

Ricketts-Ruelas to serve as president, VP

Large number of abstentions result in winning ticket garnering only 51 percent of the vote

By MARGARET HYNDS
Associate News Editor

Campaign season for student body president and vice president ended Wednesday night as Judicial Council announced that juniors Bryan Ricketts and Nidia Ruelas had defeated sophomores Neil Joseph and Noemi Ventilla by 351 votes.

According to Judicial Council, Ricketts and Ruelas garnered 1,908 votes, which came out to approximately 51 percent. Joseph and Ventilla received 1,557 votes or 41.62 percent of the vote, while 276 or 7.38 percent of voters abstained, up from 5.1 percent who abstained in the 2014

election.

Overall, 3,741 students voted in the election, with a voter participation rate of 45 percent, consistent with the results of last year's election.

Michael Masi, class of 2014, former president of Judicial Council, said in an interview last year that a ticket must have a minimum of 50 percent of the vote to prevent the election from going to a runoff.

Last year, neither the Vidal-Devine ticket nor the LaMagna-Andresen ticket received a majority, and so another election was held five days later. Despite earning

see ELECTION **PAGE 5**



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Juniors Nidia Ruelas and Bryan Ricketts will take office April 1. The pair, who ran on a platform emphasizing diversity and inclusion, will select their Cabinet in the coming months.

Heritage Dinner celebrates SMC



CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Students, faculty and alumnae alike share in the annual Heritage Dinner Wednesday in the Stapleton Lounge of Le Mans Hall.

By KELLY KONYA
Saint Mary's Editor

The Heritage Dinner brought together Saint Mary's students, faculty and alumnae to share in food and friendship in Stapleton Lounge of Le Mans Hall on Wednesday evening.

Sarah Prezek, senior and student government association (SGA) mission chair, said the event is one of the best-loved traditions of Heritage Week at Saint Mary's.

"This is the most formal event of the week, where students have the chance to attend a nicer meal than the average dining hall dinner and to meet other members of the Saint Mary's community who share in the College's sisterhood," Prezek said.

The dinner featured various members of the Saint Mary's community as "special guests," among Assistant Director of Alumnae

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Film festival promotes peace

By KATIE GALIOTO
News Writer

The eighth annual ScreenPeace Film Festival will show five critically acclaimed films in the Browning Cinema this weekend from Thursday to Saturday.

The screenings are presented by the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies and the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center (DPAC). Ted Barron, senior

associate director of DPAC, said the festival features a broad selection of films that reflect a range of global interests. He said this year's films examine social issues and political events in Cambodia, Syria, Nigeria, Vietnam and the former Soviet Union.

"The ScreenPeace Film Festival is designed to highlight films which draw attention to peace building efforts both in the United States and around the world," Barron

said.

Hal Culbertson, executive director of the Kroc Institute, said the festival provides attendees a unique opportunity to see films otherwise unavailable in national theaters.

"ScreenPeace is an attempt to bring a number of new documentary films to campus," he said. "We try to bring films that we think both students and faculty

see PEACE **PAGE 4**

Expert considers dark matter

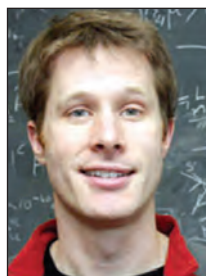
By MATTHEW McKENNA
News Writer

Theoretical particle physicist Patrick Fox from Fermilab served as the keynote speaker for a physics department colloquium that focused on evidence for dark matter's existence and the means by which the scientific community could learn more about its properties in the future.

"I'm a theorist in particular," Fox said. "I am beyond the standard model theorist, so my day-to-day job is to think

up extensions of the standard model that experiments can look for, or if experimenters have seen things that don't

Patrick Fox
theoretical particle physicist
Fermilab



make sense, I can try to interpret it and build models that explain those observations."

Fox said the standard model remains a powerful tool that explains most natural phenomena by defining the elementary particles of matter, but it is far from perfect or all-encompassing. Although this model explains things observed at the sub-nuclear level, Fox said these particles should all be massless, a very different world from the one present.

"There's an explanation for that problem," he said. "There's a particle that is

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL **PAGE 16**

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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:

Have you ever been skiing or snowboarding, and, if so, which is your favorite?

Have a question you want answered?
Email photo@ndsmcobserver.com



Austin Hickman
junior
Dylan Hall

“Yes, both are my favorite.”



Matt Bayer
sophomore
Duncan Hall

“I like skiing better.”



Hana Jenks
freshman
Pasquerilla East

“Yes both, but I like skiing better.”



Meg Hunt
freshman
Pasquerilla East

“I like snowboarding better.”



Kristen Lombardo
sophomore
Lyons Hall

“Both, but I like skiing better.”



Shannon Noonan
senior
off-campus

“I have been skiing and like skiing more.”



Kat Robinson | The Observer

Irish sprinter Mikaila Chamblee competes in the 400 meters during the Notre Dame Invitational on Jan. 24. Notre Dame hosted the invitational at the Loftus Sports Center.

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

Want your event included here?
Email news@ndsmcobserver.com

Thursday

“When Will We Find Extraterrestrial Life?”
Jordan Hall of Science
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Lecture with Dr. Seth Shostak.
Basketball Game
Purcell Pavilion
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Women’s team takes on Virginia.

Friday

Labor Cafe
Snite Museum of Art
4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Artistic representations of work and workers.
Tennis Match
Eck Tennis Pavillion
5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Women’s tennis takes on Stanford.

Saturday

Men’s and Women’s Swimming and Diving
Rolf’s Aquatic Center
12 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Both teams compete against Cleveland State.
Saturday Vigil Mass
Basilica of the Sacred Heart
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Worship service.

Sunday

Tennis Match
Eck Tennis Pavillion
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Men’s tennis takes on Ball State.
Mass in Spanish
Dillon Hall Chapel
1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Worship Service.

Monday

Chilli Cook-Off
Harper Hall
3 p.m. - 5 p.m.
\$10/person. Proceeds to Benefit ND Relay for Life.
“The University, Theology, and the Curriculum”
Geddes Hall
7 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Lecture.

Club supports Special Olympic athletes

By **MADISON JAROS**
News Writer

The motto of Special Olympics Notre Dame reads, "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt," a phrase club vice president and senior Andrew Hosbein said describes the club's mission well.

"You hear the Vince Lombardi quote, 'Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing,' and from that you take sports to be ultra-competitive, which they are – who doesn't want to win?" Hosbein said. "Yet, at the same time, one must be comfortable that they tried their best, and that's what we try encourage through the club at Notre Dame."

Special Olympics Notre Dame, founded in 2010, connects students with members of the South Bend community with intellectual disabilities.

Club co-president and senior Molly Reidy said relationships between students and Special Olympic athletes develop through participation in sports. Pick-up basketball, swimming and ice-skating are some of the largest events the club plans throughout the year, she said.

"One of the biggest things I think is important to know about our club is that we're

not an event on campus, but we're a club that plans events year around," Reidy said.

The club also plans a Special Olympics soccer program, Unified Soccer, each spring, Reidy said.

Hosbein said Unified Soccer provides students and athletes with an opportunity to play on a team together.

"What I think is really unique about Unified is the participation on the part of the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students," Reidy said. "They are able to get involved

just being instructed on how to get better. While that's certainly a goal, the camaraderie that the students and athletes develop is special."

Unified Soccer didn't have any local teams like it to play against when it began, but club co-president and senior Laura Gardner said the popularity of the program has since grown to include away games in Michigan. The involvement between club members and athletes provides students with a sense of pride as they see athletes improve and develop, Gardner said.

"Volunteers learn to be adaptable to the kids, and in the end, after a whole season of soccer practices, it's amazing to see children that you work with actually develop day by day in terms of skills and maturity," Gardner said. "We had our first Unified Soccer practice today, and one of the kids from last year was directing a new kid this year and saying, 'This is what I learned last year; this is how you should incorporate it.' ... So that was really cool."

The connection between the city of South Bend and Special Olympics Notre Dame benefits those with disabilities and their families while also popping the "Notre Dame bubble," Reidy

"... We are not only bridging the gap between the Notre Dame community and the South Bend community, but also bridging the gap between those with and without disabilities."

Molly Reidy
co-president
Special Olympics Notre Dame

rather than just standing on the sideline and giving pointers. And I think that's really valuable not only for the students, but also the athletes. They feel like they're a part of an actual team and aren't



Photo courtesy of Special Olympics Notre Dame

Maureen Connelly (left) and Molly Reidy promote the annual "Spread the Word to End the Word" campaign in South Dining Hall last year.

said.

"I think the fact that we are not only bridging the gap between the Notre Dame community and the South Bend community, but also bridging the gap between those with and without disabilities – I think it goes hand-in-hand really well," Reidy said. "We're not only being exposed to these athletes and what they're capable of, but we're being exposed to their families and the ways the athletes and their families find joy. And they find opportunity through our club through the events that we hold, which I think is really rewarding."

This spring, Special Olympics Notre Dame will also participate in 'Spread the Word to End the Word,'

a national campaign to end the casual use of the word "retarded," Reidy said.

"It's important to take time away from school, which can become all-consuming with work, friends and social life, finding a job – and return the favor," Hosbein said. "It's grounding and has engendered a sense of humility, and to me, there's nothing better than seeing how excited an athlete gets after hitting a three or scoring a goal."

"At the core, sports are about competition, but Special Olympics has shown me that making others happy by playing and teaching them skills can be just as satisfying as winning."

Contact Madison Jaros at mjaros@nd.edu

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STUDENT GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE

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29 for 29

Town Hall Meeting

Students can discuss current University topics of interest with Notre Dame's top leaders in an upcoming town hall meeting. University President John Jenkins, Provost Thomas Burish and Executive Vice President John Affleck-Graves will attend the event Feb. 16 at 8 p.m. in DeBartolo 101.

Student government's newest service initiative that pairs each dorm with an area family of lesser means is underway. Students can contact their hall councils to engage with their dorms' families and email studegove@nd.edu to provide feedback or ideas.

Campus Safety Video

Student government will unveil its video on campus safety by email in the coming days.

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD! COME TO STUDENT SENATE ON WEDNESDAYS AT 6 P.M. IN THE NOTRE DAME ROOM

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FB: Notre Dame Student Government

Conferences highlight undergraduate research

By **ANNETTE SAYRE**
News Writer

Notre Dame's Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement (CUSE) will accept abstracts until March 20th from students who wish to participate in the annual Undergraduate Scholars Conference (USC) and the College of Science Joint Annual Meeting (COS-JAM).

The conferences, scheduled for May 1 in DeBartolo Hall, are open to students from Notre Dame, Holy Cross and Saint Mary's. All undergraduates are invited to participate in research presentations, critical analyses and creative endeavors on topics ranging from engineering to humanities to business.

