

Students reflect on final football game

Irish lose to USC 49-14, finishing with a 7-5 regular season record

By **PAUL STEVENSON**
News Writer

In the final regular season game of the 2014 season, the Irish lost 49-14 in a game against USC on Saturday afternoon.

The game concluded Notre Dame's season, one that saw the University climb to No. 5 in the AP Poll after a perfect 6-0 start and fall out of the rankings after losing five of the next six games, finishing with a 7-5 overall record.

The Irish were well supported

in Los Angeles, as a strong Notre Dame contingent traveled to support the team, freshman Kelly Loughran said.

"The tailgating environment was a lot of fun at the game," Loughran said. "I was impressed by how well represented the Notre Dame fans were in Southern California."

Junior Lisa Wuertz said she was also impressed by the University's committed fans.

"One of my favorite parts of

see **GAME PAGE 5**



KEVIN SONG | The Observer

Quarterback Malik Zaire passes the ball during Notre Dame's 49-14 loss to USC on Saturday afternoon in Los Angeles.

Campus buildings lose power

By **LESLEY STEVENSON**
News Editor

Late Sunday night, a cluster of buildings concentrated on the south side of South Quad, including four dorms, lost power for around four hours, according to University spokesman Dennis Brown. Students confirmed Carroll Hall also lost power.

"At approximately 10:20 p.m. Sunday, a failed piece of cable led to a power outage in 11 buildings: St. Joseph Hall, Columba Hall, Holy Cross Annex, [the] Rockne [Memorial], Lyons, West Lake Hall, Fisher, Pangborn, Dillon, Alumni and a small portion of Fitzpatrick Engineering," Brown said. "The failed section of cable was isolated and service restored to the first three facilities by approximately 2 a.m. and the balance of facilities by approximately 2:20 a.m."

Brown said there was "no relation" between this power outage and other minor

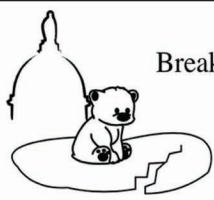
see **OUTAGE PAGE 5**

Week to examine campus dating culture

The GRC is hosting

Notre Dating

week



Break the ice.

December 1-December 4

Dec. 2, 6:30 p.m.

"LGBTQ Representation in the Media"
in the Oak Room

Dec. 2, 8:00 p.m.

"Beyond the Friendzone"
106 O'Shaughnessy
presented by Emmanuel Cannady

Dec. 3, 2:00 p.m.

"Active Ally Training"
in Gold Room
for Faculty, Staff and Graduate Students

Dec. 4, 5:30 p.m.

"LGBTQ Discussion Group: Home for the Holidays"
in the Gold Room

MARY MCGRAW | The Observer

By **RACHEL O'GRADY**
News Writer

The Gender Relations Center (GRC) intends to spend the first week of December redefining the dating culture at the University of Notre Dame through constructive conversation, social media campaigns and featured speakers.

"Notre Dating Week is a way to remind college kids that there's a fun place between the 'ring by spring' and casual hookup mentalities," junior

Annie Kuster said.

Kuster, an anthropology and international economics major, is one of the coordinators of this year's event, as well as a peer educator at the GRC.

"The GRC and FIRE Starters (GRC peer educators focused on Finding Identity, Relationships and Equality) want to debunk this myth that you have to already be boyfriend/girlfriend-dating to go on dates," she said. "A lot

see **NOTRE DATING PAGE 5**

SMC students to research homeless youth

By **KATHRYN MARSHALL**
News Writer

Seven Saint Mary's seniors in professor Frances Kominkiewicz's social work class will be assisting the Youth Service Bureau of St. Joseph County in its research concerning the best possible way to determine the number of homeless youths in the South Bend area. The students are seeking out and contacting agencies who can provide

information on youth, and in turn finding ways to better count homeless youth, Kominkiewicz said.

"If we are unable to effectively locate the homeless youth, we will be unable to determine their specific needs and then work at meeting those needs," Kominkiewicz said. "This research has great importance to the community as well as nationally by finding

see **RESEARCH PAGE 4**

ND alumnus Alex Coccia named Rhodes Scholar

By **ANN MARIE JAKUBOWSKI**
Editor-in-Chief

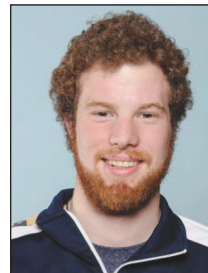
By the time he graduated in May 2014, Alex Coccia was one of the most recognizable people at Notre Dame.

He earned two monograms with the varsity fencing team, which won the 2011 NCAA title when he was a freshman.

He majored in Africana Studies and Peace Studies, conducted research in Rwanda,

served as a three-year FIRE starter peer educator in the Gender Relations Center and

Alex Coccia
Notre Dame class of 2014



founded the 4 to 5 Movement to educate and empower LGBTQ

allies on campus.

While serving as the 2013-14 student body president, he led the "One is Too Many" campaign against campus sexual assault, helped change admissions policies so undocumented students could attend Notre Dame and worked to improve the campus climate for LGBTQ students.

He earned a Truman-Albright

see **COCCIA PAGE 5**



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VIEWPOINT **PAGE 7**



SCENE **PAGE 8**



IRISH INSIDER

THE OBSERVER

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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 (574) 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY:

How many pounds of food did you consume over Thanksgiving break?

Have a question you want answered?

Email photo@ndsmcobserver.com



Ariel Navota
sophomore
Welsh Family Hall
“372.48.”



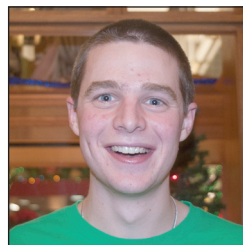
Elizabeth O'Toole
senior
Walsh Hall
“3.14159.”



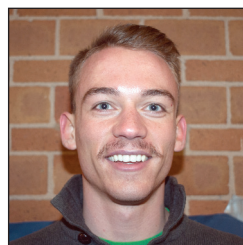
Hilary Johnson
senior
Lyons Hall
“Oh gosh, I don't even know.”



Julia Tombardi
sophomore
Welsh Family Hall
“I wanna say 10 or 11.”



Will Harris
junior
Segfried Hall
“372.5.”



Tom Wintering
graduate student
Keenan Hall
“(Pumpkin pi)^2.”



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Professor Michael Meyer and his wife, Teresa, have students over for Thanksgiving dinner on Thursday. While many students left campus for the brief holiday break, others remained on campus.

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

Want your event included here?

Email news@ndsmcobserver.com

Tuesday

Blood Drive

Rolfs Sports
Recreation Center
11 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Appointments are encouraged.

Hear From Families Who Sew “The Shirt”

Geddes Hall
7 p.m.
Free and open to the public.

Wednesday

Auditions: Cloud Tectonics

DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
6 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Sign up in FTT Department Office.

Men's Basketball

Joyce Center
7:15 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.
ND vs. Michigan State.

Thursday

SB Youth Symphony Orchestra

Morris Inn
4 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Holiday entertainment.

Interdenominational Fellowship (ISI)

Coleman - Morse Center
10 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.
Student worship.

Friday

Christmas Cooke Decorating

LaFortune Student Center
3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Practice your decorating skills.
ND Chorale
DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
8 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Featuring Handel's “Messiah.”

Saturday

Women's Basketball

Joyce Center
3:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
ND vs. Connecticut.

Men's Basketball

Joyce Center
8 p.m. - 10 p.m.
ND vs. Fairleigh Dickinson.

Panel explores changes in journalism

ByANN MARIE JAKUBOWSKI
Editor-in-Chief

Members of the advisory committee for Notre Dame's Gullivan Program in Journalism, Ethics and Democracy gathered Nov. 24 for a panel discussion about "traditional" versus digital news and how online publications are changing the face of journalism.

The event, titled "The New York Times vs. BuzzFeed: Can Traditional Journalism Compete with Digital News?," gathered six advisors and program director Robert Schmuhl, chair of the American Studies department. Panelists included Anne Thompson, chief environmental affairs correspondent for NBC News; Meg Martin, associate editor for mobile and breaking news at Minnesota Public Radio; Tom Bettag, producer for NBC News; Maddie Hanna, reporter for the Philadelphia Inquirer; Daniel Leduc, senior officer and editor for The Pew Charitable Trusts, and Robert Costa, national political reporter for The Washington Post.

Schmuhl began the discourse by asking whether the dynamic between the traditional news media and new digital outlets would be better described as competition or conflict.

Costa said the internet is an

equalizing force, but the traditional brand weight carried by established news outlets is an advantage.

"If you want to be creative with your coverage, you can do that from any platform, any organization," he said. "If it's quality, it will get read, and it will get noticed. The only thing the traditional media still has an edge up on is when it comes to traditional things – if the president wants to sit down with an organization, he's likely not going to sit down with BuzzFeed."

Bettag agreed and said "brand is everything."

"In this era when there are a hundred possible outlets, having a brand that stands for something [means] that I recognize that and I'll go there, out of all 280 of these channels and all the different options," he said. "Brand consciousness is the key to success."

"People identify themselves with certain ... media outlets, and these become loyalties that are so important for outlets looking for the young demographic. Once you say you're a committed viewer, you're going to carry that until you're 80 years old. If they can get you now, you will stay with that."

Martin said the idea of "traditional media" is misleading because of blending platforms.

"I do have trouble with the idea

of the traditional media because if the Washington Post is talking to the president, they're not just going to print that in the paper," she said. "They're going to put it on their website immediately. They might even live stream it. So is that television? ... Yes, it's a newsroom that has been around for awhile, a lot longer than an online organization, but I still have a little trouble with the [traditional media] construct."

Social media is another factor at play, and it can diminish brand power, Hanna said.

"Maybe there's some sort of brand loyalty, but there's also this egalitarian system where I happen to see a link that's being circulated on social media, so I'll visit the site," she said. "It's not really because it's from any particular news outlet, so I think that's the biggest way that the web levels the playing field."

Thompson said her biggest concern with BuzzFeed or other internet sites such as Gawker or the Huffington Post is that the information verification process might not be as meticulous as it is with a more traditional news organization.

"I don't know what [BuzzFeed's] oversight is, so as a consumer of news, I am wary of what I see or read from them," she said. "I know that if it's in The Washington Post

or The New York Times or The Wall Street Journal or any of the three broadcast networks or CNN, there is a vetting process it goes through to catch potential mistakes."

Leduc said he sees BuzzFeed and other digital-only outlets already moving to more "ambitious" coverage.

"BuzzFeed and a couple of other sites who are trying to increase their ambition, they're doing it by trying to do what traditional media does," he said. "BuzzFeed made a big deal of creating an investigative unit, and they hired someone experienced to run that unit."

Bettag said he believes the two extremes can coexist if the audience is willing to use each on its own terms.

"To some extent ... they're like apples and oranges," he said. "I think offering people two different things with different standards that promise people different things is perfectly fine. ... That's a business, and it's good business."

Thompson said she does not think network news will die, but rather that people will access it in different ways.

"Maybe instead of watching it on TV, you watch it on your iPhone. You watch it on your iPad," she said. "What's great for you is that journalism is not a dying industry, it is a growing industry."

"Technology is changing the way we access journalism, but people still need to know what's going on. They still need somebody to get out there and ask questions and investigate, and it will take different forms."

The panelists discussed their personal news consumption habits, ranging from radio broadcasts to Twitter to traditional newspapers. They agreed that Twitter is a valuable medium for both consuming and disseminating news.

"I read Twitter constantly; it's like my headline service," Thompson said.

"I also am a constant checker of Twitter," Hanna said.

"I use Twitter lists a lot," Martin said. "There's no way I could follow the billions of people I follow if I didn't organize them. I check my Minnesota list; I check my regular feed; I check my breaking news feed; I have a Catholic Church feed."

"Twitter is a great way to compete," Costa said. "It keeps people on edge. You don't want to be consumed by it, but you want to make sure you're engaged. ... Our editors at the Post are always telling us to share what you know, in an article or on Twitter, but show people that the Washington Post is on top of it."

Contact Ann Marie Jakubowski at ajakubol@nd.edu

Custodian dies in house fire

Observer Staff Report

Connie Morris, a member of the Student Activities Facilities custodial staff, died Nov. 28 in a house fire at the age of 58. An email sent Monday to Student Affairs staff notified them of the incident.

The fire started in the

garage of Morris' Elkhart home early Friday, according to the South Bend Tribune. Investigation into the cause is ongoing, but "early findings point to the fire being accidental in nature," the Tribune report stated.

Morris had worked for Notre Dame since 2008, the email said.

"Her dedicated and cheerful presence will be missed by students, staff, faculty and guests of LaFortune," Erin Hoffmann-Harding, vice president for student affairs, said in the email to her staff.

A celebration of life service will take place Dec. 2 at 6 p.m. at Walley-Mills-Zimmerman Funeral Home.

Law professor emeritus dies

Observer Staff Report

Robert E. Rhodes Jr., professor emeritus of legal ethics, died Nov. 25 at the age of 87, according to a University press release.

Rhodes arrived at the Notre Dame Law School in 1956 and

since continued "teaching and writing in the areas of administrative law, civil procedure, ethics, jurisprudence, law and theology, legal history and welfare legislation," the press release stated. He was also a member of the Catholic Commission on Intellectual and Cultural affairs.

"The many of us who loved him, loved him for his character as much as for his extensive and superb scholarship," Nell Jessup Newton, dean of the Notre Dame Law School, said in a statement. "Bob was an essential part of Notre Dame Law School for more than 50 years. Though he retired earlier this year, he remained as intellectually vigorous and engaged as ever, most recently working on final touches of a book manuscript."

Rhodes graduated from Brown University in 1947 and served in the U.S. Navy for two years before earning a law degree from Harvard, the press release stated. From 1952 to 1954, he worked at Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, followed by two years on the Rutgers School of Law faculty. During the summers, he served as a clerk for the New Jersey Supreme Court.

A wake took place at Kaniewski Funeral Home on Dec. 1 from 12 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. and was followed with a funeral Mass at 3:30 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

12/03

Eyes Wide Open: Germany's Bid for Mastery of Europe in 1914

KEIR LIEBER, Associate Professor, Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service and the Department of Government, Georgetown University

Wednesday, December 3 at 4:30 pm
Annenberg Auditorium, Snite Museum of Art

1914 ★ WORLD WAR I ★ 2014

LECTURE SERIES

Sponsored by the Nanovic Institute for European Studies

Presenting a series of lectures and films exploring "the War to End All Wars" on the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I.



ND community to celebrate Las Posadas

By **SELENA PONIO**
News Writer

The Notre Dame community will celebrate its Catholic tradition and Latin American ties by hosting Las Posadas from Dec. 2-4 at 9 p.m. The celebration, whose Spanish title translates to “lodging,” represents Mary and Joseph’s search for shelter before Jesus’ birth. This year, Las Posadas begins at The Grotto and ends in Keenan Hall, Farley Hall and the Coleman-Morse Center on each of the three respective nights.

Multiple student organizations on campus including Campus Ministry, Coro Primavera and the Latino Student Alliance worked

in tandem to plan and generate participation in this year’s Las Posadas, Farley Hall rector and Las Posadas organizer Elaine DeBassige said.

“To see the diverse ways of how we come together as a spiritual community is really important,” DeBassige said. “We also have to remember to be like Christ in the season of Advent and have our hearts and doors open to all those who need a place of shelter.”

She said the celebration brought back memories of her childhood in New Mexico.

“Back in my hometown, it ended at midnight mass in the church and took place in 11 other houses,” she said.

DeBassige said her mom volunteered her family’s house to be one of the destinations for Las Posadas in their small village every year.

DeBassige said she too helps designate the path Las Posadas celebrants will follow through the University’s campus. She said Keenan Hall was a logical host as Farley’s brother dorm.

“Last year the path from The Grotto to the two dorms worked really well,” DeBassige said. “What’s different this year is that we are ending at Campus Ministry.”

DeBassige said that, although she was not disappointed with last year’s turn out, she hopes an increase in club involvement will

translate to an increase in student attendance.

“Last year, there were a total of about 150 people over the three nights which was great,” DeBassige said. “It was more than what I thought.”

DeBassige said she anticipates a large turnout this year due to better publicity and relatively tamer weather.

