Senior forward Devereaux Peters prepares to shoot during Notre Dame's 71-48 win over Syracuse on Feb. 1.

No. 11 PROVIDENCE Friars

Record: (13-15, 6-10 Big East)

Regular season: The Friars had shortcomings on both ends of the floor, but had particular difficulties putting points on the board. Providence featured the third-worst scoring offense in the conference at a paltry 50.8 points per game.

Against Notre Dame: Irish 79, Friars 43 (at Providence)

How far they go: Second round exit against No. 6 Louisville.

No. 14 VILLANOVA Wildcats

Record: (11-18, 3-13 Big East)

Regular season: The Wildcats finished near the bottom of the pack for the second consecutive season. A young team with potential, Villanova could be a surprise contender in the future. But after losing eight straight conference games this year, the Wildcats took themselves out of contention.

Against Notre Dame: Irish 58, Wildcats 43 (at Villanova)

How far they go: First round exit against No. 11 Providence

No. 12 PITTSBURGH Panthers

Record: (13-16, 5-11 Big East)

Regular season: By Pittsburgh standards, the Panthers had a subpar season. 5 conference wins won't be good enough to make the NCAA tournament and it won't be good enough to make an impact in the conference tournament.

Against Notre Dame: Irish 82, Panthers 50 (at Pittsburgh)

How far they go: Upset in the first round by No. 13 South Florida



Junior guard Fraderica Miller leads the fastbreak during Notre Dame's 69-36 win over St. John's on Jan. 23.

No. 13 SOUTH FLORIDA Bulls

Record: (12-18, 3-13 Big East)

Regular season: Despite finishing the regular season with a sub-.500 record, the Bulls feature one of the league's most prolific scorers in Andrea Smith, who averages 17.6 points per game. They could be a sleeper.

Against Notre Dame: Irish 76, Bulls 68 (at South Florida)

How far they go: First round upset over No. 12 Pittsburgh, but exit in the second round to No. 5 Marquette.

D's Tourney

While the Irish have come close to knocking off some top teams, I just don't see them beating UConn in a defacto Huskies home game. Notre Dame will get their revenge in the semifinal against DePaul, but will lose in the championship game to UConn.

Prediction: Connecticut over Notre Dame, championship game



Andrew Owens

Sports Writer

No. 8 GEORGETOWN Bulldogs

Record: (21-9, 9-7 Big East)

Regular season: The Bulldogs had a chance to crack into the top four, but remained content at the middle of the pack. However, they feature the conference's best scorer after Connecticut's Maya Moore in sophomore Sugar Rodgers, who averages 18 points per game.

Against Notre Dame: Irish 80, Georgetown 58 (at Notre Dame)

How far they go: Second round exit against No. 1 Connecticut



SARAH O'CONNOR /The Observer

Senior guard Brittany Mallory goes up for the score during Notre Dame's 69-36 victory over St. John's on Jan. 23.

No. 7 ST. JOHN'S Red Storm

Record: (20-9, 9-7 Big East)

How they did during the regular season: The Red Storm are led by head coach Kim Barnes Arico, one of the best in the conference. Although St. John's started off slowly, the team won six of its last nine games.

How they did against Notre Dame: Irish 69, Red Storm 36 (at Notre Dame)

How far they go: Second round exit against No. 2 DePaul



DAN JACOBS/The Observer

Sophomore guard Skylar Diggins drives by a defender during Notre Dame's 70-69 loss to Connecticut on Jan. 8.

No. 1 CONNECTICUT Huskies

Record: (29-1, 16-0 Big East)

How they did during the regular season: Besides a loss to Stanford to snap a 90-game winning streak, Connecticut dominated the opposition per usual. Geno Auriemma. Maya Moore. Clear favorite to win it all again.

How they did against Notre Dame: Huskies 79, Irish 76 (at Notre Dame); Huskies 78, Irish 57 at Connecticut

How far they go: Win the Big East championships.

No. 2 DePAUL Blue Demons

Record: (26-5, 13-3 Big East)

How they did during the regular season: An unselfish basketball team, the Blue Demons pass the ball and find the open shooter. Led by top-notch coach Doug Bruno, DePaul vaulted to the top of the Big East this season, taking the No. 2 seed from the Irish in the last day of the regular season.

How they did against Notre Dame: Blue Demons 70, Irish 69 (at DePaul)

How far they go: Upset in the semifinals by No. 3 Notre Dame.

Predicting N



Chris Masoud

Sports Writer

As a native of the Bay Area, watching Connecticut lose to Stanford 45 minutes from home was the highlight of my winter break. Not only did the Huskies see their 90-game win streak snapped, but it was the first time they actually looked bad playing basketball. At least I saw it once, because I won't be seeing it again for another 90 games. Maya Moore refuses to lose, the Huskies have lost only one game in 30 appearances at the XL Center and Geno Auriemma knows how to get Notre Dame in foul trouble.

The Irish avenge their one-point loss to DePaul in the semifinals of the conference championships. Blue Demons coach Doug Bruno has been one of the best in the game during his tenure at DePaul, but McGraw and her squad should be playing with a chip on their shoulder. A really mean chip.

Prediction: Connecticut over Notre Dame, championship game



KIRBY McKENNA/The Observer
Junior forward Natalie Novosel fights off a defender during Notre Dame's 70-69 loss to DePaul on Feb. 28.

No. 6 LOUISVILLE Cardinals

Record: (19-11, 10-6 Big East)

Regular season: The Cardinals faltered during the middle stretch of the season, but finished strong by winning five of its last seven games. Louisville also has the fourth-highest scoring offense in the conference, as it averages 64.5 points per game.