Senior Dan Courtney, civil engineering major and two-time conference participant, said the conferences provide opportunities for undergraduate students to expand their experiences outside the classroom.

"I feel like this event is a real strong point for Notre Dame as a whole," Courtney said. "It is one of the reasons I decided to come here. Notre Dame puts substantial resources into its undergraduate education,

and a lot of professors take on several undergrads.

"At a lot of other schools, students are just watching for four years and taking it all in. Notre Dame offers the unique opportunity of allowing undergraduate students to jump in and start their research early."

According to the CUSE website, the conference is a chance to share research and hear both constructive feedback and insightful questions. Research allows students to use the critical skills they've developed in the classroom to ask new questions, make discoveries and contribute to global conversations that can have a real-world impact.

"That's what it really is – it's sharing," Courtney said. "Presenting at the conference will make your research stronger because you need to be able to clearly and simply communicate your ideas. It exposes your research to criticism, which will ultimately make it stronger. Most students who are really good at research aren't always good at communicating that research — marketing it, if you will."

Junior Lily Kang, an information-technology

management and sociology double-major, said the conferences help students take their research to the next level.

"The conference created an intimate setting in which I felt comfortable holding discussions on my research topic with the audience as well as sharing my personal thoughts," Kang said. "In addition, the conference was truly interdisciplinary, and it was enlightening for me to learn about my fellow students' research projects across all different disciplines."

Courtney said he would encourage all students to stop by the conference to learn about students' various research projects.

"It's so cool seeing your friends in that setting," he said. "You know your friends in one environment, and then to go hear them talk about their research and be amazingly complex is ... fascinating."

More information about the USC and COS-JAM can be found on the CUSE website at <http://undergradresearch.nd.edu/USC/>

Contact Annette Sayre at asayre@nd.edu

SMC alumnae give advice at business panel discussion

By **KIERA JOHNSEN**
News Writer

Saint Mary's College alumnae shared their stories of business education and career success during the Alumni Women in Business panel discussion Wednesday in Spes Unica. The panel offered advice to students interested in or majoring in accounting, business or management information systems on potential career paths available to them after graduation.

Director of finance at LOGAN Community Resources Allison James ('08) said students who are struggling to pick a major should consider participating in a variety of core classes and activities.

"Get involved in absolutely everything you have time to do," she said. "Don't overload yourself, but you will learn a lot about what you are good at and you will learn different skills in different kinds of activities."

Operations auditor at 1st Source Bank, Bethany Panting ('12), said first years should not feel rushed to decide their major.

"Take your time in choosing

your major as a first year, you don't have to come in thinking I'm going to do this," she said. "Find what you really like because you work for the rest of your life. Find something you really enjoy."

Breighan Boeskool ('02), investment operations specialist at the University of Notre Dame, said networking is essential when progressing in any career.

"Saint Mary's has a great network," Boeskool said. "If you get to go to the happy hours, any sort of event that has professionals from the area or anything you think you might be interested in, don't be afraid to just go up, introduce yourself and talk to them and make that connection ... that process of networking that's what helped get my feet on the ground."

James said joining clubs and going to activities is a great way to build a network.

"When I was in school, I had no idea that pretty much every club I was involved in or activity I went to I was networking," she said. "Six years, seven years down the line I am still talking to those people, and all those people are in business too. Its

amazing the connections you make just talking to people."

Boeskel said students interested in those business-related fields should consider taking an introduction to databases course.

"I think in today's day in age, where business is going, a working knowledge of databases is absolutely essential ... management, finance and accounting are all about big data, every single firm," she said. "The way we search the internet, the way we look for numbers, the way we check numbers, the way we are able to make decisions or if we want to make decisions on a moments notice."

Students should learn good communication and organization skills, Boeskel said.

"It's one thing to understand your job; it's then another thing to be able to communicate the ideas of how you can further your projects and goals by presenting in an articulate way to the rest of the team and that is almost as important as knowing the items themselves," she said.

Contact Kiera Johnsen at kjohns02@saintmarys.edu

Peace

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

will be interested in that also address peace and conflict issues from around the world."

This year's ScreenPeace Festival features five documentaries that utilize a variety of filmmaking styles to convey themes of peace and nonviolence. Faculty members will lead discussions immediately following each film.

"Our opening film, 'The Missing Picture,' mixes together file footage of the Cambodian genocide, of which there is very little, with clay figurines to capture the filmmakers' memories," Culbertson said. "It was up for an Academy Award last year and provides an interesting look at the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia."

Both Culbertson and Barron said they are also excited to show "The Man Who Saved the World," a hybrid documentary that recounts the story of a Soviet official credited with helping avert a third world war.

"The Man Who Saved the World' is a documentary, but it uses a lot of narrative reenactments of the original event to create an interesting effect," Culbertson said. "We're very pleased to be hosting the producers of the film, Mark Romeo and Christian Bruun, who will introduce their piece."

"The Missing Picture" will be shown Thursday night at 7 p.m. The festival continues Friday at 6:30 p.m. with "Return to Homs," the story of a teenager's fight to protect the captive inhabitants of the besieged city of Homs, Syria. Then, at 9:30 p.m. on Friday, ScreenPeace will show "The Supreme Price," a political thriller detailing the story of

the family of Nigeria's 1993 president, M.K.O. Abiola.

Saturday's screenings begin with "The Man Who Saved the World" at 6:30 p.m. followed by "The Last Day in Vietnam," a film chronicling the final days of U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War, at 9:30 p.m.

The film festival augments students' classroom experiences by providing additional perspectives on historical and modern events related to peace studies, Culbertson said. Oftentimes, professors with the Kroc Institute integrate the documentaries into their curriculums.

"I think the main purpose [of the film festival] is to enhance classroom learning with films that bring realities from around the world to our students and faculty," Culbertson said. "It's an enhancement to learning from books. Films have the ability to transcend the classroom and provide a window to the rest of the world."

Although tickets to ScreenPeace are free, Culbertson said students should reserve seats ahead of time to ensure admittance. Last year, for the first time in the festival's history, every seat for every film was reserved beforehand.

"We have received overwhelmingly positive reactions to the festival," Barron said. "Students are hungry to learn about ways that they can make a difference in the world. The films we present provide an avenue for them to better understand the world at large."

Tickets can be reserved over the phone, at the box office or online at performingarts.nd.edu.

Contact Katie Galioto at kgalioto@nd.edu

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The Missing Picture | 2013 | Directed Rithy Panh
THU, FEB 5 AT 7PM

Return to Homs | 2013 | Directed by Tala Derki
FRI, FEB 6 AT 6:30PM

The Supreme Price | 2014 | Directed by Joanna Lipper
FRI, FEB 6 AT 9:30PM

The Man Who Saved the World | 2013 | Directed by Peter Anthony
SAT, FEB 7 AT 6:30PM

The Last Days in Vietnam | 2014 | Directed by Rory Kennedy
SAT, FEB 7 AT 9:30PM

Co-presented by: Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies

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Election

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

more votes than the Joseph-Ventilla ticket, had Ricketts and Ruelas failed to meet the requirement of a 50 percent majority, this year's election would have proceeded to a runoff.

Reflecting on the week, Ruelas, the vice-president elect, said she had most enjoyed speaking to potential constituents and friends who had helped on the campaign.

"I'm just incredibly humbled by this whole experience," Ruelas said. "I've met some of the most incredible people on campus throughout this whole time, and it's reinforced some of the best friendships I've made in my entire life. Thank you to everyone who came out. Every single vote counted, and it was — there's no words."

Ricketts, who will serve as president, described his and Ruelas's campaign as a group effort. Like Ruelas, he also described meeting with students as a high point of the campaign experience.

"We definitely want to thank our friends and supporters who worked so hard for this, it definitely wouldn't have happened without them," Ricketts said. "It's been great, over the past week, meeting with so many people on campus and already getting

to start sharing their vision. We've had so many good conversations about the items on our platform and about things that aren't even on there."

When asked, Joseph said he and Ventilla, Sophomore Class Council treasurer and president, respectively, would not pursue offices in the Junior Class Council for the upcoming school year, but he said they hope to find ways to implement the ideas from their platform in other ways.

"We're still really passionate about our ideas and the things we set out to do, and we think these things will be beneficial for all students," Joseph said. "We're not thinking about next year or anything like that, but we really want to get these things done. We're going to try — we don't know how at this point — right now we're just processing things and looking forward."

Moving forward, Ricketts said in the next few weeks he and Ruelas will focus on putting together a staff and cabinet.

"That is definitely the priority," he said. "Finding people who are just as passionate as we are will be crucial to making sure we can be effective next year."

Ricketts and Ruelas officially take office April 1.

Contact Margaret Hynds at mhynds@nd.edu

Plane crashes in Taiwan river

Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan — A pilot of TransAsia Airways Flight 235 said "mayday, mayday, engine flameout" moments before the propjet banked sharply and crashed into a river, an aviation official said Thursday, but declined to comment on a possible cause for the accident.

Engine flameout refers to flames being extinguished in the combustion chamber of the engine, so that it shuts down and no longer drives the propeller. Causes of a flameout could include a lack of fuel or being struck by volcanic ash, a bird or some other object. "Mayday" is an international emergency call.

Video images of the plane's final moments in the air captured on car dashboard cameras appear to show the left engine's propeller at standstill as the aircraft turned sharply over Taipei, with its wings going vertical and clipping a highway bridge before plunging into the Keelung River on Wednesday.

At least 31 people on board were killed, and 15 people were injured, including a toddler and his father. The search continued for 12 people still missing.

An audio recording of the pilot's communications with the control tower at takeoff and during the minutes-long flight were widely broadcast. A Taiwan Civil Aeronautical Administration official who declined to be named confirmed the distress call and its wording Thursday, but did not say how it might relate to a cause for the crash.

About 10 Taipei fire agency divers were looking for any more bodies that may be at the cold river bottom. A crane was used to bring the rear section of the plane to the shore Wednesday night. The fuselage was largely dismantled by hydraulic rescue tools and now lay alongside recovered luggage.

At midday Thursday, about a dozen relatives of Taiwanese victims arrived at the riverbank in the capital to perform traditional mourning rituals. Accompanied by Buddhist monks ringing brass bells, they bowed to the river and held aloft cloth inscriptions tied to pieces of bamboo meant to guide the spirits of the dead to rest.

[Police diver Cheng Ying-chih] said the front of the plane had broken into numerous pieces, making the job difficult.

Physics

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

responsible for giving the other particles their mass, and that is the Higgs-Boson particle. The Higgs Boson was the last piece of the Standard Model to be discovered, and with its discovery, all the phenomenon in the natural world could seemingly be explained."