“I think it’s a good way to represent Catholic traditions and culture in a way that involves a lot more people than just Latinos,” Juan Rangel, multicultural senior intern for Campus Ministry, said.

Members of the Notre Dame community will sing hymns, pray and eat food in order to celebrate

this journey.

“Prayer and music and reflection demonstrates the colorfulness of the culture,” Rangel said.

DeBassige said aside from prayers and songs of worship, Las Posadas incorporates a social element. The event provides opportunities to socialize over food and beverages served by the host location.

“My favorite part growing up was helping my mom make the food for the event,” DeBassige said. “It was a time to welcome people into your home ... and a time of hospitality.”

Contact Selena Ponio at sponio@nd.edu

Alumnus shares design career at Marvel

By **MATTHEW McKENNA**
News Writer

Ryan Meinerding, the Head of Visual Development at Marvel Studios and 1999 Notre Dame graduate, spoke Monday night in West Lake Hall about his career in design and his work on various movies including Iron Man 2, Captain America and The Avengers.

“I head up a team of artists that actually do all the character design for all of the marvel studios movies,” Meinerding said. “We also do key frame illustrations, which is going through the script and figuring out what the key moments are and how to visualize them. We illustrate and design things as early as possible in production so the director and producers

can understand what the movie is going to look like before it’s made.”

Meinerding said he dabbled in website and video game character design before working for Marvel Studios.

“I began trying to do animation style work, but I learned very quickly that across all of the companies that do animation: Pixar, DreamWorks, Sony, there are basically three guys that do all of the animation,” he said. “The jobs that are design jobs for the other people are designing all the doors or all the tables in the films and I decided pretty quickly I wasn’t going to do animation, which is sad because I really enjoy it.”

“That’s when I started to do more realistic work, like live action film design.”

Meinerding said he and his team focus on whatever story the filmmakers are trying to tell and align the spirit of the characters with the Marvel Universe.

“The visuals of the movie define the tone, however dramatic or comedic, and that’s the driving force for the storytelling,” he said. “Behind that, we aim to be true to the comics. Other comic book movies that are being done not by Marvel Studios aren’t always using that as the basis for their films, but at Marvel we try to be true to the story of the film and true to the source material.”

“We have a faith in the character and in the brand that’s been around forever,” he said. “Captain America has been around for over 70 years. We try to find what’s fantastic about that character and bring it to

life, as opposed to reinterpreting or changing it.”

One of the biggest challenges as a designer in the film industry is maintaining a sense of integrity and pride in your work, Meinerding said, while still putting out pieces at the demanding pace required by the industry.

“It’s very easy to get beaten down by deadlines and say I can’t do something good,” he said. “That’s a constant challenge with concept art because things have gotten to the point where people are just using photocopying and using pictures as their bases and not taking pride in their work, they just want to get something done that looks realistic.”

Meinerding said it can be challenging when his work is

not selected as the final design, but that he has learned to step back as a manager and realize that the design that is chosen will be quality.

“Our job is to present the best options that we are capable of preventing,” he said. “If I get to draw Captain America and it doesn’t get picked I’m still okay with that because I got to draw Captain America. It can get disheartening in some context like when politics are involved and they actively aren’t picking the best design, but because we’re in a place where I have hired a lot of people that I know are doing great stuff. If my stuff doesn’t get picked, I still know it’s going to be a good design.”

Contact Matthew McKenna at mmcken12@nd.edu

Research

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the best practices to locate homeless youth.”

Students conducted qualitative interviews to learn more about the methods of local and national agencies for counting homeless youth, what services had been provided to the youth and what legal procedures were part of the process, senior Meghan Thornton said.

“The individuals and organizations/agencies were selected because they are indirectly or directly in contact with the homeless youth around the nation,” Thornton said. “They are the experts in this field. They all have one goal in mind and that is ending the homeless youth population.”

Senior Kelly Key said she and her classmates are aware of the fallibility of these research methods. Other agencies have run into problems conducting similar surveys, including double counting, trying to locate the homeless youth, volunteer bias and the length of the survey, Key said.

Thornton said working in tandem with the Youth Service Bureau will help her and her classmates determine how to find

the best methods of research, as well benefit the growing homeless population in the surrounding community by raising awareness.

“Youth homelessness is a growing concern in the United States,” Thornton said. “... There are approximately 1.6-2 million homeless youth in the United States.”

Senior Kelly Crooks said she interviewed four of the 11 confidential informants and was responsible for writing literature reviews and researching lifestyles of homeless youth. The Saint Mary’s students also learned how to complete an IRB proposal and analyze data — valuable skills in the social work field, Crooks said.

“This process was extremely valuable for me,” Crooks said. “I think it prepared me well for what I will experience in graduate school.”

Research is one of the 10 competencies required for the social work major, Kominkiewicz said.

“We are teaching students social work research methods on a graduate basis since the research methods course can be used to meet graduate social work requirements,” Kominkiewicz said. “Students must be able to be producers and consumers of research. To most effectively

achieve this, students need to actually have an opportunity to conduct community-based research.”

As a former member of the research committee at the Youth Service Bureau, Kominkiewicz said she recognizes the significance community-based research has in higher education.

“The Youth Service Bureau of St. Joseph County has served as a Social Work field practicum site for many years with Shotunus Peterson serving as the field instructor,” she said. “Shotunus and the Youth Service Bureau have always worked with us, and have consistently been at the forefront of social work education.”

Key said the research began in November and its findings will be shared with the Youth Service Bureau of St. Joseph County in December.

“I hope that our research project will educate the South Bend community and that the community will become aware of this growing issue,” Key said. “I also hope that this will help promote Youth Service Bureau and all of their services that they provide for the community.”

“The more information we have on counting and serving homeless youth, the better Youth Service

Bureau will be able to serve them, thus bettering the community. We desire to publish this study to contribute to the greater research community, so more individuals

and organizations can utilize this information.”

Contact Kathryn Marshall at kmarsh02@saintmarys.edu

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

“The Message”

by Alex LaPerchia



A prophecy of nuclear World War III, if we do not repent of our sinfulness, based on the Holy Bible, the Word of God.

View “The Message” by Alex LaPerchia on YouTube.com

If you have any comments, contact Sally Rose:
sallyrose717@aol.com

Coccia

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Fellowship and currently works in the Department of Health and Human Services in Washington D.C., addressing issues from climate change to domestic violence prevention.

And, as of last weekend, he became Notre Dame's 15th Rhodes Scholar, the first since 2002.

"It's a big honor, and I'm very thankful," Coccia said. "I see it as a team effort, though, so I wish I could be celebrating with people on campus."

Coccia, a 2014 graduate, is one of 32 Rhodes Scholars from the U.S. this year and will begin studying at the University of Oxford in October 2015.

Coccia is one of 32 Rhodes Scholars from the U.S. this year and will begin a two-year Masters in Comparative Social Policy program at the University of Oxford in October.

Rhodes Scholarship

According to the Rhodes Trust website, 80 scholars from across the world are selected annually according to criteria outlined by the will of Cecil Rhodes. The scholarship provides funding for students to enroll in a program of their choice at the University of Oxford in England.

The website lists the four criteria from Rhodes' will as: "literary and scholastic attainments; energy to use one's talents to the full, as exemplified by fondness for and success in sports; truth, courage, devotion to duty, sympathy for and protection of the weak, kindness, unselfishness

and fellowship; moral force of character and instincts to lead, and to take an interest in one's fellow beings."

"What I proposed for my program of study as a Rhodes Scholar was that I really wanted to engage in social and economic policy with a framework of social inclusion," Coccia said. "I applied for Rhodes last year as well as this year, and both years have just felt like there was an immense team supporting me."

"I had faculty mentors who took time out of their schedules to prep me or write recommendation letters and my fellow students who helped me articulate what I wanted to do with the scholarship, so it feels like it's really been a team effort."

Formative time at Notre Dame

Coccia said his interest in social policy is "a natural trajectory" from his work at Notre Dame, which focused on inclusion in many forms.

"My academic experience in Africana Studies and Peace Studies helped me begin to ask the right questions that I could apply to my work in the [Progressive Student Alliance] or in student government," he said.

Nancy Joyce, a 2014 graduate and student body vice president for 2013-14, said she witnessed firsthand how Coccia embodies the Rhodes criteria.

"During the time that Alex and I worked together, it was always very clear to me that Alex was – and is – motivated by the stories and experiences of those

without a voice, and is willing to take up the fight for those individuals and groups," she said. "Whether working for the establishment of Notre Dame's first [Gay-Straight Alliance], for the healing of those affected by sexual violence, for the welcoming of undocumented students at Notre Dame or for the support of socioeconomically disadvantaged students on our campus, Alex has always been a champion of those who need one."

Ernesto Verdeja, director of undergraduate studies for the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies said he was "delighted, but not surprised" by the news.

"In his time here as a Peace Studies student at the Kroc Institute, he excelled in his studies and became a noted leader on campus," Verdeja said. "He has distinguished himself as a scholar and a leader, and I wish him all the best at Oxford."

Joyce said watching both of Coccia's Rhodes application processes makes her "genuinely thrilled and incredibly excited for him."

"Winning the Rhodes is such a well-deserved opportunity and will only serve to better enable Alex to continue championing the causes and people that most need his truth, courage, devotion, leadership and moral force of character," she said.

Plans for the future

Coccia said his work at the Department of Health and Human Services has given him broad exposure to public policy and shown him firsthand how

public social and economic policies are interwoven.

"It's easy to silo things, but it's taught me that a holistic framework for government is what's important in terms of addressing an agenda and what we owe to each other as human beings and citizens," he said. "I've been working on projects that are within my interest areas and that expand my interests."

The comparative social policy program at Oxford appeals to him because "it's a good balance between theory and the nuts and bolts of how to make policies work," Coccia said.

"Social inclusion as a policy framework is being discussed in the United Kingdom and France, and it's a stated part of the comparative social policy curriculum [at Oxford]," he said. "I've been interested in the theoretical foundations for policy and policymaking, and from what I've read, the comparative degree does a great job showing the implications of how we approach public policy and how it gets shaped."

The past few years have given him a "much greater clarity" for his future plans, Coccia said, and he hopes to get involved in public policy at some level in the future. Looking at public policy from a social inclusion perspective is productive because "it's a holistic and multidimensional account of the policy, and it takes into account all kinds of factors in terms of wellbeing and how policies influence each other," he said.

The leadership strategy he developed at Notre Dame will

continue to be part of his future approach, he said. As student body president, he developed a reputation for scheduling non-stop personal meetings with hundreds of students, faculty members and administrators as he worked to develop initiatives.

"I'll still try to meet with as many people as possible," he said with a laugh. "I will very much look forward to being a student again, but given my nature, I'll be wanting to be involved in other ways as much as possible too."

Fellowships at Notre Dame

At Notre Dame, students who apply for the Rhodes Scholarship or dozens of other national fellowships, including the Fulbright program and the Marshall/Mitchell scholarships, work with the Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement (CUSE).

"Alex did what we hope all students will do as undergraduates at Notre Dame," said Deb Rotman, director of CUSE. "He took his learning experience beyond the classroom and took full advantage of all the resources on campus to discern his path, cultivate his gifts and serve as a transformational leader."

Rotman said students interested in applying for the Rhodes Scholarship or any of the other national fellowships should visit fellows.nd.edu for preliminary information and contact CUSE for more details about the application process.

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Notre Dating

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of the week is just a focus on what it means to be in or start a healthy relationship of any degree."

Another FIRE starter and coordinator, senior Amanda Peña, said she is excited to see how students respond over the course of the week to the events, most of which focus on breaking the ice and moving beyond the so-called friend zone.

Editor's note: Peña is a Viewpoint columnist for the Observer.

"There seems to be a culture on campus where students feel there are only two options when it comes to relationships: super serious or some vague, undefined fling," Peña said. "This week, I think the GRC is hoping to open up the dialogue about the different levels of building relationships — from new friendships to getting students comfortable with the language of dating to entering and maintaining healthy relationships."

To supplement the week's events, the GRC will keep a blog all week proposing

some creative and primarily off-campus date ideas for prospective couples, junior Connor Hayes said.

"One of my favorite parts of the week is the date blog run by a few FIRE Starters at the GRC," Hayes said. "... Given that most students rarely think to go on dates off-campus, I think the blog could be a really unique resource for students."

Hayes said he joined the GRC as a FIRE Starter hoping to change the dialogue after noticing a general unwillingness to talk about gender and sexuality issues on campus.

"Notre Dating week, I think, helps create a dialogue on campus surrounding these issues, or at the very least encourages people to begin critically thinking about the relationship culture on campus," Hayes said.

Regina Gesicki, assistant director of Educational Initiatives at the GRC, said she is particularly excited to attend a talk on "the friend-zone" tonight at 8 p.m. in 106 O'Shaughnessy.

"This interactive talk presented by Emmanuel Cannady of the Gender Relations Center will provide

an opportunity to think about common personal and social barriers to dating that might exist at Notre Dame," Gesicki said. "Students who attend will have a chance to debunk well-worn myths and misconceptions about dating in general and specifically at ND."

"Yes, it's a challenge, and it can be awkward, but it's important to have authentic conversations about this topic if we're going to change the dating climate on our campus."

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Game

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

away games is seeing Notre Dame fans traveling from all over the country," Wuertz said. "I sat in the Notre Dame section. There were a ton of Irish fans."

In the face of the USC loss, ND fans left the game with mixed reactions.

"One positive is we have a month off to get ready for the bowl game and finally get healthy," sophomore Ryan Loughran said.

"The worst part was definitely the score, but enjoying one last Notre Dame game this year

made it completely worth it," Kelly Loughran said.

Ryan Loughran said with the close of the regular season, he was curious about the possible quarterback competition between sophomore Malik Zaire and senior Everett Golson.

"There needed to be some type of change to put a fire into this team," Ryan Loughran said. "I don't know who [Irish head coach Brian] Kelly will go with, but there definitely is a QB controversy."

Zaire took over the quarterback responsibilities from Golson during the second quarter of the game and ran for one of the Irish touchdowns.

In addition to the quarterback switch, Kelly also subbed in redshirt freshman Mike McGlinchey at offensive tackle for fifth-year senior Christian Lombard.

"We have a lot injuries, so it's hard to really judge where we will be next year," Wuertz said. "I thought Malik looked good and was a good change of pace."

In spite of the loss, the Irish were able to finish with a winning record for a seventh consecutive season.

"With young teams, bowl preparation can be very beneficial to the development of a team leading into the offseason," said Ryan Loughran.

After a series of disappointing losses, the Irish aim to end the year on a high note as they turn their attention to bowl game preparation.

Students say they are ready to move on.

"I'm indifferent about a bowl game," Wuertz said. "I sort of want to just start a new season and forget about the negatives from this one."

Currently, the Irish are predicted to play against the University of Tennessee in the Belk Bowl on December 30 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

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Outage

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

outages this semester or the nearly campus-wide blackout Feb. 27.

"Permanent repairs are forthcoming," he said. "... Once repairs are made, there likely will be a very short, scheduled outage at some point in the future to restore the system to its normal configuration. The timing for that will be communicated to building managers, rectors and others."

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INSIDE COLUMN

Love in print

Kayla Mullen
News Writer

By the time Holden Caulfield confided in me, “What really knocks me out is a book that, when you’re all done reading it, you wish the author that wrote it was a terrific friend of yours and you could call him up on the phone whenever you felt like it,” I was already in love with him. Forget movie stars; my celebrity crush was on an iconic literary character.

I mean, sure, he was a little mentally unstable, and OK, maybe he wasn’t real, but there was definitely a connection. That had to mean something, right? I know, I know, we couldn’t go on dates, and we couldn’t talk that much. Honestly, we couldn’t do anything at all. Being in a one-sided relationship takes a toll, but I soon discovered that by making up stories myself, it evened out a bit.

Unlike a normal boyfriend, I could take Holden anywhere. Movie dates? How basic. We were visiting Paris in the spring ... circa 1876. It was a blissful few months together, but — this being a teenage love — the relationship eventually came to an end. Holden was cute and all, but he was just so unhappy all the time. If I hear the word “phony” again in my life, it’ll be too soon. Creating my own character to fill the void seemed like a good idea. At least he’d be a little more emotionally sensitive. Thus, Jack, Chad, Henry and Max were all written into existence, each one more perfect than the next. But then I turned 15, and realized it was a little weird to be dating boys that existed only on paper.