Against Notre Dame: Irish 80, Cardinals 60 (at Notre Dame)

How far they go: Second round exit against No. 3 Notre Dame

No. 3 NOTRE DAME Fighting Irish

Record: (24-6, 13-3 Big East)

Regular season: The Irish turned in another solid season under Irish coach Muffet McGraw. The development of senior Devereaux Peters into a force under the basket and the emergence of freshman forward Natalie Achonwa give the Irish much-needed size heading into the conference tournament.

How far they go: Fall in the title match to No. 1 Connecticut.



KIRBY McKENNA/The Observer
Sophomore guard Kaila Turner dribbles around a defender during Notre Dame's 71-49 win over Rutgers on Feb. 12.

No. 4 RUTGERS Scarlet Knights

Record: (18-11, 11-5 Big East)

Regular season: Rutgers surpassed expectations, earning a double-bye in the Big East championships and most likely a berth in the NCAA tournament. The Scarlet Knights have been successful because of their defense, as they only allow 53 points per game.

Against Notre Dame: Irish 71, Scarlet Knights 49 (at Notre Dame)

How far they go: Upset in the third round by No. 5 Marquette.

D's Tourney

I'm going to be the faithful optimist here and say that the Irish are angry enough to finally give Connecticut what it deserves — a much needed loss while Notre Dame finally proves once and for all their strength and skills as a team. The Irish were so close at home that, if they're at the top of our game and are ready to seek vengeance, they can finally pull through and get the win this team, especially its seniors, have been waiting for.

Although Maya Moore is an undeniable force and carries their team, she has to tire out sometime, right? And I think Notre Dame is the team to do it.

Prediction: Notre Dame over Connecticut, championship



Meaghan Veselik

Sports Writer

Moore to write final chapter of legacy

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

In the past 15 weeks, Maya Moore has been named Big East player of the week a record eight times.

In the past year, she has earned the Wade Trophy for player of the year, shared the Honda-Broderick cup that honors the best female college athlete, won an ESPY for best female college athlete, was named a consensus All-American and an Academic All-American, and played on Team USA in the 2010 FIBA World Championships.

In the past four years, Moore's awards and records are too numerous to list. But her career can be summed up like this: 143 wins in 146 total games, including three Big East championships and two national titles. The most prolific offensive player in Connecticut women's basketball history.

And more than any other Big East team, Notre Dame has been there to witness it happen.

If the Irish and Huskies both play their way into the finals of the Big East tournament this week, it will mark the eighth time that the two teams have played each other since Moore began her career.

After the latest of these matches, a game then-No. 2 Connecticut won 78-57 on Feb. 19, a reporter asked Irish coach Muffet McGraw if Moore is the best player she had ever seen.

"Oh yes," McGraw responded. "Easily the best player in the country."

Moore leads the conference in scoring with 23.4 points per game and is fifth in rebounding with 7.8 points per game. In her 146 career games, she has failed to score in double figures four times. There is not a 2011 statistical category in which she is not among the top 15 in the Big East.

On Feb. 19, McGraw said Moore played "like a human," with a stat line of 12 points, seven rebounds and seven assists.

In seven games against Notre Dame in her career, Moore has averaged nearly 18 points per game. As a freshman making her first trip to Notre Dame on Jan. 27, 2008, Moore scored Connecticut's first 15 points in an eventual 81-64 victory. As a senior, in her third and final appearance at the Purcell Pavilion, Moore scored 31 in Notre Dame's 79-76 loss on Jan 8.

Monday was Moore's senior night, and before No. 1 Connecticut clinched its reg-



DAN JACOBS/The Observer

Connecticut guard Maya Moore fights for the ball during Notre Dame's 79-76 loss to the Huskies on Jan. 8. Moore and Connecticut have beaten Notre Dame seven times since the 2007-2008 season.

ular-season Big East title with an 82-47 win over Syracuse, her jersey joined those of Connecticut greats Diana Taurasi, Sue Bird, Rebecca Lobo and Tina Charles in Connecticut's Ring of Honor.

It isn't her last time playing in Connecticut, though. The Big East tournament is held in Hartford, and the Huskies will most likely play at their own arena, the Gampel Pavilion in Storrs, for the first two rounds of the NCAA tournament.

When the Big East moved

to a 16-game conference schedule two years ago, the math worked out so that each team would have to face one other team twice. For the sake of competition and television ratings, among other factors, the Irish and Huskies were put together for two games a year.

For that reason, Notre Dame faced the Huskies three times in 2010, including a loss in the Big East semifinals. This year, the two could meet in the finals for their third game of the year.

After Monday's game,

Syracuse coach Quentin Hillsman predicted what would happen in Moore's fourth Big East tournament.

"During tournament play I think it comes down to who has the best player, and [Huskies coach] Geno [Auriemma] has the best player," he said. "When you get in to these tournament games there are going to be some close games and nobody is going to be able to stop Maya."

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Starting Five's



Brittany Mallory
Senior guard #22
6.9 points per game
1.9 rebounds per game
2.8 assists per game
2.1 steals per game



Becca Bruszewski
Senior forward #32
9.2 points per game
5.1 rebounds per game
1.5 assists per game
.456 field goal percentage



Skylar Diggins
Sophomore guard #4
14.1 points per game
4.0 rebounds per game
4.6 assists per game
1.9 steals per game



Natalie Novosel
Junior guard #21
15.0 points per game
4.0 rebounds per game
2.0 steals per game
.779 free throw percentage



Devereaux Peters
Senior forward #14
11.5 points per game
7.2 rebounds per game
1.6 blocks per game
.593 field goal percentage