Even after the discovery of the Higgs-Boson particle, Fox said a lot of exciting physics remains to be done, such as research on the mysterious dark sector.

"We like to think we're doing a good job of explaining the phenomenon that can be observed," he said. "It turns out, once you dig into it, that we can only explain roughly 5 percent of everything."

"This other 95 percent is broken up into two categories. There's stuff that behaves with respect to gravity just like the matter that makes up you and me, known as dark matter, and then there's dark energy, which is very different than matter and dark matter in that it is not affected by gravity. Dark energy is what's responsible for the expansion of the universe speeding up."

Fox said the explanation for dark matter's mysterious name is intuitive in comparison to the rest of the dark sector.

"Dark matter gravitates and attracts matter in the same



EMMET FARNAN | The Observer

Patrick Fox, a theoretical particle physicist from Fermilab, speaks on dark matter Wednesday in Nieuwland Science Hall.

way that you or I do, but more importantly, they don't feel the affects of photons," he said. "Light does not reflect off them, and dark matter and photons do not interact."

Although dark matter certainly exists, Fox said modern physicists still have questions to answer.

"We know that everyone in this room is made out of matter and not antimatter, but the laws that govern the standard model are symmetric," he said. "If you replaced everything in this room with antimatter, it would behave in exactly the same way. We don't know why there's only matter inside us and zero antimatter."

The evidence for and against explanations of dark matter can

be confusing, and Fox said this means it's time to start working to make the evidence more consistent.

"Dark matter is one thing we know for sure that is not explained by the standard model, but we know for sure it's out there," he said. "We don't know more than that, but we have some good ideas that we are working on to try and squeeze all the information out of all the avenues of attack that we have."

"There have been a lot of recent advances both on the theoretical front and the experimental front. The coming decade will be a very exciting time for particle physics."

Contact Matthew McKenna at mmcken12@nd.edu

Heritage

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Relations Shay Jolly, Director of Campus Ministry Judy Fean, Vice President for Enrollment Management Mona Bowe and Assistant Director of Phonathon Kelly Courington, Prezek said.

Also on the guest-list were a number of sisters from the Congregation of Holy Cross, including professor of English Sr. Eva Hooker and Sr. Veronique Wiedower, current president of the Congregation, who delivered the keynote address, Prezek said.

After a three-course meal, Sr. Wiedower gave a presentation called "Belles Then and Now" on the history of the College. Prezek said the presentation included a slideshow of photos from past students and places on campus that have changed drastically through the years.

Senior Madison Maidment said this was her favorite part of the event, as she learned more about the College than she knew before.

"My favorite picture shown during Sister's presentation was of an equestrian competition in

front of Le Mans Hall," Maidment said. "Sister said the green field in front of the building that we know as 'alumnae green' used to be used for horseback-riding by the students back in the day."

After the presentation, students mingled with other guests and were encouraged to share in their "Saint Mary's heritage" from the "past, present and into the future," Prezek said.

"I think one of the most successful parts of the dinner was that students were able to just sit with sisters at their tables and get to know them," Prezek said. "It's so important for current students to realize how much the sisters do and have done for the College through the years, and having that solidarity with them is one of the best parts of attending Saint Mary's."

Senior Nora Clougherty said she was also thankful for the opportunity to socialize with the sisters.

"I loved getting the chance to talk to some of the sisters because they are such wonderful women," Clougherty said. "Sharing stories with them was so great, and the presentation of 'Belles Then and

Now' was awesome to see how much Saint Mary's has grown and to see how much it still remains the same."

There more events scheduled this week will further showcase Saint Mary's heritage and traditions. A poetry reading is scheduled for Thursday at 6 p.m. in Cushwa-Leighton Library, where Prezek said students and professors will read poems that address the theme of Saint Mary's. Some poems date as far back as 1892 from the College's earliest publications, she said.

At 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Thursday, there will be tours of the Heritage Room in the convent.

"The tour is a great way for students to learn more about the sisters — the people who founded the College and made it into the place it is today," Prezek said.

The week's events conclude Friday with a trivia game during lunch in Noble Family Dining Hall, where students can win a variety of prizes based on heritage and history questions about Saint Mary's.

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INSIDE COLUMN

Microsoft's HoloLens

Lucy Du
News Writer

Along with the release of updates to Windows 10 OS last month, Microsoft also announced the release of HoloLens later this year. For those unaware of this exciting new technology, HoloLens is essentially a step up from Google Glass.

It is a pair of glasses that uses the holographic computing platform of Windows 10 to integrate reality with digital content. This means that the HoloLens can translate the 2-D blueprint of a building into a 3-D holographic model, and the user can use hand gestures to interact with the hologram. If this reminds you of Tony Stark working on his Iron Man armor, then you are thinking in the right direction. It is important to note the HoloLens cannot project holograms into the physical space for displays.

If you have stayed up to date with the rollout of Google Glass, you'll know it was a flop. Not only was the technology not ready for the public, the infrastructure required for the glasses to function the way it was meant to also was not there. Google Glass was so unsuccessful, it was recently pulled from production. Now, Google is known to engage in unrealistic business models that hold tremendous future value; like when they offered GOOG-411 for free while all other 411 services charged a fee. This proved to be a valuable venture when voice recognition technology development required large datasets of human voices. So it is possible that Google Glass was just a test during which Google collected important user data.

Then how is the Microsoft HoloLens supposed to overcome the difficulties Google Glass faced? To be frank, I do not know. Those lucky enough to try out the HoloLens have not commented on the shortcomings of such a device. But it is clear that the HoloLens has some significant implications for our future, especially in the gaming world. The HoloLens can scan the physical environment and digitally formulate the game environment according to the surrounding physical. This will allow the gamer to interact with his or her setting, creating a much more realistic experience.

The possibilities for the HoloLens are endless, but one problem it currently does not address is the connectivity between devices. While you can be fully immersed in the augmented reality created by HoloLens, the user is incapable of sharing that world with others. This was also something Google Glass lacked; there were no social aspects to the device and users could not sync with each other. That being said, it would not be hard for either device to adopt a social network created by the third party developer.

Contact Lucy Du at ydu5@nd.edu
The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Facing the unknown

Scott Boyle
The Sincere Seeker

I don't know how many people remember their first crush, but I remember mine like it was yesterday. Her name was Natalie and I liked her for all of my eighth-grade year.

Maybe I'm just odd, but crushes, for me, have been some of the most confusing and difficult times in my life. Let me explain, using Natalie as an example.

I don't think it would be an exaggeration to say that, on one hand, the "crush" gave me superpowers. I had enormous amounts of energy when I woke up in the morning to go to school. Of course, I was pumped not for classes, but for the opportunity to see Natalie. This excitement for school, in any sense, was probably no short of a miracle for an eighth-grade boy.

Also, my body developed an amazing sense of radar location and peripheral vision. Once Natalie had entered a room, there was no losing her. Needless to say, I didn't want to appear creepy, so I spent a lot of time looking out of the corners of my eyes, mostly to see if I would ever have a chance to talk with her.

Further, I developed a great ability to hold many strands of information in my head, all at the same time. Mostly, however, this information took the form of questions. "Is now a good time to talk to her? Should I say hello? Will she think I'm silly? Do I look cool enough? Should I take off my glasses?" I think it was during this time that I realized the prodigious speeds at which the human mind can move.

But these questions also give great insight into why that crush was such a struggle for me. When I led with my heart, anything was possible. Unfortunately, my head gave me no such reinforcement.

These questions, unfortunately, tilled the soil for doubt. Around Natalie, the gift of speech, a usually faithful friend, proved to be unreliable. Somehow, when I needed coherent sentences most, they always seemed to find better things to do.

To top it all off, it was hard to concentrate. In Natalie's presence, my heart would be thumping so loudly that there was barely any space to hear myself think, much less string words together.

My head and heart always seemed to be in a perpetual war. During my "crush," my head led me away from relationships. I could not bear the thought that Natalie might say "no" to me or possibly reject my advances.

Although I didn't know it then, my crush was giving me my first taste of what it was like to, in a small sense, face the unknown.

We fear those things we do not know. While I certainly feared rejection, I think it was the possibility of rejection that messed with my head and fueled my angst. We're told that thinking ahead and preparing will help us to face the future, but sometimes that's just not quite possible, especially with matters of feeling and emotion.

Take much more serious cases, and things get especially difficult. Two people I know were recently diagnosed with cancer. These diagnoses have brought about many emotions: shock, confusion, sadness and anger. It has been tough, especially in light of the treatments and questions that lie ahead. Cancer brings with it the uncertainty of possibilities that we fear most.

But, although it may be difficult to see, it is the heart that must remind us of another path: the path shown to us through the promise of faith.

Casey Sharp wrote: "[Christ] totally and completely reconciles Himself to everything He created and allowed, and reconciles Himself in the most agonizing way imaginable because only that would do. ...[We] can say we affirm a God who relates to all unjust suffering in the most intimate way possible."

In the faith of Christ, we're given a certainty that can light even the darkest of unknown paths. That is to say, it's the certainty that God not only knows what we're going through, but offers us himself, fully and completely, as a stabilizing force. Every Eucharist is a reminder not only of Christ's sacrifice, but of his real presence with us. It is the best reminder we have that resurrection triumphs over death and that life will, in some form or another, always win.

This, of course, cannot completely take away our uncertainty. Faith does not always promise an answer that alleviates all of our ills.

But our faith is a guarantee of a relationship with a God who promises we will never be rejected or abandoned. No matter our sin, or our illness, no matter what evil may befall us, we never truly walk alone.

Scott Boyle graduated in May of 2012 with a degree in theology and a minor in medieval studies. He currently lives and works as a Campus and Youth Minister in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis as a member of Notre Dame's Echo Program. Contact him at sboyle2@nd.edu

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



Election outbreak

Kyle Palmer
Reasonably Right

As a politics addict, I was excited going into this week because the president released his budget, and I wanted to see how the Republican-controlled House and Senate were going to respond. I opened up the news apps on my phone, and with the exception of a new infrastructure and tax proposal within it, there were no stories about the budget. What dominated the news cycle? Not the budget, not the recently released video by the Islamic State showing a Jordanian being burned alive, but measles because apparently measles is a controversial topic. What's more, the dominating theme wasn't the measles outbreak itself, but the opinions of political figures regarding vaccinations. It seems election fever has broken out across the nation.

Following the measles outbreak that has been determined to have originated at Disneyland, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie was among the first high-profile figures to come out and render a public opinion, stating he thinks that parents should have a choice in whether or not to vaccinate their children. Kentucky Senator Rand Paul quickly weighed in during a fiery interview on CNBC, saying that it shouldn't be controversial to allow parents a choice in vaccinating their children. To round out the choice-in-vaccination group was Carly Fiorina, who said the federal government shouldn't mandate immunizations, but that schools should be allowed to keep children out of school for not being vaccinated.