I still fall in love with characters in books, over and over again each time I read a book, even for the second, 30th or 100th time. I still find a little piece of me inside every story I read that makes me ache when I finish the last sentence. But Holden Caulfield taught me that not every story has to end at the last period, that a story isn’t just what’s on the page and that the characters don’t disappear when the final chapter ends. They’re alive in every person who ever asked if Jake and Brett ended up together after all, if Winston lived the rest of his life under Big Brother, if Nick wound up living happily by himself.

I fall in love with books because they change every time you read them. A word triggers a feeling you hadn’t experienced the last time you read the book, and the whole meaning of the entire novel is altered. I love books because they’re new and comforting, familiar and consuming. I love books, chapters, sentences, words and the characters that are created by them. I may have moved on, but Holden Caulfield will always be my second love. After books.

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

It’s Christmas!

Kitty Baker
British Invasion

Yesterday, Dec. 1, marked the end of my three-week totalitarian reign over Christmas music. My roommate is now completely free to listen to as much Christmas music as she likes in my presence. I have protected the sanctity of Thanksgiving and am now quite happy to move on to snow and twinkling lights and the wreath hanging from our window for all of LaFun to see.

Music and I have had a sometimes problematic, but mostly loving, relationship. A frequent nickname given to me by my beloved family has been the Singing Nazi, a name stemming from my incessantly loud voice that would pick and choose arbitrarily what songs we would sing in any exceedingly long car ride. If all of my sisters would like to sing Meat Loaf and I was not in the mood for Meat Loaf, my loud dissenting voice would be heard in the back singing anything else (especially if it sounded very discordant). It used to drive my siblings up the proverbial wall (and sometimes literally over the back seats so they could throttle me and stop the madness), but now they have come up with quippy and witty responses in order to throw me off my normal reign of terror:

Me: singing various One Direction songs

Eliza: “Who sings that, Kitty?”

Me: “One Direction.”

Eliza: “Well, let’s keep it that way.”

Now, while my sisters have gained more control of the radio as they have been able to fight back against my desire for musical numbers and Disney classics, there is one area they have not been able to trump me in, and that is when Christmas music is played in the house. I don’t know whether it is out of respect for my weird appreciation for Thanksgiving, or if my parents actually find too much non-traditional Christmas music a bit grating, but the sounds of “Jingle Bells” and “White Christmas” are never heard anywhere near the vicinity of the house until Dec. 1.

It’s not that I don’t love Christmas. I do. But there is

something to be said for waiting until the actual first day of December that makes you appreciate it so much more. And Thanksgiving is not a holiday to be walked all over. It is a day on which you give thanks for what you have, eat a ridiculous amount of delicious food and watch two football games without your mother exclaiming that “the TV is the devil and it should be banned from the house.” Thanksgiving is a precious thing and shouldn’t be wasted.

When my sisters and I were little, Christmas music didn’t even come on the radio until December, and that was the only place you could listen to Christmas music. Now, with newfangled sites like Pandora and YouTube (sites that might have been out when I was a child, but I was unaware of the glorious Internet), you can have Christmas music at any time you’d like. A bit blue about the blistering heat that even copious amounts of air conditioning does not improve? Open up your Pandora page and listen to some Dean Martin to console you. Wish you could enjoy hot cocoa and baggy sweaters even though your seatbelt is burning into your skin? Listen to Bing Crosby crooning through your speakers.

In some ways, Christmas, being the beautiful, wonderful, enjoyable thing it is, has crept into everyday life. Now, there might even be a radio station in the car that is entirely devoted to Christmas (if anyone still listens to the radio in the car).

To be fair, I might be a little too Grinchy about this. But it’s not that I want to steal Christmas; I want to cherish it and make it special again. My reign as Caesar Kitty for the last few weeks of November also means my ears are not burdened with the unfortunate favorite, “The Christmas Shoes.” And for that, I shall be thankful for every Thanksgiving.

Kitty Baker is a PLS-FTT major, eldest of the Fabulous Baker Girls and proud resident of Cavanaugh Hall (go Chaos) who hails from New York City. She can be contacted at cbaker7@nd.edu

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



Submit a Letter to the Editor | Email obsviewpoint@gmail.com

How to not get sick

Erin Thomassen
The Examined Life

It’s the most wonderful time of the year for pre-schoolers, snowplows and that one person who actually looks good in red and green. It’s also the most wonderful time of the year for germs.

The last time I interviewed a batch of bacteria, they said they couldn’t imagine a better time of year than the holiday season. Everyone gives each other hugs and kisses (and germs). Aunts and uncles hop on planes to bring their nieces and nephews pie and presents (and germs). Washing hands? Ain’t nobody got time for that. There are cookies to be decorated with frosting and sprinkles (and germs).

By now, you may be worried about catching a cold in the near future. This is good. I am brain-washing you to start hand washing.

Now, my hypnotized victims, it is time for you to ask: Can you save yourself from the sniffles? The answer is — drumroll from A) the little drummer boy, B) 12 drummers drumming or C) the Notre Dame drumline — yes. Follow these reasonable rules, and you will never be mistaken for Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer again.

Rule 1) Bring your own bathroom (BYOB)

Bathrooms will make you sick. Repeat after me: public bathrooms are the enemy.

“But Erin!” you might say. “Sometimes I need to go to the bathroom and I cannot run or skip or seesaw home.”

This is an understandable plight. I have, on occasion, also had to use the restroom when I was out of my house. Yes, I do leave my house. Don’t make that face. You’re supposed to be hypnotized.

What I have come to realize, and what you will now come to believe until you come to your senses, is that you must bring your own bathroom if you are ever going to get through Thanksgiving

dinner without sneezing on the mashed potatoes. You convinced your family last year that you added pesto to the potatoes, but this year, you are in charge of the pie. You won’t be able to make up an excuse for boogery pumpkin pie.

But how can you bring your own bathroom? It’s simple. Put a Porta Potty in your backpack. It will fit. Remember: You are hypnotized.

Your own bathroom will be so much better than a public one. You can have embroidered hand towels instead of those weak hand-dryers. I’m sure there are other pluses. Insert them here.

Rule 2) Curse the sneezers

All those suckers who offer a “bless you” to sneezers are simply inviting the diseased to enter their personal bubble and infect them. Make it clear to those sickies that you want them to stay far, far away by responding to sneezes with a forceful “Curse you.” You may not have much experience with confrontation, so I invite you to practice, out loud, right now. Remember: you are hypnotized, and this is entertaining.

Rule 3) Eat the orange

See the orange. Peel the orange. Eat the orange. Preferably in that order. You could try to peel the orange without seeing it, or eating the orange without peeling it, but you might not enjoy the experience. Then again, you might get some great vitamins from that peel, so go ahead and eat the orange before peeling it. You have your own bathroom, after all.

Rule 4) Floss

I’m not sure why this will prevent you from getting a cold, but you should floss anyway. Personal hygiene for the win.

Rule 5) Smile

You should smile. It is the holiday season after all, and now that you’ve flossed, someone might

smile back at you. Imagine that.

Smiling makes you happier and healthier. I have not done any doctoral research on that subject (or on any subject), but you’re hypnotized, and I like to see smiles, so you should smile.

Rule 6) Learn to count past six

Mental exercise is important, as is physical exercise, so why don’t you learn to count past six while hula hooping? Don’t multi-task too much, though, for side effects include unnecessary stress.

In fact, trying to do too much at once will prevent you from learning well. It might also make you crash because distracted driving is the new drunk driving.

Rule 7) Like the Observer on Facebook

Rule 8) Delete your Facebook account. It’s poisonous.

Rule 9) Don’t actually delete it because then you won’t see when I annoyingly post this column.

Rule 10) There needs to be a 10th rule because having nine rules is awkward.

I kind of like awkward, though. Awkward could be good for your health. If I ever do perform doctoral research, it will be on the health benefits of awkwardness. More to come on that later.

Rule n) Follow these rules

Rule n+1) Do not follow these rules

Have a great break instead.

Erin Thomassen is a sophomore studying mechanical engineering. Send her comments or questions about her sanity at ethomass@nd.edu

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Overcoming hate: a response to SCOP

This is in response to the Nov. 19th viewpoint, “SCOP stands against hate,” written by Tiernan Kane and Tim Bradley.

As I write this, I am sitting at home, and by home, I do not mean my beautiful dorm in the basement of Sorin. I am in the state of Arizona at the house I grew up in, under the watchful eye of my parents.

I had to withdraw from the University for the rest of the year for mental health reasons, a decision that was probably the hardest of my life. That decision stands as an example of what SCOP really means, and in order to respond, let me tell you a little about myself.

I grew up in a small town in rural Arizona. As far as beliefs go, it’s about as conservative as you can get. Raised in a traditional Catholic family, I “knew” what was right and what was wrong. The idea of two guys together was revolting and caused God to shake his head, upset with His creation. Homosexual acts were obviously wrong, and I would debate to the death any person who dared say otherwise.

Then I went to a Steubenville conference in 2012. For those of you that don’t know, Steubenville hosts a Catholic retreat for high school students. It was on the second day during Adoration that I cried and accepted that God had said, “Let him be gay,” and so I was.

This didn’t really surprise me. I had started noticing I liked guys as far back as fourth grade. When puberty kicked in, I noticed that the guys I had grown up around suddenly didn’t want to be

around me, nor I around them. I was different, and I could tell that difference wasn’t good. This internal struggle led me to four years without a friend. From seventh through tenth grades, I was alone in the world because I felt different, but I didn’t quite know how. Don’t get me wrong, I was a sociable kid, but there was a wall between me and the rest of the people in my life.

It is only now that I realize that it was my sexuality that separated me. I was gay, and as I had so often said, God was not OK with gay.

These years of loneliness caused an insecurity in me that I was unloved and unloveable. It didn’t matter the friends I made. No matter how great of a friend they were, I was still unloved.

When I came to Notre Dame this year, my insecurity manifested in the most horrible of ways. I became suicidal. For two months, I spent everynday thinking I would be better off dead. I didn’t realize at the time, but these feelings were very closely linked to how I felt isolated because of my sexuality. On the worst day, the day of the UNC game, I left my room just so I could spend my last day outside. When the game was done, we went to SDH for the Candlelight Dinner. There was an incredible Reese’s cream pie, of which I had four slices. I thought, “Why not? This is the last thing I will ever eat.”

Thankfully, I was in just a good enough mood to tell a friend how I felt, and she sat with me for hours as I cried.

I would just like to note that turning suicide into a simple act of self-hate is both ignorant and hateful.

For me, suicide was agreeing with society that who I am is backwards and worthless. I could never live a life as fully as others, and the world would be better off were I not there to waste space.

That’s the problem with SCOP’s viewpoint: We can use words to make our arguments appear better, but we sometimes get lost in them. In these arguments, we forget about the human consequences of these arguments when or if they are carried out. It’s the stigmatization of being gay — that gay means different and that difference can never be rightly acted upon — that has caused me so many years of angst. It made me lonely; it made me hate living. If that isn’t hate, then I don’t know what is.

It’s important to recognize hate, but it’s just as necessary to realize that hate is losing its battle.

I’ll end with this: 30 states now recognize gay marriage, and the tally is only getting higher. Countries around the world are grappling with this issue, and debates like this make the fight that much more relevant. It is my sincere belief that everyone at Our Lady’s University is trying to live the best life they can. Let’s not get lost with words, but embrace these diverse viewpoints, “lov[ing] one another and together [let’s] build a less imperfect community of love” (“Same-sex couples to receive benefits,” Oct. 16).

Tyrel London
freshman
Sorin Hall
Nov. 20

TOP TEN SONGS OF 2014



BY MATT McMAHON

Scene Writer

It's December, and as we approach the end of the year, Scene wants to take a minute to reflect on all the great music that was released this year. Check out the Top 10 here and then head to our website to find the rest of the list.

1) "Interference Fits" — Perfect Pussy

The term "interference fit" refers to a fastening between two parts that is achieved by friction after the parts are pushed together, rather than by any other means of connection. "Interference Fits," then, is by far the most beautifully poetic name for a song in which lead singer Meredith Graves details her modern conception of marriage and monogamy. Graves envisions a life of uncompromising solitude for herself, yet all around her she sees her peers aging and compromising — in her eyes, giving up.

Her soul-baring performance and brutally personal lyricism spark imagery of burning wedding rings and messily fused relationships built on love's conventions. Dissonant guitars, fuzzy production and stumbling drums only heighten the already close similarities between bulldozers plowing orchids and love gruesomely manipulating Graves inside and out. This deeply intimate exhibition is not only stunningly written, but also confidently expressed with a conviction no other song reached this year.

2) "Wonderful Everyday: Arthur" — Chance The Rapper

Chancellor Bennett is an extremely gifted individual, equipped with the talent, wisdom, experience and understanding to influence and affect an entire generation to promote positivity. Synonymous with the "Outstanding Youth of the Year" award the city of Chicago presented to the 21-year-old in November, Chance handles his popularity hand-in-hand with his anti-violence, peace-for-all activism.

Ingeniously, he repurposed a ubiquitously recognized theme song from a similarly toned children's show for his generation to virally instigate his message. The song is naturally strong lyrically, but with help from his Chicago #SaveMoney cohorts and stars like Wyclef Jean, it flourishes sonically.

The lushness of the production, the epicness of the song's booming second half and the outward giddiness of each contributing singer make the song incredibly important for the present time.

3) "Man Of The Year" — ScHoolboy Q

ScHoolboy Q has precognition. In "Man Of The Year," the California rapper predicted exactly what he'd be doing once his debut major label album blew up. The entire song is laden with every euphemism and entendre for a year's worth of partying.

Yet, with the Chromatics' chilly, ominous sample riding out the duration of the song, some of Q's phrases take

on an air of cinematic finality, like this one is the climax in a long line of blowouts.

Yeah, Schoolboy Q may be the man of the year, but what happens after?

His awareness is never more present than in the penultimate line: "This verse straight from the morgue." Coupled with the haunt of an added layer to the "Cherry" sample about 3-minutes in, "Man Of The Year" is way more complex than the club in which you first heard it.

4) "Prince Johnny" — St. Vincent

Annie Clark is the queen of pop — on this planet, and surely on whichever planet her otherworldly persona St. Vincent hails from.

With the boundary-pushing "Prince Johnny," she produced one of the most intelligent, sexy and, somehow, human songs of her career, all while maintaining it as chiefly pop in orientation. Over an alternately quick, crunching verse guitar clutch and swaggering, strutting choral guitar riff, Clark details the dangers of sociopathic tendencies involved with a mutually self-destructive relationship.

Her inflection at the end of the line "And bragged of when and where and who you gonna bed next" communicates such a delicate, complex range of emotions, lilted to show concern, but pronouncing "next" as if each letter is its own syllable in a remarkably sensual manner. Other phrases end in similar hyper-emotive form, signifying St. Vincent's deft command and control over her art.

5) "Two Weeks" — FKA twigs

FKA twigs represents the future of pop music. "Two Weeks" features a magnificent blend of pop, electronics and the new R&B that has been hinted at on the radio, but FKA twigs is about two dial clicks ahead of any other artist.

She's more advanced instrumentally, vocally and content-wise. Her wispy, sexual delivery reminds one of a stronger Britney Spears, but her unabashed poise positioned on a track as huge as "Two Weeks" transcends typical pop star performances.

6) "Mr Noah" — Panda Bear

When Animal Collective's co-founding member Avey Tare established the side project Avery Tare's Slasher Flicks, his intention was to create an album celebrating his love for horror movies with a campy, carnival-after-dark tone through the kaleidoscopic lens of his experimental indie pop.

But it's the other Animal Collective founder Panda Bear's 2014 release that — whether intentionally or not — hits all the beats Tare set out to cover and raises the "Ring the Bell" strongman game bar to its maximum. Panda Bear's warped mirror-maze soundtracking synth and merry-go-round harmonies hit as immediately as they enter "Mr Noah," scoring one of the year's, and Panda Bear's, most abrasively catchy pop songs.

7) "Blue Suede" — Vince Staples

It's hard enough living in the projects dealing with police and racism, but Vince Staples' depiction of the all-too-present in-violence between youth over material as seemingly trivial as new Jordans speaks to a different, deeper concern.

Relevant as ever, "Blue Suede" pushes a sentiment raised over and over again toward a new demographic. Yeezus-like production in the form of a wincing, there-min-esque sample stretches the song from EDM to hip-hop and contextualizes it with a roughness necessary for the unnerving subject material.

8) "Today More Than Any Other Day" — Ought

"Today More Than Any Other Day" may not be the loudest, sharpest or strongest track on Ought's debut "More Than Any Other Day"; however, it is the most emblematic of the post-punk quartet's aesthetic.

The song has an extended, crescendoing intro, brazen wit, a simultaneously skeptical and uplifting message and lead singer Tim Beeler's spastic, passionate mood swings.

When Beeler states, "I am prepared to make a decision between 2% and whole milk," grocery shopping has never seemed so immediate and necessary.

9) "Queen" — Perfume Genius

"Queen" is an anthem for anyone in the margins. It's an affront to the status quo that assaults with a piercing, staccato keyboard line found in classic glam rock and distorted to fit today's more industrious standards.

Even more arresting, though, is the commanding presence of the maker of "Queen," Perfume Genius. "No family is safe when I sashay," he struts on the chorus, warning anyone who may get in his way before he woofs and bucks in their direction.

His voice might break momentarily on "safe," but it's not in fear for himself. No, in that moment he surely is thinking about what would happen to this family should they interfere with him.

10) "Bored In The USA" — Father John Misty

Father John Misty's performance of "Bored In The USA" on The Late Show With David Letterman may have been the funniest thing seen on the program in years. The disenchantment with the American Dream so central to Joshua Tillman's constructed persona Father John Misty has never been more realized than on this track. Misty is a product of middle-class America.

He's got a useless education, a craftsman home and prescriptions that help him "kind of deal" even though they make it so he can't get off. In many more and much more articulate words he asks, "What else?" of this, continuing to make detached music in search for a better meaning.

Check out the analysis of the next 40 songs in the Top 50 Songs of 2014 list online at ndsmcobserver.com and listen to the playlist on Spotify.

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IRISH INSIDER

USC 49, NOTRE DAME 14 | **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2014** | NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

Coliseum catastrophe

USC shreds Notre Dame, 49-14, at L.A. Coliseum to drop Irish to 7-5 after fourth loss in a row

Irish entered the ring unprepared, undermanned



Isaac Lorton
Assistant Managing Editor

LOS ANGELES — In the 2001 film “Gladiator,” there is a scene where one of the fighters is so terrified to enter the arena, he wets himself in the tunnel. Once he moves inside the ring, he has no idea to what to do and is struck down immediately.

This character was Notre Dame in its 49-14 loss to USC at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum on Saturday.

The Irish looked timid, played timid and, in the end, the results showed such timidity.

In just over a six minute-stretch toward the end of first quarter, the Trojans offense crushed any hope left in the Irish defense with a 21-0 scoring fest. USC redshirt junior Cody Kessler picked apart the Irish secondary, throwing seemingly uncontested touchdowns to receivers George Farmer and Adoree’ Jackson.

In little more than three quarters, Kessler went 32-for-40 for 372 yards and six touchdowns. Luckily for Notre Dame, Kessler was pulled and Trojans head coach Steve Sarkisian took it easy on the beaten-down Irish defense by running the ball for the entirety of the fourth quarter.

Notre Dame, like the nameless gladiator mentioned above, was inexperienced and it showed. The defense was a patchwork of a patchwork.

With injuries to defensive leaders senior linebacker Joe Schmidt and junior defensive lineman Sheldon Day, graduate student cornerback Cody Riggs, junior defensive lineman Jarron Jones and freshman safety Drue Tranquill, the Irish knew it was going to be an “uphill” battle coming into the game, Irish head coach Brian Kelly said. To add injury to injury, graduate student safety Austin Collinsworth went down early, re-separating his shoulder, sophomore safety Max Redfield exited with a broken rib, freshman linebacker Greer Martini limped off with a quad injury, freshman defensive lineman Jay Hayes left with an ankle injury and sophomore defensive lineman Jacob Matuska was hobbled by a stinger

see DOMINATED **PAGE 3**



KEVIN SONG | The Observer

USC receiver Nelson Agholor rolls past Irish sophomore linebacker Jaylon Smith toward the end zone during USC's 49-14 win over Notre Dame on Saturday at the Los Angeles Coliseum.

By ISAAC LORTON
Assistant Managing Editor

LOS ANGELES — In the 86th meeting between Notre Dame and Southern California, USC struck first and kept on hammering the bruised and beaten Irish, leading USC to a 49-14 victory Saturday afternoon at the Los Angeles Coliseum.

The beatdown saw sophomore quarterback Malik Zaire’s first career completion and touchdown after senior quarterback Everett Golson was pulled from the game and five more injuries to an already-depleted defense.

“We got punched in the nose

today,” Irish head coach Brian Kelly said. “You want to see a response too. They’re young, but I want to see some bite too. For the bowl preparation, we’re going to have to see a response. All jobs are available, and we are going to have to see something from this group.”

Trojans redshirt junior quarterback Cody Kessler exited the game two minutes into the fourth quarter with a 49-14 lead, allowing the USC running game to close it out. Kessler went 32-for-40 against the Irish defense, throwing for 372 yards and six touchdowns — the most passing touchdowns Notre Dame (7-5) has

ever given up to an opposing quarterback in a single game. The Trojans (8-4) had a strong run game also, going for 225 yards and one score.

“Today we got our butts beat badly,” Kelly said. “It wasn’t as close as the score, but [Trojans head coach Steve Sarkisian] was very generous running the football to keep the score where it was.”

USC’s offense got started midway through the first quarter, as Kessler connected on a 48-yard touchdown pass to redshirt sophomore receiver George Farmer, who got

see LOSS **PAGE 2**

Zaire brings spark to offense, makes case for QB job

By BRIAN HARTNETT
Managing Editor

LOS ANGELES — Notre Dame sophomore quarterback Malik Zaire’s season began with a 56-yard run on his first collegiate play from scrimmage against Rice on Aug. 30.

It involved the Kettering, Ohio, native watching from the sidelines, even as senior quarterback Everett Golson recorded 22 turnovers.

It included a mid-November insertion into the holder position, one he had never played in his football career.

And in Saturday’s regular season finale against USC, it featured Zaire taking over in the second quarter and providing something different to a then-scoreless Notre Dame offense.

“Everything in life is about getting the opportunity,” Zaire said after Notre Dame’s 49-14 loss to USC on Saturday. “When the opportunity came, I didn’t even look at a make it or break it point. It was more of a chance for me to go out there and help the team win the football game.”

Zaire entered Saturday’s game after USC extended its lead to 35-0, taking advantage of a Golson fumble, his second turnover of the game.

Zaire said his main goal upon taking the field was to bring some energy to a Notre Dame offense that had not moved past the USC 47-yard line up to that point in the game.

“We came too far as a team to have a lack of energy,” he said. “The only thing on my mind was how to spark the team up. We had to make plays, and that’s something that was my mindset going in.”

Senior offensive lineman Nick Martin said Zaire wasn’t afraid to challenge his teammates early.

“Malik came up and goes, ‘Let’s go,’” Martin said. “We go, ‘Hey, we have faith in you, and let’s just get out there and do our job.’”

Sophomore receiver Will Fuller, who said he was “pretty surprised” at the quarterback change, added that Zaire’s presence was noticed as soon as he

see ZAIRE **PAGE 3**

PLAYER OF THE GAME

CODY KESSLER

TROJANS REDSHIRT JUNIOR QUARTERBACK

Kessler has been one of the most underrated quarterbacks in the country this year, and he showed why Saturday, throwing for 372 yards and becoming the first quarterback to throw six touchdowns in a single game against the Irish.

QUOTE OF THE GAME

“They got punched in the nose today.”

Irish head coach Brian Kelly on the 49-14 defeat his team suffered Saturday against USC. The Trojans scored the first five touchdowns of the game and recorded 577 total yards against the Irish defense to cap off a 7-5 regular season for Notre Dame.

REPORT CARD

D

QUARTERBACKS

Everett Golson looked a lot worse in game 12 than he did in game one or nearly any other game this season, as he locked onto receivers and missed wide-open targets. Malik Zaire provided a bit of a spark to the Irish in the second half but still had a sub-50 percent completion percentage.

B-

RUNNING BACKS

Notre Dame's running backs should almost get an incomplete grade, as they received few carries before the game got out of hand. Greg Bryant showed some flashes of power and speed in his most extended stretch of playing time this season.

D

RECEIVERS

While Notre Dame's quarterbacks struggled to find their receivers, the receivers didn't do them any favors. Corey Robinson had a pass go right through his hands for an interception, and Irish receivers dropped at least three passes from Zaire.

F

OFFENSIVE LINE

The offensive line continued its struggles against an aggressive Trojans defense, yielding four sacks and forcing Golson to move about the pocket. Golson's second turnover, ruled a fumble, came after a USC defender hit him from behind.

C+

DEFENSIVE LINE

The defensive line stood up better to USC's rushing attack than it had against other running games over the second half of the season. But the Irish still failed to get consistent pressure on Kessler, who often had ample time to find his receivers.

D

LINEBACKERS

Notre Dame's linebackers struggled both to contain receivers on underneath routes and stop running backs in the second level. Jaylon Smith and Nyles Morgan, who only played the second half, combined for 25 tackles, though several of them came at the end of long gains.

F

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Injuries to Cody Riggs, Austin Collinworth and Max Redfield did the Irish no favors, but USC's talented cast of pass-catchers repeatedly outmuscled and outran the Notre Dame secondary. Kessler particularly targeted the sophomore duo of Cole Luke and Devin Butler.

D

SPECIAL TEAMS

The good news is that there were no holding issues that cost the Irish the game this week. The bad news is that Kyle Brindza missed a field goal and struggled with punting the ball, and Notre Dame's kick return unit had a hard time reaching the touchback line.

F

COACHING

It is no secret that the Irish are injured and undermanned at this point of the season. But that doesn't excuse the team looking completely unprepared to face a USC team still shorthanded by sanctions and also 7-4 entering Saturday's game. Even Brian Kelly admitted this one was closer than it could have been — Steve Sarkisian's team could have put up 70 points.

OVERALL GPA: 1.00 (D)

Notre Dame played one of its worst games in recent memory, coming out flat and looking uninspired against its biggest rival. The Irish looked disjointed on offense, defeated on defense and incompetent on special teams. Outside of maybe the first three possessions, they were never in the game and could have lost by an even larger margin.

PLAY OF THE GAME

CODY KESSLER'S 48-YARD TOUCHDOWN PASS TO GEORGE FARMER

After Notre Dame stopped USC on its first offensive possession, Kessler threw a 48-yard touchdown strike to Farmer with 6:50 left in the first quarter. From there, the floodgates opened, as USC racked up 21 points before the end of the quarter and effectively left Notre Dame in the dust.



KEVIN SONG | The Observer

Irish sophomore running back Greg Bryant lunges for the goal line during Notre Dame's 49-14 loss to USC on Saturday at the Los Angeles Coliseum.

Loss

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

behind the Irish secondary after beating sophomore cornerback Cole Luke.

"We loaded up against the run — man coverage all day," Kelly said. "We knew it was pick your poison today, and we don't have a lot of answers in that situation."

With the ball on Notre Dame's 16-yard line on their next drive, Trojans freshman receiver Adoree' Jackson came out of the backfield unnoticed past Irish freshman linebacker Greer Martini and caught a pass from Kessler for an uncontested touchdown. The Trojans stretched their lead to 14-0 with 3:36 left in the first quarter.

USC got the ball back and, within five plays, scored again to make the lead 21-0. Kessler hit Farmer, who beat Irish sophomore cornerback Devin Butler for a 31-yard touchdown.

The Irish cornerbacks were put under a lot of pressure to play precisely in man-to-man coverage, making it tough for them to stop the barrage of USC skill players, Luke said.

"[The Trojans] are good all around," Luke said. "They have a lot of depth and great pass receivers."

"When you have one-on-one matchups, it's really all technique. ... Besides that, I really didn't think we could do anything better. Just play our game."

The Irish finally entered into USC territory with 12:30 left on the clock in the second quarter.

After two incompletions, Golson's pass went through sophomore receiver Corey Robinson's hands and into the waiting arms of Trojans redshirt senior safety Gerald Bowman.

In only six more plays, the Trojans went up 28-0, as Kessler connected with sophomore receiver Darreus Rogers for the six-yard touchdown with 10:51 left in the first half.

Notre Dame soon got inside Trojans territory for the second time on the day, but the Irish were soon knocked out of it. Golson was hit by senior linebacker J.R. Tavai as he went back to pass and the ball popped into the hands of Trojans redshirt senior linebacker Hayes Pullard. Golson was benched and did not return to the game. He finished 7-for-18 with 75 passing yards on the day.

Golson's fumble was his second turnover of the day and his 22nd on the season. The Irish offensive line gave up four sacks. Senior offensive lineman and captain Nick Martin said a lot of the offensive struggles began in the trenches.

"We've got one play, one man to block on the offensive line, we didn't do enough up front, and that's what it came down to," Martin said.

USC kept rolling to a 35-0 lead with a 14-yard pass from Kessler to junior receiver Nelson Agholor, who notched 12 receptions for 120 yards.

Kelly said the lopsided defeat was due to lack of depth on defense and a lack of execution on offense.

"You know, they're playing

as hard as they can, there's just a deficiency there personnel wise on the defensive side of the ball." Kelly said. "We made too many mistakes on the offensive side of the ball — uncharacteristic mistakes."

The Irish flashed some momentary signs of life when Zaire and sophomore offensive lineman Mike McGlinchey came into the game with 5:09 remaining in the first half. Sophomore running back Greg Bryant rushed for four yards, Zaire completed a 49-yard pass to junior receiver Chris Brown and then ran for an 11-yard touchdown to finally put the Irish on the board.

Kelly said that the youth of Notre Dame's defense showed Saturday.

"We knew we were short-handed," Kelly said. "We've lost a lot of players on defense these last five weeks. It's been a very difficult run for us. Key players on defense. Having to play so many young players on defense. We just haven't been able to stop anybody. It's been a difficult run for us. So, we knew we that it was going to be an uphill run."

Kelly said the Irish should use this loss to get back to where they feel they belong.

"We can't forget to lose sight of today," Kelly said. "We have to remember where we are after today's loss. It's a red-letter day for our football players and our coaches alike. Two years ago, we were playing for a national championship."

Contact Isaac Lorton at ilorton@nd.edu

Kessler tosses six TDs

By BRIAN HARTNETT
Managing Editor

LOS ANGELES — The six touchdown passes thrown by Trojans redshirt junior quarterback Cody Kessler mark the most ever thrown against Notre Dame by an opponent in a single game. Former USC quarterback Matt Leinart and former Pitt quarterback Tyler Palko held the previous record of five touchdown passes, which both came in 2004. . USC's

35 first downs also mark the most ever gained against Notre Dame in a single game, eclipsing the previous high of 34 by Stanford in 1997.

Kessler also set a career high with 32 completions and tied the USC record for most touchdown passes in a half with five touchdowns in the first half.

Injury Report

An already-shorthanded Notre Dame defense suffered further

losses Saturday, as several players left the game with injuries.

In the secondary, sophomore safety Max Redfield suffered a broken rib, and graduate student safety Austin Collinworth suffered another separated shoulder, Irish coach Brian Kelly said.

In the trenches, freshman defensive lineman Jay Hayes left the game with a high ankle sprain, and sophomore defensive

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KEVIN SONG | The Observer

Irish sophomore quarterback Malik Zaire throws to the right during Notre Dame's 49-14 loss to USC on Saturday at the Los Angeles Coliseum.

Zaire

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

entered the game.

“He came in with some energy to help the team,” Fuller said.

Zaire’s first pass, his first collegiate attempt, was a 49-yard completion to junior receiver Chris Brown. On the next play, Zaire ran it in from 11 yards out for his first rushing touchdown on the season.

Zaire said the in-game situations forced him to quickly get into a competitive mindset.

“In the game, guys are actually hitting me,” he said. “In practice, it’s kind of like, you get tapped ... I think the realness of being in the game definitely sparks me up because it has to, because nobody likes to get hit all the time.”