Decidedly taking a middle-of-the-road stance and not wanting to get involved with the issue was Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, who thinks the federal government should punt the issue to the states to

let them decide. I would ask the good senator if he believes that measles somehow affects children from California but not from Texas? Cruz said, however, "But on the question of whether kids should be vaccinated, the answer is obvious and there's widespread agreement – of course they should." To which I would follow up with asking, incredulously, why he then believes vaccinations shouldn't be mandated nationally?

Then there's the vaccination crowd, which included Dr. Ben Carson, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, whose only comment on the matter was a single, though decisive, tweet: "The science is clear: The earth is round, the sky is blue, and #vaccineswork. Let's protect all our kids. #GrandmothersKnowBest."

There's extremely broad support for mandating vaccinations, especially because the evidence that purportedly proves major side effects of vaccinations is questionable at best, and because diseases don't just inflict harm to one individual – they can spread and affect potentially hundreds of children. As Sen. Mitch McConnell put it: "As a victim of polio myself, I'm a big fan of vaccinations." This is a public health issue, so why shouldn't we leave it at that?

For me, this just highlights the fact that the 2016 presidential race has entered a new phase; where no one is technically running yet, but seemingly everyone is posturing themselves to enter soon. It's interesting to me because I have been trying to pin down what would be the deciding issue in 2016 for the past couple months. I never suspected that it would be vaccinations. In reality, I don't expect this to be the ultimately pivotal issue for the presidential campaign, but it may be the first

round of eliminations for candidates. While I believe they will run regardless of this issue, I feel Gov. Christie and Sen. Paul's positions on this issue will hurt them (I am not sure if Carly Fiorina will run, but given her stance it certainly won't help her chances either). Sen. Cruz will hold on to his loyal base with his passive stance. All who are in favor of vaccination mandates will move on to the next stage. Mike Huckabee and Rick Santorum mostly stayed out of this fight.

Clinton is the heir presumptive of the Democratic presidential nomination, so it is the Republican field that continues to narrow. Although the number of Republicans "considering" running for the White House still seems to compete with the population of Wyoming, different voting blocs and fundraisers are deciding who to get behind. With the exit of Mitt Romney, Scott Walker has placed himself near the top of the Republican field, with many believing he would draw a strong contrast to Clinton as an effective governor who still connects to normal people as opposed to Wall Street or Washington, D.C. elites.

The argument over vaccines will likely continue for a week before the media moves on to another topic, but this has certainly forced many candidates to unofficially enter into the race. Surely, events like this intrigue me and other political junkies and offer insight into the forthcoming election. Make no mistake, the outbreak of election fever is spreading rapidly, and you will have a choice of whether you fall victim to it and participate — or vaccinate with apathy.

Kyle Palmer is an Alumni Hall junior majoring in accountancy. He welcomes reasonable debate on all his opinions. He can be reached at kpalm6@nd.edu

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

There is too much work to do

Social change is a slow and sometimes grueling process. It is never easy to change long-held attitudes or to create institutional reform. Look at past justice movements: the Civil Rights Movement, the Women's Movement, the American Indian Movement and many more. These all took decades to create lasting change. The leaders of these movements fought long and hard uphill battles to make a difference.

Dorothy Day led a movement as well — the Catholic Worker Movement. She left us with some important words about slow, incremental change. "People say, what is the sense of our small effort? They cannot see that we must lay one brick at a time, take one step at a time. A pebble cast into a pond causes ripples that spread in all directions. Each one of our thoughts, words and deeds is like that. No one has a right to sit down and feel hopeless. There is too much work to do."

Day was right; there is much work to be done. Today, we see so many things that can be

improved and so many places where justice is needed. Here at Notre Dame, we pride ourselves on being a beacon of social justice and good will. That is part of what attracted me to this school. I am surrounded by people setting the world on fire, fighting for life, for rights and for justice in every scope. The University as a whole has an amazing track record of standing for what is right. Just look to figures like Fr. Hesburgh or programs like Alliance for Catholic Education. It is clear that this University is more than just a place to learn; this University is an instrument of change.

Dorothy Day would agree that all change is slow. But just because it is slow or our efforts seem small, the ripples extending forth from our actions go further than we can ever know. Right now, Notre Dame students are fighting for a greener and brighter tomorrow. More than 1,000 of you backed the fossil fuel divestment movement on this campus. Some may say that this effort is small. How much change will be caused

by Notre Dame dropping its shares in fossil fuel corporations? No one can say for sure, but this action makes a statement that we care about the wellbeing of our earth. Climate change is harming us today, and will continue to affect future generations. How can we stand not to take action? As stewards of the earth and as Catholics, we are called to take care of creation.

We, as a university, cannot sit back and passively condemn climate change. Global climate change is a pressing challenge and one that should not be taken lightly. Sometimes, this issue can make me feel a little bit hopeless. But I do not have the right to sit down and mope. Neither do you, and neither does this University. There is too much work to do.

Kathleen Rocks
freshman
Cavanaugh Hall
Feb. 4

Join the Discussion
Have an opinion? *Let us hear it.*

Send a letter to the Editor at
viewpoint@ndsmcobserver.com



By **JOHN DARR**
Scene Writer

It's a new year, sort of. The thrill of a new digit at the end of the day's date has worn off, no one's talking about how crazy New Year's Eve was anymore, the best-of-2014 lists have dropped out of conversation and with little more than a fantastic Björk record to talk about, music nerds are finding themselves less sociable every day as they impatiently await next month's new releases.

But this year has already heard some truly killer beats. With the release of an instrumental Death Grips record, a Burial EP, and a Rabbit Junk EP, 2015 has already yielded a handful of excellent tracks.

So if you're looking for new music to get you going before the year's anticipated releases drop, look no further. Prepare to jam.

Death Grips: "Runway H (Track 10)"

We've put a ban on writing about Death Grips at Scene, so of course I had to work them in somehow. "Fashion Week," as a collection of instrumentals from the dub-step/electro/rap trio, caused less excitement than usual when it was released suddenly and for free, in classic Death Grips fashion.

While the record is indeed a mere collection of beats, "Fashion Week" holds its fair share of gems.

Of such gems, the first "Runway H" (there are two on the record) is the most fabulous. The track's bass lurches its way forward like a thousand-ton slug while the acoustic

drums stomp around in the background. It's a recklessly heavy track that lurches from loud to louder, from slow to breakneck and from awesome to even more awesome. Perhaps the most in-your-face track Death Grips has released (and that's certainly saying something), "Runway H" is a must-download for fans of music that sounds loud even at its lowest volume.

Burial: "Temple Sleeper"

When will he stop? Future garage wunderkind William Bevan, a.k.a. "Burial," has essentially perfected his genre. His works crackle like vinyl records, filled with atmospheric synths that range from gritty to beautiful to both. His use of vocal samples manages to wring the purest, most aching emotions from their sources. His last string of EP's, "Kindred," "Truant" and "Rival Dealer," received rave reviews despite never veering away from his past work.

New single "Temple Sleeper," the latest release from the producer, deserves similar accolades. Strikingly close to the arpeggio grooves of "Loner" from the EP "Kindred," "Temple Sleeper" is one of the most danceable Burial tracks in the catalog. The four-on-the-floor beat is accentuated with Bevan's classic crackling production and unexpected structural twists. An addictive groove without a dull moment, "Temple Sleeper" peaks during its second half.

A voice that raps "about to go into another dimension" speeds over a ridiculously catchy synth riff, hinting at an acceleration towards even more accessible, danceable

music for the producer. Hopefully, the track is an indication of even more universal Burial music in the years to come.

Rabbit Junk: "Radical Acceptance"

Rabbit Junk may not be huge yet, but their music is undoubtedly some of the most epic stuff out there. Coming off last year's relentlessly intense and catchy "Pop That Pretty Thirty" EP, producer JP Anderson dropped the "Invasion" EP just days ago. Instead of the focused dancefloor-destroying brand of electro-rock that defined "Pretty Thirty," the style of "Invasion" falls closer to badass-film score, with lyrics. Shredding guitar, atmospheric backing vocals and cinematic crescendos echo throughout the record.

"Radical Acceptance," however, is the pinnacle of the record because it employs several of the elements that gave "Pop That Pretty Thirty" so much life. A signature Rabbit Junk vocal chant kicks the song off, demanding the listener to sing along. A mere minute into the track, a suspenseful drum beat explodes into a heart-pounding Drum & Bass throwdown.

What follows is sure to bring the house down: death-defying lyrics, a guitar solo, a false and real 'drop' and a chanting outro. If you're having trouble getting up in the morning, set "Radical Acceptance" as your alarm. You will start fist-pumping before you even know you're awake.

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IRISH INSIDER

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2015



THE FIRST STEP

National Signing Day

THE OBSERVER

Photo Illustration by Wei Lin and Mary McGraw

COMMENTARY

NSD about more than football



Mary Green
Sports Editor

With one signature and one fax, it's all over.

Months, if not years, of campus visits, both official and unofficial, talks over the phone, thinking about the "next level," researching programs and discernment as a whole are complete.

It must be a huge relief to the players to finally be able to close one chapter of a book and begin another with so much excitement and promise.

It's also a relief to the coaching staff, knowing they have another year of the future covered.

But that's the problem with National Signing Day. We tend to act like all of a team's problems are solved by signing a single class.

The truth is, the game is too unpredictable and fickle for that to hold true.

We'll start with the rankings of the players themselves. On most sites, five stars means as much of a sure thing as you can be. Work hard and live up to your potential, and a future in the NFL is all but set.

But how many former five-star recruits started in this year's Super Bowl? None.

Eight of the 48 starters were four stars, and the greatest number (21) had three stars. Ultimately, it comes down to improvement and performance, not how highly touted a prospect a player is.

The unpredictability begins on the college field.

College coaches target certain positions to fill holes exposed in a previous season and made bigger by graduation.

Coaches tout how a big-name quarterback prospect will jump-start a lackluster offense the next season or how a few defensive linemen will strengthen a shaky run defense.

They say an incoming receiver will be a surefire Heisman candidate in a season or two and that a speedy cornerback will shut down any deep threat when he is on the field.

But there is no way one can know this definitely, and there is no way one can predict with certainty the struggles a team will

undergo in future seasons.

Take Notre Dame's 2014 season. The defense suffered tremendously at all positions from injuries. By the end of the year, you couldn't make up the storylines of which players were injured and who had to sub in for them. Many jokes were made on the Notre Dame campus about recruiting from the interhall ranks, and sometimes, I half wondered if the Irish coaching staff had checked out those options out of desperation.

Then there's the now-famous absurdity of the Ohio State quarterback situation, in which potential Heisman contender Braxton Miller went down in the offseason, then backup J.T. Barrett led the Buckeyes to a one-loss regular season and finally, third-stringer Cardale Jones started the team's final three games en route to a national championship.

As evidenced by both Notre Dame's defense and Ohio State's quarterbacks, the game of football is fickle, and no crystal ball can foresee what will happen.

Yet out of all this instability, no matter who gets hurt, these players will still be students. They will still go to class; they will still have homework to do and exams to take, and ultimately, they will still receive their degrees. That is the one constant that remains and the one thing they will be able to count on.

National Signing Day is the day when players officially become part of a football program. But it's also a day when these students get to celebrate their decision to attend a university and a pretty good one in Notre Dame.

In the midst of hovering around fax machines and tweeting out the arrivals of national letters of intent, let's not forget the other side of the situation: All of these young men know where they will live, learn and grow, not just as a football player, but as an entire person for the next four years, and that's something to celebrate just as much.

Contact Mary Green at mgreen8@nd.edu

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

No last-day surprises as Irish ink 24 recruits

By **MIKE MONACO**
Senior Sports Writer

Often a time of suspense and intrigue, National Signing Day proved relatively uneventful for Notre Dame's recruiting efforts, as the Irish inked all 24 expected signees.

Irish head coach Brian Kelly introduced the 24-member class of 2015, including the four early enrollees already taking classes and working out with the team in South Bend, on Wednesday afternoon.

The Irish had already compiled 22 public pledges entering Wednesday, and Notre Dame rounded out the class with the additions of running back Dexter Williams and receiver Equanimeous St. Brown on Wednesday.

Williams is slotted as the No. 12 running back in the country, according to Rivals. The Orlando, Florida, native joins fellow signee Josh Adams in the Notre Dame class of 2015.

"We were looking to get a second back in this class, and we felt like Dexter gave us that break-away back that we wanted," Kelly said. "His second-level speed, his quickness into the hole and then his acceleration were the things that separated him from the other backs that we recruited."

St. Brown, like Williams, is

another four-star offensive skill-position prospect. The Anaheim, California, product is the No. 15 receiver in the nation.

"He's just a great kid," Kelly said. "He's got great range, 6'-5", another rangy wide receiver who can run. He gets in and out of his breaks. Another matchup guy that I think you're gonna have problems with now."

The Irish are expected to return 19 of 22 starters from the 2014 team, which finished 8-5 following a 31-28 victory over LSU in the Music City Bowl.

"These are guys that we believe can help us win a championship, and that's how we recruit," Kelly said. "And they're guys that fit here at Notre Dame. So that's the lens that we recruit through."

Notre Dame's class ranks around the edges of the top 10 nationally, according to various recruiting services. In addition to Adams, Williams and St. Brown, the Irish hauled in three more receivers — Miles Boykin, Jalen Guyton and C.J. Sanders — tight end Alizé Jones and quarterback Brandon Wimbush.

Wimbush is pegged as the No. 60 player in the country. The former Penn State commitment flipped to the Irish in October.

"We were gonna be okay if we didn't take a quarterback until I saw Brandon on film in his first

couple games, and that changed my mind," Kelly said. "He just did so many of the things that I think a complete quarterback needs to do. And as we went to work in the recruiting process, I just thought we had to take a quarterback."

On the defensive side of the ball, three four-star linebackers highlight the Irish class. Indiana natives Josh Barajas (No. 180) and Asmar Bilal (No. 246) and Florida product and early enrollee Te'von Coney (No. 118) all cracked the Rivals 250.

Kelly said cornerbacks Shaun Crawford, Nick Coleman and Ashton White offer Notre Dame "crucial" flexibility in sub-packages. Kicker Justin Yoon filled Notre Dame's other "must-need," per Kelly. The Irish hosted multiple safety prospects on official visits during the past few weeks, but Nathan Meadors (UCLA), Arrington Farrar (Wisconsin) and Justin Reid (Stanford) all chose to sign elsewhere Wednesday.

"We think when it all plays out, we're gonna be all right at safety," Kelly said. "But we needed the three in-and-out corners, and we needed the kicker."

Notre Dame begins spring practice March 2.

Contact Mike Monaco at jmonaco@nd.edu

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CLASS OF 2015



Photo courtesy of BlueAndGold.com, Rivals

JOSH BARAJAS

LINEBACKER

6'3" • 212

*Andrean High School
Valparaiso, Indiana*

Ranked as the top player in Indiana and the No. 137 player overall in 247 Sports' composite rankings, Josh Barajas chose Notre Dame over a host of top schools, including national championship game participants Oregon and Ohio State. Originally committed to Penn State, he decommitted from the Nittany Lions and committed to Notre Dame on May 30.

Barajas has been listed as both an inside and outside linebacker, depending on the recruiting service. At 6-foot-3, 212 pounds, his frame is a little small for that of a linebacker, but it permits him to use his speed and get out in coverage.

Barajas doesn't figure to be a great pass rusher, but he pursues and tackles well, which should give him a shot at quick playing time in a position where the Irish are still inexperienced.



Photo courtesy of BlueAndGold.com, Rivals

EQUANIMEOUS ST. BROWN

RECEIVER

6'5" • 205

*Servite High School
Anaheim, California*

From Servite High School in Anaheim, California, 6-foot-5 Equanimeous St. Brown is a four-star wide receiver who adds size to Notre Dame's receiving corps, which now has two receivers who stand at least 6-foot-4.

Because Servite struggled during St. Brown's senior year, his numbers weren't as impressive as his junior year statistics. In his final two seasons, St. Brown compiled 74 receptions along with 1,210 yards and 10 touchdown catches.

Along with having ideal size, St. Brown has great hands and runs crisp routes, which helps him separate from even the biggest defensive backs. With St. Brown and 6-foot-4 sophomore Corey Robinson manning down the wide out positions, sophomore Will Fuller and future Irish receiver CJ Sanders could thrive in the slot.



Photo courtesy of BlueAndGold.com, Rivals

SHAUN CRAWFORD

CORNERBACK

5'9" • 170

*St. Edward High School
Lakewood, Ohio*

Shaun Crawford is a four-star recruit from St. Edward High School, one of the premier high school football programs in Ohio. Crawford gave a verbal commitment to Michigan in August 2013 but later decommitted and verbally committed to Notre Dame in June 2014. At St. Edward's, Crawford lined up at cornerback, receiver and kick/punt returner. During his senior year, Crawford registered 91 tackles, seven interceptions and 17 pass breakups on defense. He also accumulated 824 receiving yards on 54 receptions, nine of them for touchdowns, on the offensive side of the ball. Crawford is a versatile athlete who shows great playmaking ability. He doesn't have ideal size or measurables, but his knack for the game and athleticism make him an elite recruit in this year's class.



Photo courtesy of BlueAndGold.com, Rivals

JERRY TILLERY

DEFENSIVE LINEMAN

6'6" • 310

*Evangel Christian Academy
Shreveport, Louisiana*

At 6-foot-6 and 310 pounds, early enrollee Jerry Tillery is a big recruit in more ways than one. An offensive lineman at Evangel Christian Academy in Shreveport, Louisiana, Tillery committed to Notre Dame on June 22, 2013 as a defensive tackle. Using his massive frame and strength to his advantage, Tillery displays an ability to drive opposing players with ease, which should translate to him being an effective, disruptive defensive tackle. What truly sets him apart in the minds of recruiters, however, is his athleticism. Despite his size, Tillery runs a 5.05 40-yard dash and displays impressive lateral quickness and first-step explosiveness, which should enable him to make the transition to defensive line with relative ease.



Photo courtesy of BlueAndGold.com, Rivals

TRISTEN HOGE

OFFENSIVE LINEMAN

6'4" • 290

*Highland High School
Pocatello, Idaho*

One of the biggest areas to stock talent for continued success is the offensive line, and the Irish are looking to do that with their signing of early enrollee Tristen Hoge. The 6-foot-4, 290-pound Pocatello, Idaho, native will be part of the Irish recruiting class of 2015. Hoge, who primarily played center for Highland High School, helped lead his team to an undefeated 12-0 record and an Idaho 5A state football championship. For his performance on the line, Hoge was named the Gatorade Player of the Year for Idaho and an Army All-American. In addition to these accolades, Hoge was also one of 25 players from across the country to be named a Parade All-American, earning the national honor from Parade Magazine.



Photo courtesy of BlueAndGold.com, Rivals

DEXTER WILLIAMS

RUNNING BACK

6' • 200

*West Orange High School
Winter Garden, Florida*

At 6-foot and 200 pounds, four-star running back Dexter Williams is not going to run through many defenses. Rather the Orlando, Florida, product uses excellent lateral movement and acceleration to evade defenders and hit holes with speed. While Williams, who decommitted from Miami (Fla.) in early January, does not have elite speed, running a 4.55 40-yard dash, he possesses an elusiveness which helps him slip out of and away from arm tackles and avoid square hits. In considering the Irish backfield, Williams looks similar to Greg Bryant in running style but also shows glimpses of Tarean Folston, working his way through a mess of players and using his acceleration to pull away for extra yardage. He will fit best as a change of pace back that runs circles around tired, beat-up defenders.



Photo courtesy of BlueAndGold.com, Rivals

ALIZ'E JONES

TIGHT END

6'5" • 220

*Bishop Gorman High School
Las Vegas*

One of the top-ranked players in the Irish recruiting class, Jones is the next in line to continue Notre Dame's tradition of successful tight ends. A four-star recruit from Bishop Gorman High School in Las Vegas, he is the top-ranked tight end in the nation according to both ESPN and 247Sports. With a 40-yard dash time of 4.67 seconds, Jones offers an impressive size and speed combination that should make him a major asset in the passing game. His 13 receiving touchdowns in his senior season also indicate his potential to become a go-to player in the red zone for the Irish. He hauled in 41 passes for 930 yards in 15 games in 2014. He also recorded a 22.7 yards per catch average, including a career-long catch of 80 yards, which suggests that Jones is capable of outrunning coverage downfield despite his size.



Photo courtesy of BlueAndGold.com, Rivals

BRANDON WIMBUSH

QUARTERBACK

6'1" • 212

*St. Peter's Prep
Hackensack, New Jersey*

Brandon Wimbush is a 6-foot-1, 212-pound quarterback out of Jersey City, New Jersey, where he played for St. Peter's Prep. The Marauders won a state title last season with Wimbush under center. The four-star recruit is a dual-threat quarterback who threw for 223.1 yards per game in eight games as a senior and racked up 22 touchdowns, while throwing just one interception.