Zaire finished 9-for-20 with 170 passing yards and also gained a net total of 18 yards on six carries on the ground.

He threw for 26 yards and ran for five more on Notre Dame’s nine-play, 75-yard scoring drive that concluded with a rushing touchdown from sophomore running back Greg Bryant. Zaire also added 47 yards passing on the last drive of the first-half, which concluded with a missed 44-yard field goal by senior kicker Kyle Brindza.

“We tried to get a spark offensively, and Malik gave us that spark,” Irish head coach Brian Kelly said. “We had a couple of drops on one drive and missed a field goal [while Zaire was in the game]. ... He made some mistakes, which is to be anticipated on it being his first time.”

Going forward, Zaire’s season may have one final chapter, as Kelly said he didn’t have an answer as to whether there will be a quarterback change for the team’s bowl game.

Zaire’s relationship with Golson has been collaborative and that it is unlikely to change, he said, regardless of which player earns the starting nod for the team’s final game of the season.

“It’s never a ‘me-versus-him’ type of thing ... this quarterback group, we are the ‘Red Army,’ and we do what we need to do to support each other because honestly, it’s about the team, it’s about getting victories,” Zaire said.

Contact Brian Hartnett at bhartnet@nd.edu

Dominated

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in his shoulder.

Notre Dame had almost no options left at defense. It is no wonder USC put up 577 yards and 49 points.

Yet, like the nameless gladiator, the Irish had a sword: their offense. But they didn’t even use it. Whether it was out of fear or apathy, Notre Dame’s offense looked like it had no idea what to do.

In the first quarter when USC amassed 209 yards and three scores, the Irish were still trying to get into Trojans territory. The Irish only were able to move the ball 35 yards in the first stanza, and they did not get out of their half of the field until the second quarter. Senior quarterback Everett Golson went 7-for-18 for

75 yards and one interception before being replaced by Malik Zaire. Yet Zaire was not much better, as the sophomore went 9-for-20 for 170 yards.

Although he has been riddled by turnovers this season, at least one of Golson’s two turnovers was not his fault. Golson hit sophomore receiver Corey Robinson downfield with a strike, but the ball went straight through Robinson’s hands and into the arms of a Trojans defender. When Golson coughed up the ball the second time, he was hit hard from behind. The Irish offensive line gave up three sacks in the first 20 minutes.

Kelly, who had praised the Irish receivers earlier in the week said he was “disappointed” in their performance. The only silver lining in the offense was sophomore running back Greg

Bryant, who appeared to actually care about the season finale.

With five of its last six games resulting in losses, all signs point to something being wrong with this year’s Notre Dame team. If Kelly wants to continue to point to the team’s injuries and inexperience, it might be better if the Irish sat out the bowl game to heal up and began to prepare for next season because the injuries and inexperience are only causing more players got hurt. As it looks like the Irish sat out Saturday’s game, it should be no problem for them to sit out the bowl season.

Contact Brian Hartnett at bhartnet@nd.edu

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

Notes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

lineman Jacob Matuska exited the game with a shoulder injury, per Kelly.

Freshmen linebackers Nyles Morgan and Greer Martini both left the game at various points, though Morgan later returned. Martini suffered a quadriceps injury, according to Kelly.

Graduate student cornerback Cody Riggs did not play Saturday, out with a nagging ankle injury. Kelly said in his weekly Tuesday press conference that

he expected Riggs to be available for around 30 plays against the Trojans.

Miscellaneous

Notre Dame sophomore receiver Will Fuller passed the 1,000-yard receiving mark for the season with a 26-yard reception in the second quarter. Fuller is the eighth player in Notre Dame history to record more than 1,000 yards receiving in a single season.



Irish sophomore runningback Greg Bryant set a career high with 79 rushing yards against USC, besting his previous high

of 71 against Rice on Aug. 30. Bryant’s 27-yard run in the third quarter eclipsed his previous career high, also set against Rice.

Matuska made his first career start Saturday, becoming the 19th different player to start on defense for Notre Dame this season. A trio of sophomores — defensive lineman Isaac Rochell, linebacker Jaylon Smith and cornerback Cole Luke — are the only players that have started all 12 games on defense for the Irish this season.

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SCORING SUMMARY

	1 ST	2 ND	3 RD	4 TH	TOTAL
	0	7	7	0	14
	21	14	14	0	49

1

USC 7, NOTRE DAME 0

George Farmer 48-yard pass from Kessler (Heidari kick)

 **6:50** *remaining*

Drive: Five plays, 80 yards, 1:38 elapsed

USC 14, NOTRE DAME 0

Adoree' Jackson 16-yard pass from Kessler (Heidari kick)

 **3:36** *remaining*

Drive: Seven plays, 51 yards, 2:01 elapsed

USC 21, NOTRE DAME 0

George Farmer 31-yard pass from Kessler (Heidari kick)

 **0:43** *remaining*

Drive: Five plays, 55 yards, 1:25 elapsed

2

USC 28, NOTRE DAME 0

Darreus Rogers 6-yard pass from Kessler (Heidari kick)

 **10:51** *remaining*

Drive: Six plays, 51 yards, 1:26 elapsed

USC 35, NOTRE DAME 0

Nelson Agholor 14-yard pass from Kessler (Heidari kick)

 **5:15** *remaining*

Drive: Seven plays, 51 yards, 2:58 elapsed

USC 35, NOTRE DAME 7

Malik Zaire 11-yard run (Brindza kick)

 **4:11** *remaining*

Drive: Three plays, 64 yards, 0:58 elapsed

3

USC 42, NOTRE DAME 7

Randall Telfer nine-yard pass from Kessler (Heidari kick)

 **11:19** *remaining*

Drive: 11 plays, 75 yards, 3:41 elapsed

USC 49, NOTRE DAME 7

Justin Davis 16-yard run (Heidari kick)

 **6:02** *remaining*

Drive: 11 plays, 70 yards, 3:58 elapsed

USC 49, NOTRE DAME 14

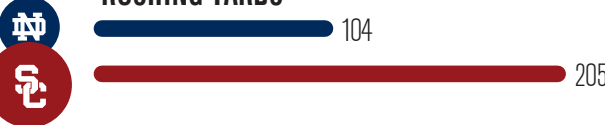
Greg Bryant one-yard run (Brindza kick)

 **2:48** *remaining*

Drive: Nine plays, 75 yards, 3:14 elapsed

STATISTICS

RUSHING YARDS



PASSING YARDS



PASSING

Zaire	9-20-170	Kessler	32-40-372
Golson	7-18-75		

RUSHING

Bryant	7-79	Allen	19-93
Folston	4-14	Davis	19-81

RECEIVING

Fuller	5-75	Agholor	12-120
Brown	2-53	Farmer	4-85
Prosise	2-45	Smith	5-48

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KEVIN SONG | The Observer

Irish sophomore receiver Corey Robinson tries to break free from the USC defense during Notre Dame's 49-14 loss to the Trojans on Saturday at the Los Angeles Coliseum. USC stormed to a 35-7 halftime lead, and Notre Dame never recovered. The Irish are now 7-5 and have lost five of their last six.

SOUTHERN CAL SMACKDOWN

In a rivalry game in enemy territory, Notre Dame was dealt the decisive blow in its overall knockout defeat to end the regular season. USC topped the Irish, 49-14, on Saturday at the Los Angeles Coliseum, handing Notre Dame its fourth consecutive loss and its fifth in the last six games. While Cody Kessler tossed six touchdown passes, Malik Zaire replaced Everett Golson. The Irish dropped to 7-5.



KEVIN SONG | The Observer

Irish sophomore Greg Bryant cuts upfield Saturday. Bryant notched a career-high 79 rushing yards.



KEVIN SONG | The Observer

Irish junior receiver C.J. Prosise tallied two receptions for 45 yards Saturday.



KEVIN SONG | The Observer

Irish senior safety Eilar Hardy attempts to bring down Trojans receiver Nelson Agholor.



KEVIN SONG | The Observer

Irish sophomore receiver Will Fuller tries to slide through a pair of Trojans defenders during Notre Dame's 49-14 loss to USC on Saturday.



DON'T DO IT!

What Not to Buy this Holiday Season

Allie Tollaksen
Scene Editor

While we in Scene and at every other publication in the country are busy gathering together a “favorite things” list or handy shopping guides for the holiday season, I’ve decided to go another route. Rather than tell you all the things you need to buy, I’m here to tell you the things to avoid amidst the chaos that is holiday shopping. If you have already committed to some of these gifts on Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, Cyber Monday and whatever fake, crass, consumerist shopping day this Tuesday has become, I apologize for this bad news. To those who take a little longer to get their shopping done: You’ve been warned.

1) That personalized knit scarf/necklace/pottery you found on Etsy

I love Etsy. It’s the craft fair of the Internet, and you can get some incredible handmade or vintage jewelry, clothing and décor on the site. In fact, I encourage you to support independent business owners and artisans and do as much Etsy holiday shopping as possible. However, before you pull the trigger on a customizable engraved cutting board or a knit sweater boasting a portrait of your family dog, take a look at your calendar and remind yourself it’s already December. Ordering handcrafted personalized gifts from an artist on the other side of the country is great, but it also means your Christmas present isn’t coming until well

into 2015. Instead, opt for something a little less time-consuming for now — I’m sure your mom will love getting those coasters hand-painted with your family crest just as much on her birthday.

2) A journal

We all know it’s a re-gift from your aunt. “Funky” journals are always a re-gift from someone’s aunt. The socks of the friend-gift world, diaries with inspirational quotations on them will probably be filled with passages about how unoriginal your gift is. Harsh but true.

3) Lessons

Whether they’re cooking classes, Mandarin lessons or a gift certificate to that pottery place in your hometown, the gift of lessons is always well-intentioned. You see that a friend or relative has taken an interest in something new, and you want to encourage their potential, spice up their life or empower them with a new, quirky skill. This is all perfectly nice and thoughtful, but it always ends up the same way: Your friend hangs the gift certificate to swing dance lessons or acupuncture class on their refrigerator unused, and it begins to slowly eat away at their conscience. Either because they don’t have the time or the interest in whatever hobby you’ve signed them up for, the present ends up being less of a gift and more of an obligation. Soon, every run-in with the recipient becomes wrought with excuses for why they haven’t cashed in on their free lessons yet. Anxiety ensues. Money is lost. It’s

a lose-lose.

4) The new U2 album

Your dad already has it this year. Thanks a lot, Bono.

5) An enormous gag gift

I may be coming off as a bit of a Scrooge here, but I insist there are few presents worse than a poorly thought-out gag gift. Sure, if well executed, joke gifts can make for a funny story and garner a chuckle out of your good-humored friend, but they can also be a commemorative token of how bad you are at holidays. If it’s agreed upon that light-hearted gifts are the nature of the exchange, go all out. If not, you always run the risk of being the person who gave a ShamWow to the friend who thoughtfully made you a gift basket of your favorite things. More importantly, whether you’re going white-elephant-style with your friends or springing an absurd, useless present on someone unannounced, make sure your ironic gift is not big in size. The joke almost immediately goes south when the gag gift is so large, its recipient faces the Sophie’s Choice of either finding a place to store it or feeling weirdly guilty about throwing it away. Adding insult to injury, a large gag gift not only says, “I gave this very little thought!” but also, “Have fun dealing with this every time you move!”

Contact Allie Tollaksen at atollaks@nd.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.



WU-TANG CLAN DISAPPOINTS

BY JIMMY KEMPER
Scene Writer

I don’t think there are any words sufficient to describe how big of a letdown “A Better Tomorrow” is. The idea for this final Wu-Tang Clan record sprang from necessity rather than creativity — a feeling that WTC’s fans needed closure. They don’t, especially if it comes in the form of this album. Necessity probably isn’t the best motivator for art. At times, “A Better Tomorrow” feels like a last-minute five-page paper I would write as a senior in high school. It relies too much on previous work and hopes the audience cares as little as the author does to let it slide by with a passing grade. “A Better Tomorrow” is the outcome of 21 years of the Wu-Tang Clan and the drama, tensions and bickering that have come to define the latter years of a great career. It was actually supposed to mark the twentieth anniversary of their landmark debut, 1993’s “Enter The Wu-Tang (36 Chambers),” but the Clan couldn’t pull themselves together, in part due to a creative struggle between Raekwon and head-honcho RZA, tension which blemishes the sentimentality of this new record. The end result of this mess is heartbreaking. With a name like “A Better Tomorrow,” one would expect futuristic production, big risks, a new twist on the classic Wu formula or, at the very least, maybe something different from the same martial arts references we’ve been

listening to since 1993. What we get is a halfhearted effort to prove that Wu-Tang is forever and a fainthearted longing for the glory days of the once great Clan. The best songs off “A Better Tomorrow” (“Ruckus In B Minor,” “40th Street Black/We Will Fight,” “Keep Watch”) feel like the #ThrowbackThursday of WTC’s career, often containing samples from or lyrical allusions to beloved, classic Wu triumphs. “A Better Tomorrow” itself is named for a song from 1997’s “Wu-Tang Forever.” Opener “Ruckus in B Minor” takes us back to the very beginning, reminding us of the dangers of the Shaolin and the Wu Tang in a throwback to “Bring Da Ruckus” — the opening track of their debut — bringing their career full circle although RZA’s production has evolved quite considerably since that time. Then Ol’ Dirty Bastard appears from beyond the grave and very well might be the liveliest dude on the album. This was somewhat strange and gave the impression that RZA seems to rely on ODB because he knows Wu’s glory days are past, its collective drive depleted. ODB’s captivating psychopathic charm lures you into “A Better Tomorrow” before the rest of the Clan sets out to “strive with an army of winners and no pretenders,” as Raekwon puts it. “Ruckus in B Minor” is my personal favorite on the album, but unfortunately it stands in stark contrast to a number of the other songs. The album struggles, in part, because of how uneven the production is. “A Better Tomorrow,” much like the modern Wu-Tang Clan, does not feel like a cohesive unit.

The backing instrumentation ranges greatly, and there is no overarching theme to keep the album together. RZA gives us great songs like “Ruckus in B Minor,” but then embarrasses us with awful songs like “Preacher’s Daughter,” in which the middle-aged WTC lusts after a young pastor’s daughter. Creepy. Some of the songs shouldn’t be awful and have some really solid lyrics, but the performances feel dialed-in, and the kung-fu samples don’t pack the punch they did twenty-one years ago. Who would have ever thought a Wu-Tang Clan album could ever be boring? Wu-Tang Clan is supposed to bring the ruckus, to be nothing to mess with, to be forever. “A Better Tomorrow” is none of these things and definitely not the end Wu-Tang deserves.

Contact Jimmy Kemper at jkemper2@nd.edu

“A Better Tomorrow”

Wu Tang Clan

Label: Asylum, Warner Bros.

Tracks: “Ruckus in B Minor,” “40th Street Black/We Will Fight”

If you like: A\$AP Mob, Run The Jewels



SPORTS AUTHORITY

Holiday brings coaching changes



Brian Hartnett
Managing Editor

The Monday after Thanksgiving ranks among the most miserable days of the year for many Americans who have just returned from a long holiday weekend.

But it has the prospects of being a whole lot worse for college football coaches on the hot seat, some of whom receive their pink slips around this time of year.

Florida's Will Muschamp discovered his fate weeks ago, but Nebraska's Bo Pelini was the headliner among a group of coaches who lost their jobs over the last few days. Pelini's firing means that two high-profile coaching jobs are now open, with the possibility of one or two more slots opening this week (Michigan, anyone?).

And with these head coaching dismissals comes a list of potential replacements that range from impossible-to-get — does anyone think Jon Gruden is going to leave a job where he can talk about how Teddy Bridgewater is the greatest quarterback since the one he saw last Monday night? — to fanbase-infuriating — think of Lane Kiffin, who somebody will argue is now well seasoned after failing at three different jobs.

With that being said, however, the college football coaching pool is small, and there's bound to be some candidates that will be linked to some of the premier vacancies. Here's a list of some candidates whose names will surely pop up over the next few weeks.