Wimbush can air it out, as he did last year on a season-long 60-yard pass, and he throws with precision and speed on shorter routes. Wimbush threw just four interceptions and tossed for 2,702 total passing yards in his high school career. During the 2014 season, Wimbush also rushed for 349 yards on 31 carries, gaining an average of 11.3 yards per rush. Wimbush scored six rushing touchdowns.

Wimbush, Jones highlight Notre Dame flips



Photo courtesy of BlueAndGold.com, Rivals

Quarterback Brandon Wimbush prepares to make a pass during a game for St. Peter's Prep in Jersey City, New Jersey.

By **SAMANTHA ZUBA**
Assistant Managing Editor

Notre Dame signed on Wednesday several players formerly committed to other schools, including top quarterback prospect Brandon Wimbush.

Wimbush committed to the Irish on Oct. 7, 2014 after previously committing to Penn State. It was part of an overall successful recruiting process for Notre Dame, said Andrew Ivins, a recruiting analyst for Blue & Gold Illustrated and Rivals.com. The Irish signed 24 players.

"Notre Dame's done a strong job addressing some needs and concerns in certain areas," Ivins said. "They've made some pushes. They've got a lot of guys from solid high school programs who can win games and played for some championship programs, so they've gone out, and I think they've done a great job of getting high-caliber kids."

Like Wimbush, tight end Alizé Jones of Las Vegas committed earlier to a different school. Jones committed to UCLA but flipped to Notre

Dame on Dec. 12, 2014.

"Notre Dame's just done a good job of sticking with these kids," Ivins said. "They made Alizé feel like a priority despite his commitment."

Flipping commitments has become somewhat of a "trend in the industry," Ivins said, as recruits make earlier commitments, but securing a player like Wimbush was a bit different.

"It's really impressive when you can do it with a guy like Brandon Wimbush because once the quarterback dominoes fall in the summer, no one really shuffles around, but Notre Dame stuck with him, they got him on campus, and they flipped him," Ivins said. "They're selling a product that these kids are buying into."

Wimbush played for St. Peter's Prep, a state champion in New Jersey last season. Jones and defensive back Nicco Fertitta, played for Bishop Gorman, a state champion from Las Vegas, Nevada.

"I'm a firm believer in that," Ivins said of recruiting players from winning programs. "I believe that you

want to get guys from strong programs who are quote, unquote 'winners' and know what it takes because those are the guys that are getting good coaching."

Recruiting from a big-name high school can also create important relationships.

"I've had multiple coaches tell me that from [Bishop Gorman], that Notre Dame's done a great job recruiting Bishop Gorman and that bodes well down the line because they have a lot of good players that are coming out of there," Ivins said.

In terms of the best signings in the class, Ivins named defensive back Mykelti Williams from Warren Central in Indianapolis and linebacker Te'von Coney from Palm Beach Gardens High School in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

"What you like about Mykelti is he's an explosive player with a really good frame," Ivins said. "He's a guy who could probably step on the field and play right now but has just loads of potential. He could play strong safety, free safety, cornerback, nickel, so he can be really versatile in the secondary, and obviously, as most Notre Dame fans know, depth is an issue there right now."

Ivins said Coney, who is already enrolled, stood out at the high school All-American game.

"He was a late addition to the Under Armour All-American Game [but] looked like in my opinion the best linebacker out there, and I stood out there and watched practices for five days," Ivins said.

Ivins said Jones, outside linebacker Tristen Hoge from Highland High School in Pocatello, Idaho, and defensive lineman Bo Wallace from John Curtis Christian High

School in New Orleans have the potential to be impact players in a couple years.

Much of Notre Dame's recruiting success has come from the type of players and students the Irish target, Ivins said.

"They seem to find this mold of kid who's, whether it's faith-based, whether it's a champion, whether it's someone who's just drawn to the lure of Notre Dame and the tradition, they do a good job of locking them up early in the process."

Although Notre Dame has done a good job selling "the academic side of things," Ivins said, that same strength can present a recruiting challenge.

"Notre Dame shops in a different aisle," Ivins said. "It's clear that they have to find a different breed of kid. Test scores are obviously a big [challenge]. ... You have to identify kids early in the process that, 'Hey, this kid's going to make the grades,' and you have to identify kids, 'Hey, this kid's going to want to be able to move to Indiana.' In some of those recruiting hot beds,

that's a hard sell to go after kids in Atlanta, Florida and Arizona."

In addition, the Midwest recruiting scene will only grow more crowded as Jim Harbaugh settles in at Michigan and as Urban Meyer continues to work at Ohio State, Ivins said.

Despite these challenges, succeeded in securing top-priority signees.

"I think this class clearly is a step in the right direction," Ivins said. "Like I said, they locked a lot of these kids up early, got them to Notre Dame, which was really good, and they've been able to manage to hold on to a lot of kids. If you look around the country, that's not the case. ... They did an extremely good job getting their guys and holding on to them."

For more on Notre Dame recruiting, check out BlueandGold.com. Email Andrew Owens at aowens@blueandgold.com and tell him The Observer sent you.

Contact Samantha Zuba at szuba@nd.edu



Photo courtesy of BlueAndGold.com, Rivals

Tight end Alize Jones lines up for the next play in a game for Bishop Gorman in Las Vegas.

Recent *Flips* for the Irish

Class of 2010

S Chris Badger (Stanford)
WR TJ Jones (Stanford)
QB Luke Massa (Cincinnati)
OL Tate Nichols (Stanford)
DL Louis Nix (Miami)
DL Kona Schwenke (BYU)
LB Danny Spond (Colorado)

Class of 2011

QB Everett Golson (UNC)
DL Chase Hounshell (Florida)
DL Aaron Lynch (Florida State)
OL Nick Martin (Kentucky)
DL Stephon Tuitt (Georgia Tech)

Class of 2012

DL Jarron Jones (Penn State)
QB Gunner Kiel (LSU)

Class of 2013

RB Greg Bryant (Oklahoma)
WR Will Fuller (Penn State)
LB Doug Randolph (Stanford)
S Max Redfield (USC)
TE Durham Smythe (Texas)

Class of 2014

DL Peter Mokwuah (Rutgers)
S Drue Tranquill (Purdue)
DL Jhonny Williams (Missouri)

Class of 2015

LB Josh Barajas (Penn State)
CB Shaun Crawford (Michigan)
TE Alizé Jones (UCLA)
CB Ashton White (Virginia Tech)
QB Brandon Wimbush (Penn State)

Irish secondary recruits look to make quick impact

By **BRIAN HARTNETT**
Managing Editor

Entering the offseason, Notre Dame's secondary became an area of primary importance.

There of course were needs to address with a unit that surrendered 233 passing yards per game and 23 total touchdowns through the air last season, six of them coming in the team's final regular-season game.

But there were also plenty of needs to address with the unit's depth, given the losses of cornerback Cody Riggs and safety Austin Collinsworth to graduation and the recent departure of safety Eilar Hardy. With these losses, plus injuries to junior safety Nicky Baratti and freshman safety Drue Tranquill, the Irish are effectively down to two healthy scholarship safeties — junior Elijah Shumate and sophomore Max Redfield.

Notre Dame took a stab at filling these needs Wednesday the Irish announced the signing of five defensive backs — Nick Coleman, Shaun Crawford, Nicco Fertitta, Ashton White and Mykelti

Williams.

With only two of those players — Fertitta and Williams — projected to play safety, the Irish didn't quite end up with the depth they expected at the position, according to Andrew Ivins, a recruiting analyst for Blue & Gold Illustrated and Rivals.com.

"Given the depth, it was obviously a huge hole in the class," Ivins said. "They really needed to address some concerns."

Despite the limited numbers, the Irish picked up two players who should be able to contribute within their first two years, Ivins said.

"Thankfully, I think Mykelti Williams can play right away," he said. "I think Nico Fertitta is a guy who's probably going to need a redshirt year or play some special teams. He's a bit undersized."

In his National Signing Day press conference, Irish head coach Brian Kelly said the team is exploring the possibility of having some current players switch into the safety slot, though he declined to mention specific names.

"I mean, we are going to look at the potential of moving some guys there, yes,

that's definitely in the conversation," he said.

There's a few more contributors returning at the cornerback position, but the Irish will have to replace a starter in Riggs. Sophomore cornerback Cole Luke, who started all 13 games last season, figures to be a fixture at one cornerback slot, while senior Matthias Farley, sophomore

going to cross-train a lot of these guys.

"Ashton White, he might be a guy who could be in the nickel. ... Shaun Crawford, who's an exceptional stand-out cover corner, he played some safety in high school. He's extremely undersized to be a safety at the collegiate level, but he could be an emergency option. ... Nick Coleman, too, he could potentially be cross-trained in there."

Crawford, an Under Armour All-American selection from Lakewood, Ohio, echoed Ivins's thoughts on cross-training, as he recalled recruiting conversations with VanGorder.

"Coach VanGorder talked to me a lot about the nickel position, that it's actually wide open, so I'll definitely come in wanting to take that role over and play a little corner," Crawford said.

Crawford and the other secondary recruits will have the additional challenge of adjusting to a new position coach. According to si.com, defensive backs coach Kerry Cooks has accepted the same position at Oklahoma. Cooks updated his Twitter profile

biography Wednesday night to say, "Secondary Coach at the University of Oklahoma."

"Coach Cooks had been hitting the Louisiana, Texas markets hard for the first time in a while for Notre Dame, so that could be a bit of a regression," Ivins said.

Still, Crawford said last season's struggles, worries about depth and adjustments to a potential replacement are things that don't worry him and his fellow incoming defensive backs, who he speaks to via group chat "literally every day, all day sometimes."

"I think we can be the spark," Crawford said. "We're a group of energetic guys. Just watching film, you can see we all play with some emotion, so I just think we'll wear it."

"If we're put in there to play, I think we'll make an impact."

*For more on Notre Dame recruiting, check out BlueandGold.com. Email Andrew Owens at aowens@blueandgold.com and tell him *The Observer* sent you.*

Contact Brian Hartnett at bhartnet@nd.edu

"I think we can be the spark. We're a group of energetic guys. ... If we're put in there to make a play, I think we'll make an impact."

Shaun Crawford
class of 2015 recruit

Devin Butler and freshman Nick Watkins are all possibilities to play opposite him.

Ivins praised the versatility of Notre Dame's new cornerbacks, noting their potential to play different roles in defensive coordinator Brian VanGorder's scheme.

"I think the big word we're going to hear is 'cross-train,'" Ivins said. "I think they're

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JOSH ADAMS

RUNNING BACK

6'2" • 210

Central Bucks High School South Warrington, Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania native Josh Adams eschewed his native Penn State for the Irish. The 6-foot-2, 210-pound running back committed to Notre Dame this past June. Adams put together an impressive senior season, compiling 1,618 rushing yards and 27 rushing touchdowns, as well as 267 receiving yards and four receiving touchdowns. Although classified by many scouts as a "power back," Adams' running style is a mixture of not just strength but quickness, speed and agility. Adams's physicality and size could loom large for the Irish in upcoming seasons, as he will provide a reliable running threat on crucial goal-line and third-down situations.



Photo courtesy of BlueAndGold.com, Rivals

ASMAR BILAL

LINEBACKER

6'3" • 210

Ben Davis High School Indianapolis

Bilal, who projects as an inside linebacker at the next level, chose the Irish in October over offers from Michigan, Nebraska, Texas A&M, Tennessee and Michigan State, among others. Bilal was selected as a U.S. Army All-American and is seen by some analysts to be an instant impact player for the Irish, especially if he were to move outside. He is coming off a strong senior season in which he racked up a team-leading 155 tackles, 104 of them solo. He also helped guide his team to the Indiana Class 6A state championship. Bilal has a great motor to go along with even better instincts to the ball, seemingly always knowing which

direction the play is headed. He is a heavy hitter who doesn't give up on plays.



Photo courtesy of BlueAndGold.com, Rivals

MILES BOYKIN

RECEIVER

6'3" • 225

Providence Catholic High School Tinley Park, Illinois

Known for his agility and ability to play out wide, Boykin recorded 1,035 receiving yards and 19 touchdowns in his senior season. Boykin ranks 36th on ESPN's list of top receivers for 2015, as well as 21st on ESPN's list of top Midwest recruits. After receiving a slew of offers from schools, including Florida, Mississippi, Michigan and Ohio State, Boykin committed to Notre Dame last July. Boykin has shown his speed in the 40-yard dash, clocking in at 4.51 seconds. Originally pegged as a tight end, Boykin demonstrates much versatility and could start his Notre Dame career as the X-receiver.



Photo courtesy of BlueAndGold.com, Rivals

NICK COLEMAN

CORNERBACK

6'0" • 180

Archbishop Alter High School Dayton, Ohio

The 6-foot, 180-pound Coleman showed some speed at both running back and corner during his high school career. He has twitchy speed, which is great for reacting as a corner. He shows great closing speed, also good for any defender, and he displays some impeccable acceleration and separation speed. As a nationally unranked, three-star recruit, Coleman may be just the steal Notre Dame needs for its secondary. Coleman committed as a cornerback to Notre Dame, but he has potential to be a

running back for the Irish. Look for the Kettering, Ohio, native to possibly be a dark horse in the near-future for the Irish, whether on offense or defense.



Photo courtesy of BlueAndGold.com, Rivals

TE'VON CONEY

LINEBACKER

6'0" • 221

Palm Beach Gardens High School Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

Weighing 221 pounds and measuring in at six feet tall, inside linebacker Tevon Coney verbally committed to Notre Dame in October and enrolled early at the University in January. Coney was an Under Armour All-American and made the Florida All-State second team during his high school career, and he totaled 308 tackles and 17 sacks in his junior and senior years combined. Coney's main attribute is his ability to shut down the opposing team's running game and his ability to blitz. In that respect, he will be very useful to Notre Dame's developing linebackers corps. Coney was also recruited by Florida, Alabama and Auburn.



Photo courtesy of BlueAndGold.com, Rivals

MICAH DEW-TREADWAY

DEFENSIVE LINEMAN

6'5" • 280

Bolingbrook High School Bolingbrook, Illinois

A raw and athletic defensive lineman, Micah Dew-Treadway has all of the physical skills to be a key player for the Irish in the future.

Although Dew-Treadway is still relatively inexperienced, having only recently transitioned to football from basketball, he has already shown signs that he can be a disruptive player with a habit of shedding blockers and getting into the

backfield.

Dew-Treadway played both inside and as an edge-rusher for Bolingbrook High School, but he is likely to continue to add size to his 6-foot-5, 273-pound frame and play defensive tackle for the Irish.

As an early enrollee, he should have an early opportunity to gain more experience in football and at defensive tackle.



Photo courtesy of BlueAndGold.com, Rivals

NICCO FERTITTA

DEFENSIVE BACK

5'9" • 175

Bishop Gorman High School Las Vegas

Joining the Irish from Bishop Gorman High School, Nicco Fertitta fits the mold of past scrappy players to suit up in the gold and blue.

Somewhat undersized for an FBS recruit at his position, the 5-foot-9, 175-pound defensive back shows strong closing speed and hitting intensity, despite not looking like the prototypical safety.

Without a big build, Fertitta was left unranked on virtually every major recruiting list and was ranked a three-star recruit. However, it seems that Notre Dame has found a steal with a recruit who went largely unnoticed on the national stage.

Just before he competed in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl last month, Fertitta's high school team was recognized as the best team in the nation by USA Today's Super 25 rankings.



Photo courtesy of BlueAndGold.com, Rivals

JALEN GUYTON

RECEIVER

6'1" • 185

Allen High School Allen, Texas

According to 247Sports, Guyton

is a three-star recruit ranked 88th in the nation among receivers and the 92nd overall player in Texas. He received scholarship offers from Arizona State, Baylor, Clemson, Ohio State, Oklahoma and Mississippi, among others, before committing to Notre Dame. Guyton had a dominant senior season against quality opposition in Texas. According to MaxPreps, Guyton caught 74 passes for 1,605 yards and rushed for 54 more yards. He scored 17 touchdowns in 14 games to help Allen win the 2014 Texas 6A Division I state championship. Guyton is an explosive receiver with great hands who can catch the ball in double coverage and turn short catches into long touchdown runs by using his speed and elusiveness.



Photo courtesy of BlueAndGold.com, Rivals

TREVOR RUHLAND

OFFENSIVE LINEMAN

6'4" • 285

Cary Grove High School Cary, Illinois

A consensus three-star prospect, Ruhland has been committed to Notre Dame since late April and offers offensive line depth to the Irish recruiting class. Ruhland comes into college with experience on both the offensive line and the defensive line, but he should look to line up on offense for the Irish. He played tackle on both sides of the offensive line in high school, but his size would suggest that he fits more at guard for the Irish. Ruhland excels at blocking on the edge and uses his feet well to block at the second level. However, he does enter a position group with already strong depth, which could limit playing time in his first season.

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Photo courtesy of BlueAndGold.com, Rivals

C.J. SANDERS

RECEIVER

5'10" • 185

*Notre Dame High School
Granada Hills, California*

Standing at a deceiving 5-foot-10 and 185 pounds, C.J. Sanders has proven to be one of the most electrifying players in the country. The four-star recruit, according to Rivals, attended The Opening, Nike's elite summer football camp, last summer, and finished as one of its top athletes. He ran the 40-yard dash in just 4.32 seconds and finished the 20-yard shuttle in 3.80 seconds. His ability to switch directions quickly and turn down the field with blazing straight-line speed makes him an immediate threat in the slot position.

Sanders finished his senior year at Notre Dame High School in Sherman Oaks, California, with 437 rushing yards and nine touchdowns, 562 receiving yards and eight scores and four touchdowns on punt/kick returns.



Photo courtesy of BlueAndGold.com, Rivals

ELIJAH TAYLOR

DEFENSIVE LINEMAN

6'3" • 285

*Archbishop Moeller High School
Cincinnati*

Elijah Taylor is a 6-foot-3, 285 pound defensive tackle from Archbishop Moeller High School in Cincinnati, Ohio. According to 247Sports, he is the 14th best prospect in Ohio and 21st best defensive tackle in the country. He verbally committed this past summer and chose Notre Dame over Ohio State, Florida State and Michigan State, among others. During his senior season, he recorded 88 tackles, 15 of them for loss, and 12 sacks while leading the Fighting Crusaders to the Ohio state semifinals. He profiles as a one-technique tackle,

provided he can add a few pounds to his big frame. His presence is very much needed after last season's injuries along the defensive line exposed major depth problems at the position.



Photo courtesy of BlueAndGold.com, Rivals

BRANDON TIASSUM

DEFENSIVE LINEMAN

6'4" • 296

*Park Tudor School
Indianapolis*

Defensive tackle Brandon Tiassum had a dominant senior season for Park Tudor in 2014, leading the team's defense with 91 tackles, 18 of them for loss, and five sacks. He also forced four fumbles in his senior season. For his efforts, Tiassum earned all-county, all-conference and all-state honors during his time at Park Tudor. Tiassum has been praised for his size and ability to move toward the ball. He also displays a quick first step and had a talent for pressuring and reaching the quarterback during his high school career — a habit that could be useful on the Irish defensive line in upcoming seasons.



Photo courtesy of BlueAndGold.com, Rivals

BO WALLACE

DEFENSIVE LINEMAN

6'4" • 215

*John Curtis Christian High School
New Orleans*

At 6-foot-4, Bo Wallace has the frame of a defensive end, but his listed weight of 215 pounds makes him leaner and rangier than a typical lineman. Wallace himself has admitted that he needs to bulk up in order to make an impact at the collegiate level, and he is considered by many a likely candidate to switch to outside linebacker.

But what Wallace, a three-star recruit, lacks in size, he makes up for with blazing speed. He runs a 4.68 40-yard dash and can easily sprint by larger offensive linemen. On the high school level, opposing quarterbacks had trouble outrunning him. When he is blocked, however, he sometimes struggles to fight through the block and make tackles.

Wallace racked up 52 tackles and nine sacks and earned Louisiana all-state honors his senior season.



Photo courtesy of BlueAndGold.com, Rivals

ASHTON WHITE

CORNERBACK

5'11" • 182

*Bishop McNamara High School
Clinton, Maryland*

A three-star defensive back from Bishop McNamara High School in Forestville, Maryland, Ashton White possesses solid ball-tracking skills, especially given his occasional snaps at receiver — he recorded 10 receptions for 112 yards in his senior season. White also showed good turnover instincts, creating two interceptions and two forced fumbles in his last 10 games. His listed position in high school was cornerback, but his size and speed gives him some versatility in the defensive backfield. White also will not shy away from making tackles in run support or taking down receivers downfield, as he finished his senior season with 58 tackles, 38 of which were solo.



Photo courtesy of BlueAndGold.com, Rivals

MYKELTI WILLIAMS

SAFETY

6'0" • 200

*Warren Central High School
Indianapolis*

A six-foot safety who verbally committed to the Irish on Dec. 19, four-star recruit Mykelti Williams is another Hoosier who chose to stay in-state for school. The 200-pound Indianapolis native flies in from his safety position in run support and often played close to the line of scrimmage in high school. Not afraid to throw his frame around, Williams uses his speed to blow up screens, end-arounds and swing routes. The runner up for the Indianapolis Star's Mr. Football 2014 also does a solid job of open-field tackling at full speed, demonstrating a knack for being able to take the feet out from under shifty running backs and receivers. This is not to say he is a one-dimensional player; Williams also recorded seven interceptions as a senior.