Hugh Freeze and Dan Mullen — the Mississippi coaches

The state of Mississippi's two major programs — Ole Miss and Mississippi State — have been in the news often this year, a big accomplishment given the lack of historical success in the Magnolia State. Although their teams have faltered recently, Mullen had Mississippi State at the No. 1 ranking for five straight weeks, and Freeze took Ole Miss to the No. 3 spot earlier this year. Additionally, Mullen has connections to Florida — he served as the Gators' offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach from 2005 to 2008, tutoring both Chris Leak and Tim Tebow.

Jim McElwain — Colorado State head coach

McElwain has one name attached to his resume that every program in the country will notice — Nick Saban. McElwain worked side-by-side with the four-time national champion as Alabama's offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach from 2008 to 2011. He left Tuscaloosa

to inherit a Colorado State team that was 3-9 the season before he arrived and has made quick work improving the team. This season, his third at the helm, the Rams finished 10-2 and reached the top 25 in the AP Poll.

Craig Bohl — Wyoming head coach

Few college coaches in the country can say they have three national championships — Bohl is one of the exceptions. Bohl coached a North Dakota State team that lost only two games and won three NCAA Division I Football Championships (FCS) between 2011 and 2013. Under his direction, the Bison upset several Power Five opponents, including Minnesota, Kansas and Kansas State. Bohl is now at Wyoming, but he might not be far from a return to Nebraska, the school he graduated from in 1982.

Pat Narduzzi — Michigan State defensive coordinator

Michigan State, the defending Rose Bowl champion, has had a strong run of success the last few seasons, and much of it is due to the defense. The Spartans have ranked in the top 10 nationally in total defense the last three years, and Narduzzi has received much of the credit for the program's strong performance — he took home the Broyles Award, given to the nation's top assistant, last season. Narduzzi has never been a head coach, but then again, neither had Jimbo Fisher, head coach of last year's national champions.

Jim Harbaugh — San Francisco 49ers head coach

I strongly contemplated listing Harbaugh as an impossibility, but I remembered three things — it's almost certain that he will be out as 49ers head coach at the end of the season; most of his head coaching experience is with college programs, and Nebraska has previously hired a coach two years removed from the Super Bowl — Bill Callahan. On the off-chance Harbaugh leaves the Bay Area, he would be intriguing to college programs for a variety of reasons — he's a quarterbacks guru; he previously built Stanford from the ground up, and he's got that larger-than-life personality to which many recruits would flock.

In short, Harbaugh and the other coaches on this list could help brighten the future for fans of programs currently struggling during this dreary week after Thanksgiving.

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

NCAA FOOTBALL

Expert to examine brain of former Ohio State player

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — A neuropathologist will look for signs of traumatic brain injury in an Ohio State athlete who was found dead of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound and had a reported history of concussions, a coroner said Monday.

The examination, not normally part of the autopsy process, is being done on Kosta Karageorge because of that history, said Dr. Anahi Ortiz, the Franklin County coroner.

The pathologist “may or may not be able to determine any sort of abnormality or defect from traumatic brain injury,” Ortiz said.

Preliminary results from a Monday morning autopsy confirmed that Karageorge died of a gunshot wound, Ortiz said. She hasn't yet definitively ruled it a suicide.

Columbus police said Sunday that Karageorge died of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound. A handgun was found in a trash bin with him, police spokesman Sgt. Rich Weiner said.

His mother, Susan Karageorge, told police her son had had several concussions and a few spells of being extremely confused.

Karageorge, 22, was a Buckeyes wrestler for three years, and the senior defensive tackle joined the football team as a walk-on this season. Although earlier reports said Karageorge played in one game, Ohio State spokesman Jerry Emig corrected that Monday, saying Karageorge had not played in any games.

A woman and her son looking for items in a trash bin Sunday found the body of Karageorge, who disappeared four days earlier.

Police reports released Monday indicated a man looking for food in the trash bin earlier in the day may have found Karageorge's body, but he didn't report it and instead told other people who called police.

After Karageorge went missing, the football team's physician, Dr. Jim Borchers, said he could not comment on the medical care of student athletes. But, he said, “We are confident in our medical procedures and policies to return athletes to participation following injury or illness.”

Ohio State football coach Urban Meyer said Monday he'd been instructed not to talk about medical issues surrounding Karageorge.

“I can say this: This is the best group of medical people I've ever been around, the way they handle their business and the attention to detail,” Meyer said.

NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Losses shake up AP women's basketball poll

Associated Press

It was a rough week to be a top 10 team.

While the top three women's teams — South Carolina, Notre Dame and Connecticut — all were unscathed, five of the other seven teams in the first 10 lost games, causing a shuffling in The Associated Press basketball poll Monday.

This is the first time since 1999 that five teams in the top 10 lost in the same week this early in the season, according to STATS. Tennessee, Stanford, Duke, Kentucky and Maryland all dropped games. The Lady Vols lost twice, falling 10 spots to No. 14.

“It definitely seems like there have been a bunch of upsets so far,” Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw said. “It's good for our game. It gets people talking about it.”

Notre Dame, Connecticut, Texas and Texas A&M round

out the first five.

The Lady Vols lost to Chattanooga and No. 4 Texas. It's a rare occurrence for Tennessee to drop two straight games in November. Tennessee's plunge of 10 ranking spots is the school's biggest one-week decline. The Lady Vols, who hadn't lost consecutive games since 2012, will try and end the skid Wednesday against Saint Francis, Pennsylvania.

Maryland's loss to Washington State in the San Juan Shootout dropped the team five spots to 15th — the school's lowest ranking since the final poll of 2011 when the Terrapins were 16th. Maryland has a chance to quickly jump backup with a game against No. 2 Notre Dame on Wednesday in the ACC-Big Ten Challenge.

For the fourth straight week there was a tie in the poll. The preseason poll had two teams at No. 24. Week 1 had a three-way

tie for No. 24. Last week there was a three-way tie at No. 22 with Georgia, Syracuse and West Virginia sharing the honors. Now Arkansas and DePaul are both No. 25.

Lots of big games on tap. No. 2 Notre Dame hosts both Maryland and No. 3 UConn. No. 6 North Carolina visits No. 18 Rutgers on Thursday, only the second time Hall of Fame coaches C. Vivian Stringer and Sylvia Hatchell have met. No. 13 Kentucky visits No. 7 Louisville on Sunday and No. 1 South Carolina plays at No. 9 Duke the same day.

The game at Duke is South Carolina's last against a ranked team until most likely a showdown with Kentucky on Jan. 11.

First-year coach Jimmy Dykes has Arkansas back in the Top 25 for the first time since Dec. 31, 2012. The Razorbacks won the South Point Thanksgiving Shootout in Las Vegas over the weekend.

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NHL | LIGHTNING 6, RANGERS 3

Lundqvist struggles as Lightning roll past Rangers

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Brett Connolly's second goal of the game during a third-period power play lifted the Tampa Bay Lightning to their third straight win over the New York Rangers, 6-3 on Monday night.

With Martin St. Louis off forslashing, Connolly scored past Henrik Lundqvist at 5:34 for his fourth of the season. Tyler Johnson gave the Lightning a two-goal lead 1:24 later with his second of the night, and Ondrej Palat added an empty-netter with 26.4 seconds left to give Tampa Bay its fourth consecutive victory.

Victor Hedman had three assists, and Ben Bishop made 32 saves to improve to 8-0 against the Rangers — including three wins in 15 days. He even had an assist on Connolly's first.

Matt Carle added a goal for the Lightning, who outscored the Rangers 15-7 in the three games — including 11 goals at Madison Square Garden.

Kevin Hayes, Jesper Fast and St. Louis scored for the Rangers, who had won four

of five. Lundqvist struggled and made only 15 saves.

St. Louis was honored before the game for recently reaching 1,000 NHL points. His family joined him on the ice as a video tribute was shown, and he was given gifts by both teams. St. Louis, traded to New York last season in a captain swap that sent Ryan Callahan to Tampa Bay, had 953 points in 972 games with the Lightning.

After St. Louis put the Rangers in front 3-2, the Lightning went on a 5-on-3 power play that generated only one shot, but tired out the New York skaters and set up the tying goal 26 seconds after the advantage ended.

The Rangers couldn't clear the zone, and Carle scored off a pass from Johnson to make it 3-all at 14:23. Tampa Bay had only five shots in the second and 13 through 40 minutes.

Earlier, the Rangers erased their second one-goal deficit when Fast scored his second NHL goal — in consecutive games. Derick Brassard faked a slap shot high in the zone before moving to the center. He spotted Fast at

the right post and sent him a perfect pass that was easily steered in at 2:42.

St. Louis put the Rangers in front for the first time by scoring his 10th during a power play at 9:24. A rebound of Ryan McDonagh's shot came right to the former Lightning star, and he calmly deposited the puck behind Bishop at the right post.

Tampa Bay grabbed a 1-0 lead 6:32 in on Johnson's seventh. Hedman took a shot that hit the skate of Palat in front. Palat got the puck to his stick and fed a pass to Johnson.

New York tied it when Carl Hagelin worked the puck behind the net and sent a quick pass out front to Hayes for a goal with 7:46 left in the first.

It didn't stay even for long because Connolly restored the Lightning lead 3:48 later. He made several moves high in the zone to get free of defenseman Marc Staal before snapping a drive that got past Lundqvist as New York's Dan Girardi and Tampa Bay's Brenden Morrow jousted in front of him.

NHL | BLUE JACKETS 2, PANTHERS 1

Calvert, Jenner halt Jackets' skid

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Boone Jenner scored at 10:05 of the third period to lift Columbus past the Florida Panthers 2-1 and end the Blue Jackets' six-game skid on Monday night.

Matt Calvert also scored for Columbus, which entered having won only two of its past 17 games to drop to the bottom of the Eastern Conference.

Rookie Aaron Ekblad, the top overall pick, scored his third goal of the season for Florida, which has lost nine in a row to Columbus.

Tied at 1 in the third, Jenner poked home a loose puck in front of the goal. Al Montoya had stopped Kerby Rychel's spin-around shot, but Jenner got to the rebound for his second of the season.

The assist was the first NHL point for Rychel, a 2013 first-round draft pick, in his second game.

Moments later, Sergei Bobrovsky, who finished with 24 saves, went right to left to kick aside Tomas Fleischmann's shot.

The Panthers had a faceoff in the Columbus zone with 10.3 seconds remaining, but after the draw they couldn't get the puck out from behind the Blue Jackets' net.

Florida dominated most of the first period, but it was Columbus scoring first. Working in the corner, Michael Chaput sent the puck to Calvert, who made an in-tight forehand to backhand move to tuck it behind Montoya at 15:07 for his third of the season. Montoya made 21 saves.

The Panthers wasted little time getting even in the second period. Maneuvering at the point on the power play, Ekblad fired a shot past a screened Bobrovsky at 1:23.

At the end of the period, Columbus withstood pressure from Florida then almost had a prime scoring chance going the other way. Bobrovsky stopped Tomas Kopecky's uncontested shot from the slot and paddled away Kopecky's follow. The Blue Jackets left the zone on a 2-on-1 break, but Dmitry Kulikov broke it up by sliding to make a stop.

NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL | S. CAR 90, NC CENTRAL 26

No. 1 Gamecocks win in rout

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, South Carolina — Freshman A'ja Wilson scored 16 points, reigning Southeastern Conference player of the year Tiffany Mitchell had 14 and South Carolina showed off its No. 1 ranking at home for the first time in a 90-26 victory over North Carolina Central on Monday night.

The Gamecocks (6-0) were already on their way to the Bahamas for the Junkanoo Jam tournament last Monday when they took over the top spot. After winning twice on Grand Bahama Island to retain No. 1 for a second week, South Carolina returned home and quickly put away the overmatched Eagles (2-4).

The Gamecocks led 14-3 in the first five minutes and went on to win their 22nd straight home game.

Wilson added eight rebounds, although her shooting touch was off as she made just four of 12 shots. Mitchell had a career-high seven steals, surpassing the six she had in a win over

Auburn last season.

Morgan Jones had seven points for the Eagles.

Asia Dozier had 14 points for South Carolina, including three of its five 3-pointers. Aleighsa Welch had 11 points and Elem Ibiam 10 to give the Gamecocks five players with double-figure scoring.

The Gamecocks beat North Carolina Central 79-27 last season and this one figured to be an even bigger mismatch with all South Carolina had back and its No. 2-ranked group of freshmen.

South Carolina's experience came through quickly. Mitchell and SEC newcomer of the year Alaina Coates had five points each while all-SEC first-teamer Welch had four after less than five minutes.

The Eagles missed nine of their first 10 shots and had 12 first-half turnovers.

Wilson, the 6-foot-5 forward, was off the mark a bit, going 2 of 6 from the field in the first 20 minutes. Still, newly chosen SEC freshman of the week had nine points in the period.

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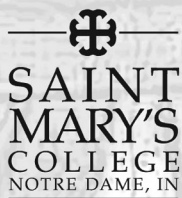
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Eva Kittay is Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at Stony Brook University. She has published extensively on disability, equality, the ethics of care, and feminist philosophy.



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SMC BASKETBALL | SMC 68, ANDERSON 57

Paul paces Belles in victory

By DANIEL O'BOYLE
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's notched its second consecutive victory Nov. 25, winning 68-57 at Anderson.

Despite trailing early in the game, the Belles (2-3) rallied late in the first half to take a 40-31 lead entering halftime.

Coming out of the break, the Ravens (1-3) didn't dent the Belles' lead, and Saint Mary's held on to win in a lower-scoring second half.

Belles senior forward Ariana Paul shot 14-of-21 from the field and scored 32 points in the win as the Belles made nearly half of their field goals. Paul's 32 points were the highest scored by a Saint Mary's player since the 2007-2008 season.

Belles coach Jennifer Henley said she was impressed by her team's shooting performances and the work of Paul in particular.

"I thought we had good ball movement on offense and took good shots," Henley said. "We continued to attack the gaps in Anderson's defense and found a lot of points in the paint."

"Ariana had the hot hand on Tuesday, and her teammates did a great job of finding her."

Despite the win, Henley said the performance was far from perfect. The Belles were out-rebounded 32-31 in the game, and Henley said there was room for improvement on both sides of the ball.

"Anderson beat us on the boards," Henley said. "We

need to continue to work on finding bodies when we box out and not just ball-watch when a shot goes up.

"We still need to focus on our team defense in keeping teams out of the paint on the drive and offensively, we need to be stronger with the ball and cut down on our turnovers."

Henley said she was still pleased to see her team record a second win in a row, and she believes it could be an important boost in momentum for Saint Mary's heading into conference play.

"Anytime you can get two wins in a row — especially on the road — is great momentum," Henley said. "As we prepare to open up conference play with Alma, we continue to build upon the things we did well at Anderson."

Junior forward Eleni Shea led the team with eight rebounds in addition to scoring 17 points, while Paul recorded seven boards and four steals to go along with her 32 points. Junior guard Maddie Kohler added eight points and two assists.

Saint Mary's committed 22 turnovers compared to Anderson's 15, but the Belles were more effective at converting those chances into points, outscoring the Ravens, 23-13, in points off turnovers.

The Belles are back in action tomorrow night as they host conference foe Alma at 7:30 p.m.

Contact Daniel O'Boyle at doboyl1@nd.edu

ND VOLLEYBALL | PITTSBURGH 3, ND 0

Irish suffer straight-set defeat on senior day

Observer Staff Report

In the final game of a season filled with challenges, the Irish celebrated the careers of six graduating players but lost 3-0 (25-20, 25-14, 25-18) to Pittsburgh at Purcell Pavilion on Friday.

The Irish (6-25, 3-15 ACC) fought with the Panthers (25-6, 13-5) in the first set, which featured 11 ties and seven Irish leads. However, Pittsburgh's offense caught fire, going on an 8-2 run en route to a 25-20 victory in the first set.

Despite remaining close early in each set, the Irish saw their season come to a close after a 14-5 run by the Panthers in the second set, and a 10-3 run in the third set brought the match to its end.

The Panthers were dominant at the net with a .357 attack percentage — compared to .202 for Notre Dame — and 43 kills and 7.5 blocks.

In her final match, graduate student outside hitter Nicole Smith had a career-high .529 attack percentage and a team-high 10 kills.

Irish fans and underclassmen said farewell to Smith and the five graduating seniors — libero Erin Klosterman, libero Kathleen Severyn, outside hitter Meg Vonderhaar, outside hitter Toni Alugbue and middle blocker Jeni Houser.

After Smith's sophomore and junior seasons were hampered with a knee



EMMET FARNAN | The Observer

Irish senior libero Kathleen Severyn digs the ball during Notre Dame's 3-0 loss to Pittsburgh on Friday at Purcell Pavilion.

injury, she became a force in her senior season and again this year as a graduate student. She was second on the team this year with 249 kills and 2.62 kills per set.

As a senior, Severyn assumed a veteran leadership role down the stretch, playing in 82 sets and tallying 181 digs.

Klosterman played her freshman season at Saint Mary's before joining Notre Dame and playing in 141 sets, notching 97 digs in her three years.

Vonderhaar ended her career with 223 kills, including seven against Pittsburgh.

Notre Dame suffered a major loss before the season had even started when Alugbue, who led the team in kills in 2012 and 2013, went down with a

season-ending injury.

After two seasons in second place statistically behind Alugbue, Houser stepped into the offensive void and led the team in kills with 289. She ended her time at Notre Dame with several all-conference honors and two All-American honorable mentions in her career, and she finished tied for eighth with 1,299 kills.

Alugbue's injury, compounded with other sporadic injuries and adjustments, resulted in a tough early season for the Irish, who began the year 0-6. Despite battling back and picking up a few conference victories, they ended with a 2-13 stretch. However, Brown repeatedly praised her players for maintaining a positive attitude and high energy throughout the season.

FENCING | PENN STATE GARRETT OPEN

Shorthanded Notre Dame snags six medals

Observer Staff Report

The Irish competed to high finishes at the Penn State Garrett Open during the weekend before Thanksgiving. Despite missing starters due to international events, the Irish still racked up a combined six medals, with the men and women each earning three in College Station, Pennsylvania.

The men's team was missing a whopping 10 starters yet still produced six top-10 finishes, highlighted by freshman Virgile Collineau's second-place finish in the foil. Overall, the men earned three top-10 finishes in the event. Senior Ariel DeSmet and sophomore John Crumpler fenced against



EMMET FARNAN | The Observer

Irish junior Catherine Lee, right, competes during the DiCicco Duals on Feb. 8 at Purcell Pavilion. Lee finished second in the epee.

each other in the round of 16, with DeSmet winning 15-1. DeSmet won again in the next round, leading to a top-10 finish, while Crumpler finished 10th. Collineau bested four fighters in the elimination rounds before losing to Penn State sophomore and eventual champion

David Gomez Tanamachi in the finals, 15-12.

In the epee, the Irish placed two fencers in the round of eight. However, neither junior Garrett McGrath nor freshman Nicholas Hanahan could advance to the final four. Hanahan had a tough defeat, as he

lost to Ohio State freshman Julian Raul as time expired, 8-7. Hanahan placed seventh, and McGrath grabbed eighth.

The Irish only fought with three sabreists and were led by junior John Hallsten's fifth-place finish. He advanced to the elimination rounds as the No. 2 seed and fell to defending NCAA champion and Penn State junior Kaito Streets in the quarterfinals, 15-10.

A day earlier, the women's team also turned in an impressive performance and earned a medal in each event.

In the epee, junior Catherine Lee lost to Ohio State sophomore Eugenia Falqui in the final round to claim second. Her finish

capped three other Irish top-15 finishes, including sophomore Eva Niklinska's eighth-place finish.

In the sabre, sophomore Allison Barry fenced Pennsylvania sophomore Dana Kong to a tie for third place, which earned her a spot on the podium. She was followed by Irish freshmen Madeline Gallagher and Jamie Norville, who finished seventh and eighth, respectively.

Rounding out the competition, the Irish placed well in the foil. Junior Nicole McKee finished second, while three other foilists claimed top-15 spots.

Irish fencers next head to Dallas for the North American Cup next Friday through Monday.

M Basketball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

"We were calm, and we are really efficient on the offensive end," Irish coach Mike Brey told reporters Wednesday. "We put some guys in different spots to-night against the zone; we didn't force anything, and we threw it inside when we had to."

"It was good to see Demetrius Jackson rise up and shoot his 3-point shot and not overanalyze it. With him and Jerian, when the ball reverses to you and you have a clean look, we want you to shoot it."

Against Grambling State, Notre Dame again had a battle on its hands for rebounds. While the Irish finished with a 30-29 edge overall, the Tigers brought down 11 offensive rebounds, led by five offensive boards from 6-foot-7 junior forward Mark Grey. Brey has said on more than one occasion that rebounding would be a key for success this season.

The Irish showed improvement in that area Saturday against Chicago State. Notre Dame finished with a 39-26 advantage on the boards, as well as a 9-8 advantage on the offensive glass. Auguste led the team with eight rebounds, while Connaughton and Jackson each chipped in another five.

Grant tied his career high

for points in the win over the Cougars, dropping 26 points on 8-of-12 shooting from the field. This included six 3-pointers, a new personal best for the senior. He also chipped in a team-high five assists.

"[Grant] is a scary talent," Brey told reporters Saturday. "I feel like I'm coaching a pro because he is a pro. He prepares like a pro. ... He's the type of guy that tries to get guys involved first, and we do have some guys that can score. I'm ok with that. But if we stall, and we will, then we start to run some stuff for him."

Connaughton chipped in 17 points for the Irish, while Jackson and fellow sophomore guard V.J. Beachem each finished with 11, the latter's career-best after he tallied 10 points in two games last season.

"I love that [Beachum] is scoring," Brey said. "That scoring really helps us. He's shooting it so confidently. ... He still needs to improve defensively, and we work with him every day on that. But he can rebound for us. The ability to have another shot-maker out there that stretches the defense gives us another weapon."

Grambling State first-year assistant coach Ray Martin made a return trip to South Bend. Martin played for Notre Dame under Digger Phelps from 1973-1977 as the team's



EMMET FARNAN | The Observer

Irish senior guard Jerian Grant performs a crossover dribble during Notre Dame's 104-67 win over Coppin State on Nov. 19. Grant matched a career high with 26 points in Saturday's 90-42 win over Chicago State.

point guard and served as team captain his senior year. Martin was part of the Irish squad that stopped UCLA's record 88-game win streak before he moved on and eventually coached under Jim Valvano from 1980-1988 at North Carolina State where he won a national championship with the team in 1983.

"There are a lot of young

people in the college game, through his different coaching stops, that have really benefited from his relationship," Brey said of Martin on Wednesday. "He's one of the good guys in the business; he's a class act. ... It was really neat there at the end — I grabbed him to get in the Alma Mater and he said, 'I watch on the football Saturdays, and at

the end of your games, I get a little emotional every time the Alma Mater plays."

The Irish return to the Purcell Pavilion floor Wednesday night at 7:15 p.m. when they host No. 19 Michigan State during the Big Ten/ACC Challenge.

Contact Zach Klonsinski at zklonsin@nd.edu

W Basketball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

more offensive rebounds, 10-8, than Notre Dame, the second time an Irish opponent has done that all season.

The Irish also faced their biggest deficit of the season, down 5-0, 74 seconds after the opening tip. However, bolstered by a long 3-pointer from junior guard Michaela

Mabrey and a pair of free throws from sophomore guard Lindsay Allen, Notre Dame tied the game up in less than a minute and never trailed again.

On offense, the Irish were led once again by junior guard Jewell Loyd, who took 4:15 to record her first points, but then put up 23 in just 23 minutes on the court. On the season, she is averaging just under a point per

minute, playing 22.6 minutes per game and scoring 20.3 points.

The Jayhawks managed to keep the game within reach for most of the first half, relying on senior guard Natalie Knight and senior forward Chelsea Gardner to generate 62 percent of their offense in the period.

"Chelsea Gardner is a tremendous player," McGraw said. "[She's] really, really

hard to guard. We pressed; we had the whole team on her at times; we tried to run people at her, and she still managed to shoot 50 percent. ... I think we did a decent job on her at times, but overall, she really played well."

Irish freshman forward Kathryn Westbeld was part of the rotation tasked with matching up with Gardner and responded with seven rebounds and six points, as well as her finest defensive performance of the year, McGraw said.

"I was so pleased with her," McGraw said. "She came off the bench and did a great job. She was very active defensively. She rebounded well. She had a key offensive rebound that I thought helped change the game in the first half. She really battled for it, kicked it out to Michaela Mabrey for the 3, and I thought that was a turning point in the game."

The 3-pointer was part of a 15-0 run for the Irish to end the first stanza with a 21-point lead. During that stretch, the Jayhawks did not score for nearly six-and-a-half minutes.

Mabrey was key to the offensive outburst, scoring 11 or her 17 points in the first half. Notre Dame's most prolific and successful 3-point shooter attempted seven

shots from long range on the day, connecting on five of them. She added a pair of free throws but did not attempt a single field goal all game.

In the second half, Mabrey, Loyd and the rest of Notre Dame's starters came out for good with over 10 minutes remaining in the contest, making way for the rest of the 12 players on the Irish roster to all play and score, the fourth straight game they have done so. Ten Irish players also grabbed a rebound.

"This is the most depth I think we've ever had," McGraw said. "We played [nine] people in the first half, we've been playing nine or ten all year. We have different people who can come in in different situations and really help us. Our young players are playing really well. ... We're able to work on some things when we sub, which is good because we haven't been able to get a lot of practice in."

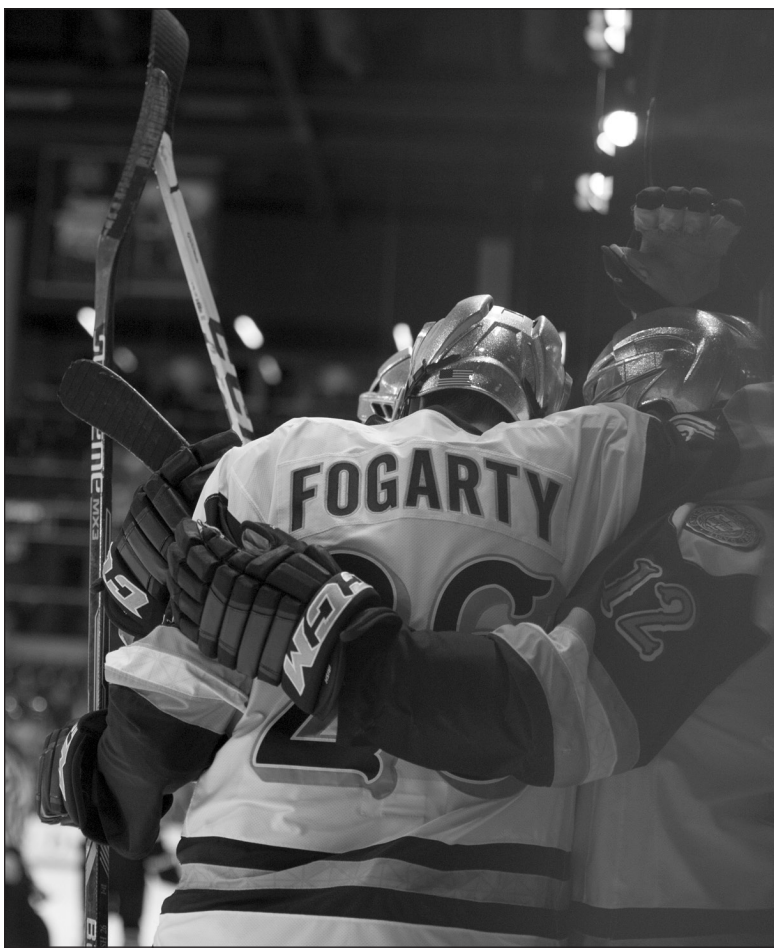
That depth will be put to test over the next week as the Irish face three ranked teams in seven days, starting Wednesday against No. 15 Maryland in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Tip-off is scheduled for 7 p.m.

Contact Greg Hadley at



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Irish junior guard Michaela Mabrey drives to the basket during Notre Dame's 104-29 victory over Holy Cross on Nov. 23 at Purcell Pavilion. Mabrey scored 17 points in Notre Dame's win over Kansas on Sunday.



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Irish junior forwards Steven Fogarty and Sam Herr celebrate a goal during Notre Dame's 3-2 overtime loss to Union on Friday.

Hockey

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

goal, roofing a backhand over the glove of Union senior goaltender Colin Stevens while the teams were in the midst of a line change.

The lead grew to 2-0 with five minutes left in the second period when senior forward Austin Wuthrich deflected a Ripley shot from the point past Stevens. Junior forward Thomas DiPauli was also credited with an assist on the play, his ninth of the year.

Although it marked the fourth time the Irish had surrendered a 2-0 lead at home, it was the first time Notre Dame lost a game after such a lead.

After dropping a close decision Friday, the Irish suffered a significant defeat in the third-place game Saturday against Ohio State (5-8-1, 1-1-0 Big Ten).

A pair of goals in the first 13 minutes of the game propelled the Buckeyes to an early two-goal lead, one they would not surrender en route to a 5-1 victory.

Buckeyes junior defender Blake Doerring jumped on a rebound to give Ohio State a 1-0 lead seven minutes into the game, and senior forward Tanner Fritz doubled the visitors' advantage five minutes later when he fired a wrist shot from the circle past Irish freshman goaltender Cal Petersen.

Petersen finished with 23 saves.

With 56 seconds remaining in the first period, however, the Irish pulled to within a goal when junior forward and captain Steven Fogarty put a rebound past Buckeyes sophomore goaltender Christian Frey. Assists were credited to DiPauli — his team-leading 10th of the year — and senior

forward Peter Schneider.

The momentum was short-lived for the Irish, and Ohio State stretched its lead back to two goals just before the six-minute mark of the second period.

An interference penalty on Irish sophomore defenseman Justin Wade gave the Buckeyes a power play, and Fritz bagged his second goal of the game.

Buckeyes freshman defenseman Victor Björkung scored his first career goal to pad his team's lead 88 seconds into the final stanza, and senior forward Derek Angeli bagged the game's final goal with nine minutes to play.

The Irish were 0-for-6 with the man advantage on the weekend and have now failed to score on 21 consecutive power plays.

Western Michigan won the Shillelagh Tournament crown with a 6-2 win against Ohio State on Friday and an 8-2 triumph over Union in Saturday's title tilt.

Notre Dame will return to Hockey East play this weekend as it visits last-place UMass. Puck drop in Amherst, Massachusetts, is slated for 7 p.m. both Friday and Saturday nights.

M Soccer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

almost got ahold of," Clark said. "Could we have done that earlier? I don't know, but you always have to wait until you're in a hole before you really go. You keep putting off finals until the last minute, and then you've got to work very hard.

"I think we just kept thinking a goal was going to come. I honestly thought it might have happened through our regular game. ... It just wasn't enough."

The third-round playoff match marked the third time this season and fifth time in the last two years that Notre Dame and Virginia squared off with each other. This year, the two teams tied in Charlottesville, Virginia, on Sept. 21, and Notre Dame won 3-0 in the quarterfinals of the ACC tournament Nov. 9 at Alumni Stadium.

Last season, Virginia was the only team to defeat Notre Dame en route to the national championship. The Cavaliers bested the Irish at home, 2-0, in the regular season and then advanced on penalty kicks when the two faced off again in the

ACC tournament semifinals.

In this episode of the budding rivalry, neither team could find space to work for much of the game.

"They did a good job," Besler said. "They put ten people behind the ball, and I thought we controlled the game pretty much from the get-go. It was one of those days where you can't score."

"They don't give up many goals," Clark said. "They just defended really well."

Irish graduate student goalkeeper Patrick Wall kept the game scoreless in the 24th minute when Cavaliers junior midfielder Todd Wharton put a free kick on net from just outside the penalty box. The ball burrowed through the wall of Irish defenders, but Wall smothered it. The goalkeeper finishes his career with a 38-7-10 record and 19 shutouts.

Notre Dame just missed taking the lead seconds before halftime when Panken almost connected with a cross at the top of the six-yard box, but a Cavalier defender cleared the ball high of the wide-open net.

"That was a really good chance right before

halftime," Clark said. "The lad got it away from Evan Panken right at the back post. I think it was Patrick Hodan that put it across the goal."

"Goals change games. If we get a goal, then they come out, and you can get behind them again, but we just didn't get the goal today. But like I said, I felt we played, in a funny way, much better than when we beat them 3-0 earlier in the year, but such is life."

At halftime, the Irish held a 3-2 shot advantage although Wharton's free kick blast was the only shot on goal for either team. Play opened up a little in the second half, and Notre Dame finished with an 11-8 shot advantage.

Although the loss was obviously not how the team hoped to end its season, Clark said the senior class can hold their heads high after all they have accomplished in their time at Notre Dame.

"I've been proud of this team all season, all year," Clark said. "They're a great group of guys."

Contact Zach Klonsinski at zklonsin@nd.edu



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Irish sophomore defender Brandon Aubrey, left, and junior midfielder Evan Panken confront the referee following Notre Dame's 1-0 loss to Virginia in the NCAA tournament Sunday at Alumni Stadium.

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CROSSWORD | WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS
- 1 For real, in slang

6 Day-___ paint

9 2008 candidate with the slogan "Change we can believe in"

14 Supreme Court justice Samuel

15 Tech giant with the catchphrase "You've got mail"

16 English royal house before Stuart

17 "Come on, stop being such a wimp!"

18 Wheedle

20 Backup strategy

21 Push roughly

22 "Au revoir, ___ amis"

23 Course that's a cinch

25 Investments for old age, for short

27 Largest inland city in California

30 Org. for the Redskins, but not the Reds

32 5K or 10K

35 Grazing area

36 "A penny saved is a penny earned," e.g.

38 Two-legged creature

39 Illegal torching

41 Old Russian space station

42 Minor failing

43 "Kama ___" (ancient love guide)

44 Case of the blahs

46 PC hookup

47 Door turner

48 "Life of Pi" director Lee

49 Nasty looks

51 Letters of invitation?

53 Serves meals to

55 Eggs in fertility clinics

57 Gets closer to

59 Pretty poor grade

63 Like some premium roasts

65 Garlicky sauce

66 Note an alto is unlikely to hit

67 Even score

68 Basic belief

69 Stylishly streamlined

70 Urban grid: Abbr.

71 A cube has 12 of them

- DOWN
- 1 Reading light

2 Carrier to Israel

3 Actress Gershon of "Bound"

4 ___ Store (source of many 99¢ downloads)

5 Kingpin

6 Bloated

7 Simple things to pick ... or what 5-, 11-, 29- and 38-Down have?

8 Ersatz butter

9 Riverbank frolicker

10 "Nothing ___ net"

11 Lump that moves when you swallow

12 Distinctive Cindy Crawford feature

13 Clumsy boats

19 Satan's doing

24 Turf

26 Diva's delivery

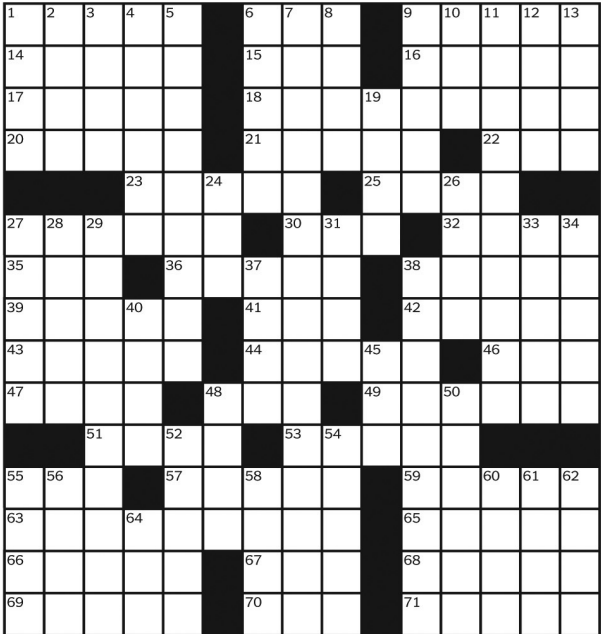
27 Hooch container

28 Any "Seinfeld" showing, now

29 "Colorful" city bordering Newark, N.J.

31 Office plant

33 Onetime Joker portrayer — Romero



- PUZZLE BY IAN LIVENGOOD
- 34 Perfect settings

37 "You said it, brother!"

38 Dinner and a movie, say, with someone you don't know

40 Spheres

45 "___ it or lose it"

48 Mimicry pro

50 Glimpsed

52 Style of T-shirt that does not have a round collar

54 ___ Park, Colo.

55 Former New York Times publisher Adolph

56 Bit of headgear raised at the wedding altar

58 Stage presentations

60 ___ John Silver

61 Title beekeeper in a 1997 film

62 Takes the bench

64 Word usually ignored in alphabetization

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.49 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554. Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS. AT&T users: Text NYTX to 386 to download puzzles, or visit nytimes.com/mobilexword for more information. Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 2,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year). Share tips: nytimes.com/wordplay. Crosswords for young solvers: nytimes.com/learning/xwords.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



HIGHLY PUNLIKELY | CHRISTOPHER BRUCKER

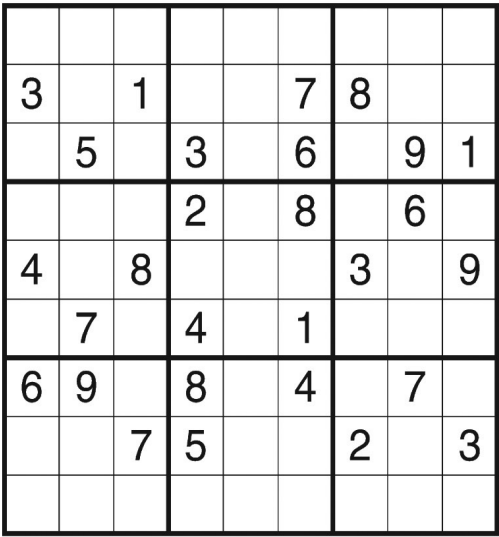


DOME NUTS | ALEXANDRIA WELLMAN



SUDOKU | THE MEPHAM GROUP

Level: 1 2 3 4



- SOLUTION TO SATURDAY'S PUZZLE 10/1/12
- 6 5 4 8 2 9 3 7 1

7 2 9 5 1 3 8 4 6

1 8 3 7 4 6 5 9 2

3 9 2 4 8 5 6 1 7

5 1 7 6 9 2 4 8 3

4 6 8 3 7 1 9 2 5

8 4 5 1 3 7 2 6 9

9 7 6 2 5 8 1 3 4

2 3 1 9 6 4 7 5 8
- Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

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HOROSCOPE | EUGENIA LAST

Happy Birthday: Be careful not to overload your plate. Excess will be your downfall. Focus on what's truly important to you, and you will maneuver your way through the year. Try to get more rewards for your efforts. It's all about believing in yourself and following through instead of just talking. Call the shots and make your dreams come true. Your numbers are 4, 12, 13, 21, 28, 33, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Hard work will pay off. You will find strength and success, even in a difficult situation. Enjoy your good fortune. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Do what you love the most. Make a point to get out with people you find interesting or who have something to offer you. Altering your outlook will encourage professional advancement. Learn something new or pick up helpful skills. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You've got the right idea, so figure out how to implement the information you have in an orderly but unique manner. Don't let uncertainty in your personal life cost you. Take care of business, regardless of what's going on around you. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Keep a cool head and a diplomatic approach. What you do at work will make a bigger impact on your future than how you deal with personal matters. Don't let the complaints regarding your work hours slow down your progress. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Say what's on your mind. You need a little excitement in your life. Follow a new path, learn, form alliances and expand your creative dream. Express your feelings, concerns and plans for the future. Love is on the rise. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take a chance and do things a little differently. Look at the facts and add your unique touch to stylize the way you intend to move ahead. Bring any concerns you have out in the open and disclose your plans. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't let others see your vulnerability. Keeping your beliefs and concerns a secret will allow you to find out what everyone else thinks before you commit to anything that entails working with others. An argument will result in an unexpected change. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Check out destinations that intrigue you or courses that can help you develop greater insight into an unusual interest. Don't get sidetracked by someone using emotional tactics to get you to spend money or make a contribution. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Make personal changes that will help you get ahead professionally. Put your reputation on the line and gather as much knowledge as you can to help support your ideas, plans and concerns. Love is highlighted, and romance will help improve your personal life. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Speak up, but don't act out emotionally. You have to have your strategy in place and your information accurate. Knowing exactly what you want will help you avoid being coerced into an emotional battle. ★★

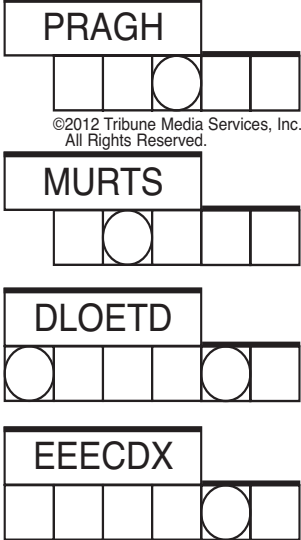
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You know what you want, but trying to get it will be difficult. Use reverse psychology to improve your chances of closing a deal or getting someone to agree with your plans. Romance is in the stars. Plan a celebration with someone special. ★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Go over important papers and any plans you have to contribute to something you feel is worthwhile. Sending out a positive message will help you reconnect with people you've worked with in the past. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are creative, spontaneous and determined. You are outgoing and generous.

JUMBLE | DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

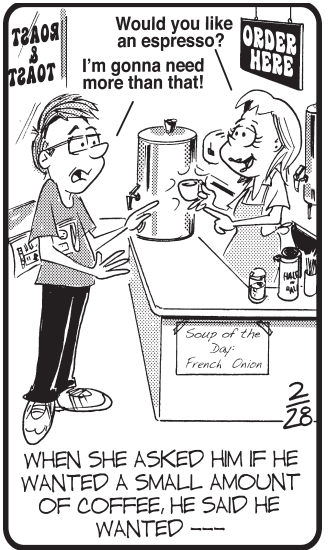
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print your answer here: A

(Answers tomorrow)
Yesterday's Jumbles: CYNIC THINK EXEMPT FOSSIL
Answer: The retired hockey player lived here — IN THE STICKS

WORK AREA



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

THE OBSERVER

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MEN'S SOCCER | VIRGINIA 1, ND 0

Late goal eliminates top-seeded Notre Dame

By ZACH KLONSINSKI
Sports Writer

The third time was not the charm for Notre Dame.

After earning a draw and a win in their first two matchups against Virginia this season, the top-seeded Irish (12-5-4, 6-1-1 ACC) felt the sting of the third possible outcome Sunday night at Alumni Stadium. A rebound goal in the 82nd minute by Cavaliers sophomore midfielder Nicko Corriveau was all 16-seed Virginia (12-6-2, 3-3-2 ACC) needed to advance to the NCAA quarterfinals with a 1-0 victory and end Notre Dame's bid for consecutive titles.

"Of the three games we've played against them this year, possibly that was the game we had the most control over," Irish coach Bobby Clark said. "I felt that was the one I was most comfortable in, yet that was the one that we lost. Soccer is a funny game sometimes."

Scoring chances were hard to come by in a tight defensive game, but a shot by Cavaliers redshirt freshman midfielder Pablo Aguilar ricocheted off an Irish player to Corriveau, who put a laser inside the left post to record the game's lone tally.



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Irish freshman forward Jeffery Farina, left, reflects after Notre Dame's 1-0 home loss Sunday to Virginia in the NCAA tournament.

Notre Dame ratcheted up the pressure in the closing minutes but was unable to find an answer.

Irish freshman forward Jeffrey Farina's shot was knocked down a minute later by Cavalier fifth-year senior goalkeeper Calle Brown and Farina's follow-up sailed well wide. Senior midfielder and captain Nick Besler sent a blast from 20

yards just high with under seven minutes remaining and junior midfielder Evan Panken's free kick from 25 yards out with 1:31 remaining in the game suffered a similar fate before the clock ran out on Notre Dame's season.

"There were a couple of very close chances that we

see M SOCCER **PAGE 14**

HOCKEY | UNION 3, ND 2 (OT); OHIO STATE 5, ND 1

Irish drop two, finish last at Shillelagh Tournament

Observer Staff Report

Notre Dame dropped a pair of decisions over the weekend — a 3-2 overtime loss to Union on Friday and a 5-1 defeat at the hands of Ohio State on Saturday — to finish last at the Shillelagh Tournament at the Compton Family Ice Arena.

The Irish (6-8-2, 2-2-2 Hockey East) grabbed a 2-0 lead for the fourth time in five home games Friday, but like the previous three, they were not able to hold onto the lead.

The defending national champion Dutchmen (7-6-1, 1-4-1 ECAC) got the first goal back coming off a faceoff in the Irish zone with just under 12 minutes to play in the game. After sophomore

forward Mike Vecchione won the faceoff for Union, sophomore defenseman Jeff Taylor carried the puck below the blue line. A centering pass found freshman forward Spencer Foo in front of Irish sophomore goaltender Chad Katunar, and Foo put the biscuit in the basket for his seventh goal of the year, closing the gap to 2-1.

With fewer than four minutes remaining, Irish freshman defender Luke Ripley took a hooking penalty, and the Dutchmen used the man advantage to tie the game with 1:45 left in regulation. Union sophomore forward Michael Pontarelli centered a puck in the attacking zone that deflected off junior forward Matt Wilkins and into the Irish net, past Katunar,

who finished with a career-high 35 saves.

Wilkins and the Dutchmen managed the equalizer late in the third period and scored the winner even later in overtime. In the final minute, Notre Dame was caught committing too many men forward, providing Union an opportunity on an odd-man rush. Dutchmen junior defenseman Sebastien Gingras sent a cross-ice pass to Wilkins who buried it to give the visitors the overtime win with just 22 seconds left on the clock.

Notre Dame went ahead just seven minutes into the game when junior forward Sam Herr scored his sixth

see HOCKEY **PAGE 14**

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL | ND 89, KANSAS 47

Irish pummel Jayhawks

By GREG HADLEY
Associate Sports Editor

No. 2 Notre Dame finished off the easiest portion of its schedule with flair Sunday afternoon, racing by Kansas, 89-47, in Uncasville, Connecticut, to finish the Naismith Memorial Hall of Fame Women's Challenge undefeated.

With the win over the Jayhawks (5-2), the Irish (7-0) completed the first half of their non-conference schedule, including victories over six unranked squads. Notre Dame has won every contest by an average of almost 47 points, but Irish coach Muffet McGraw said she is far from satisfied with the team's early performance.

"Every area, honestly," McGraw said when asked where the Irish could improve. "[Against Kansas] we

shot the ball really well, so that hides some problems, but I think we can execute better. I think we can rebound better. I think we can defend better. I think we can do everything better."

Against Kansas, the Irish shot 55.4 percent from the field and 61.5 percent from 3-point territory, but their four-rebound advantage was well below their season average of 17.7.

"Our rebounding was disappointing," McGraw said. "We wanted to out-rebound them by a bigger margin and we didn't do that. When you shoot the ball well, you're not going to get a lot of offensive rebounds, but I thought we should have done a better job defensively on the boards."

Kansas shot 38.2 percent from the field and collected

see W BASKETBALL **PAGE 13**

MEN'S BASKETBALL | ND 91, GSU 54; ND 90, CSU 42

ND grabs pair of lopsided wins



EMMET FARNAN | The Observer

Irish sophomore guard Demetrius Jackson looks to pass during Notre Dame's 104-67 win over Coppin State on Nov. 19 at Purcell Pavilion.

By ZACH KLONSINSKI
Sports Writer

Whatever the Irish ate over Thanksgiving, keep feeding it to them.

Thanks to strong performances from beyond the 3-point arc, Notre Dame (6-1) rolled to big wins over Grambling State and Chicago State over the holiday. The Irish tamed the Tigers (1-4), 81-54, Wednesday and then followed that with a 90-42 steamrolling of the Cougars (2-6) on Saturday at Purcell Pavilion.

Combined, the Irish went

26-of-52 from behind the 3-point line, draining 12 3-pointers against Grambling State and another 14 against Chicago State.

Sophomore guard Demetrius Jackson led the way for the Irish against Grambling State, pouring in four 3-pointers and leading the team with 17 points. Senior guard Jerian Grant (13), junior forward Zach Auguste (12), and senior guard/forward Pat Connaughton (10) joined Jackson in double-figures.

see M BASKETBALL **PAGE 13**