Photo courtesy of BlueAndGold.com, Rivals

JUSTIN YOON

KICKER

5'11" • 185

*Milton Academy (Mass.)
Nashville, Tennessee*

Fresh off kicking a trio of field goals at the Under Armour All-American Game — including a game-record 47-yard kick — Justin Yoon signed with Notre Dame.

Yoon, a native of Nashville, Tennessee, will enter Notre Dame with an opportunity to compete for the starting job at kicker, punter and kickoff specialist, with Kyle Brindza's graduation opening all three spots for competition. The Milton Academy product was plagued at times by a back injury during his senior year of high school, but still enters the collegiate game as a consensus top-two kicker nationwide.

At the Under Armour All-American Game, Yoon was perfect in the kicking department, adding four extra points to his trio of field goals, a welcome sign for Irish fans after seeing the team's woes in the kicking game last season.



Photo courtesy of BlueAndGold.com, Rivals

Receiver Ashton White prepares for a pass as a junior at Friendship Collegiate Academy in Washington, D.C.

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MICK JENKINS



to swarm Legends

By **MATTHEW MUNHALL**
Scene Writer

Over the past two years, the rapper Mick Jenkins has moved to the forefront of the Chicago rap scene, and on Saturday night the MC will bring his idiosyncratic, socially-conscious music to Legends.

Jenkins' second mixtape, "The Water[s]," was one of 2014's most exciting rap releases, and he was voted one of the Best New Artists on Pitchfork's 2014 Readers Poll. "The Water[s]" established him as one of the best post-Kendrick Lamar rappers, alongside fellow Chicagoans like Chance the Rapper and Vic Mensa, with whom Jenkins has collaborated. Jenkins' conscientious lyrics are paired with brooding, jazz-tinged production, recalling Lamar's "Section.80."

"Water is synonymous with the truth; you need it to wake up, progress and get the most out of life and find the true quality of happiness," Jenkins told Billboard last year. "Me [and] people in general have false ideas of what makes you happy and what it means to be successful."

Like Chance the Rapper, Jenkins embraces an earnest worldview and positive attitude in his music, channeling it through his deep voice and witty wordplay.

"Most rappers these days is actors / And I can't keep watching the same movie," Jenkins raps on mixtape highlight "Jazz." As the production builds to a climatic, distorted guitar line, he name checks jazz legends like Coltrane, Mingus and Sinatra, adding a dimension of history to the track. "Talkin' all that jazz might get you popped," he raps on the chorus in his mellow baritone, summing up the song's bleak meditation on truth. It's this kind of intelligent, thought-provoking lyricism that makes Jenkins' music so powerful.

Jenkins' social consciousness is best embodied on first single "Martyrs," on which he delivers commentary on the materialism embodied by mainstream rap. "I'ma get all this money / I'ma buy all this s**t," Jenkins raps on the chorus. Like Lamar's "Swimming Pools (Drank)," you can as easily imagine the hook being misinterpreted as a party anthem, rather than an indictment of the thoughtless pursuit of money. "I pray it's never too preachy but I'm preaching," Jenkins raps on the track, summing up his nuanced approach to activism: thoughtful, but never hitting you over the head with the message.

Opening for Jenkins on Saturday night are Saba and Kirk Knight. Saba is a fellow Chicagoan and the front man of the Pivot Gang collective, of which Jenkins is a member.

The 20-year-old rapper's most high-profile break came with a guest verse on Chance the Rapper's "Everybody's Something," and his solo mixtape "ComfortZone" follows up on that promise. "ComfortZone" is a mellow, moody release about growing up on Chicago's West Side. Saba professes to being a quiet kid growing up, and while his mixtape shows that introspective streak, it is an assured artistic statement from a rapper who will surely break into the mainstream within the next few years.

Knight is a member of the Brooklyn-based Pro Era crew and perhaps best known as a producer. He has produced a number of tracks for Pro Era co-founder Joey Bada\$\$, including "Big Dusty" and "Hazeus View" off the rapper's recent debut album, "B4.Da.\$\$. Nonetheless, Knight has slowly stepped up to the mic, providing verses for tracks from other Pro Era members and releasing songs on SoundCloud.

On "Drink More" Jenkins raps, "Somewhere in the world there's a Riff Raff concert that people gon' swarm for." No disrespect to the Neon Icon, but hopefully Notre Dame students will swarm in equally large numbers to Jenkins' show at Legends on Friday night.

Contact Matthew Munhall at mmunhall@nd.edu

WEEKEND AT A GLANCE

THURSDAY



What: "The Missing Picture"
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: DPAC
How Much: Free

Part of DPAC's ScreenPeace Film Festival, "The Missing Picture" re-creates images lost during the Khmer Rouge's cruel reign over Cambodia from 1975 to 1979. The film is nominated for the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film and will only be shown at DPAC once.

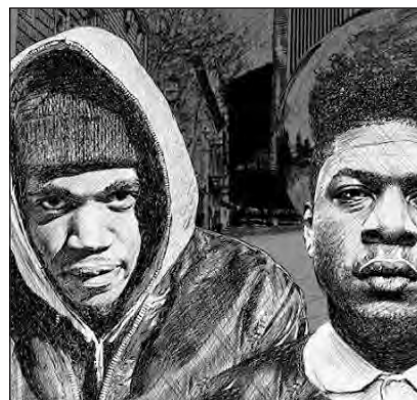
FRIDAY



What: SUB Movie: "The Theory of Everything"
When: 8:00 p.m., 10:30 p.m.
Where: Debartolo 301
How Much: \$3

Nominated for five Oscars, including Best Picture, "The Theory of Everything" tells the story of physics superstar Stephen Hawking and his wife, Jane. The real Stephen Hawking reportedly liked it so much that he allowed the filmmakers to retrack it with the same computer-animated voice he uses.

SATURDAY



What: Mick Jenkins, Kirk Knight and Saba
When: 10:00 p.m.
Where: Legends
How Much: Free

Hip hop artist Mick Jenkins is coming to Legends Saturday night. He just finished up on the 2014 Smoker's Club World Wide Roller's Tour with Method Man, Redman, B-Real and Berner. Opening for him are rapper Saba and producer Kirk Knight.



Weekly Watch is a series in which a scene writer picks a movie or show available on instant streaming service, then writes a review.

"The One I Love," currently streaming on Netflix, stars Mark Duplass and Elisabeth Moss as a couple in a rocky marriage. First time director Charlie McDowell explores their attempt to salvage their relationship through a surreal weekend retreat. Check back Monday for Matt McMahon's review!

SPORTS AUTHORITY

2-0 makes for the perfect score



Zach Klosinski
Sports Writer

Perhaps the most unique high-school basketball game ever took place Saturday night in Alabama.

To call the second matchup of the year between the boys' varsity teams of Bibb County and Brookwood a low-scoring affair seems inadequate. Saturday's final score: 2-0 Bibb County.

The victors won the opening tip and missed a 3-pointer, but sophomore center Brandon Rutledge grabbed the offensive rebound and laid it off the glass for the game's only two points.

Fifteen seconds had elapsed, meaning over the next 31:45 ... nothing.

Brookwood inbounded the ball and made its way down the court. Uncomfortable with the zone played by the taller Bibb County, Brookwood simply passed it around the perimeter trying to extend the defense. And kept passing and passing and passing.

"They came across half court and kept everything really spread out to force us to extend our zone," Bibb County coach Russ Wallace told the Tuscaloosa News. "The first couple of minutes, even with us extending it, they were passing it around the perimeter, so I backed the kids up on defense, and they just stood there and held it."

As the time ran out on the quarter, Brookwood took a shot and missed at the buzzer, but since they lost the tip, they still got the ball to start the second quarter. Again Brookwood stood just inside half court, missing another shot as the horn sounded for halftime. Bibb County got the ball to start the third quarter but decided on a different offensive strategy.

"To come out the second half, I'm not giving them the last two shots of the game," Wallace said. "I'll take one shot in the third and be up by four and they have to come play, or if we don't make it, at least go until the fourth quarter [up by two]."

Bibb County missed its chance at the buzzer to end the third, and then Brookwood held for the final shot of the game. Or at least what would have been the last shot of the game: With 15 seconds left, Bibb County forced a turnover as Brookwood began running its final play. That left Brookwood to foul over and over again in hopes of extending the game, but time ran out.

The final tallies: seven shots (three for Brookwood, four from Bibb County), two points and one turnover.

Under the circumstances, it's reasonable to question why the coaches allowed the game to play out as it did.

"Why should I extend my

defense when I've got the lead?' is the question that everyone needs to understand," Wallace said. "I'm sure there is some pointing fingers both ways."

Wrong on both counts, Coach: There's a different question that needs to be asked, with fingers being pointed at a single organization, the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA). And no, shot-clock proponents, that is not the best remedy for these young athletes.

"It was not my intention to go into that game and stall," Brookwood coach Thad Fitzpatrick told the Tuscaloosa News. "The intention was to get as much rest as we can offensively and do whatever we needed to do defensively. It was our fourth game of the week, and on Friday night we started cramping a lot, so I made the decision."

Four games in a week? It's absurd enough to make one team play that many, including back-to-back Friday and Saturday nights. Yet, as it turns out, Brookwood wasn't the only team playing its fourth game of the week: so was Bibb County.

Sure, these are 14-18 year-old kids on the court. Their bodies are young, fresh and supposedly able to handle rigors of such a schedule. Yet, as the large amount of cramping showed Fitzpatrick the night before, this was too much for even youths to handle. After all, play in the Class 6A, Area 7 tournament begins Thursday, so why should his team play and risk its health against Class 4A Bibb County?

Answer: They shouldn't. Even if this were a huge rivalry game, there is no reason why kids should ever have to play four games in a week during the regular season, something the ASHAA needs to address immediately.

This scenario is only part of a growing problem in youth sports, lumped in with kids who begin 'specializing' and playing a single sport year-round. Sure, these kids and their fresh bodies can handle the high levels of wear-and-tear, for a little bit at least. Yet it won't be long before they start falling apart and suffer long-term health complications.

Placing myself in the shoes of a parent, I actually appreciate the way Fitzpatrick and Wallace decided to coach this game. For the kids' sake, I hope state high school athletic associations feel the same way.

Was Saturday night's game fun to watch? Of course not. Was it better for these kids in the long run? Absolutely.

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

NFL

Patriots draw crowds at parade in cold, snow

Associated Press

BOSTON — Giddy fans of the Super Bowl champion New England Patriots chanted "Brady! Brady!" and clambered atop massive snowbanks for better views as players danced and waved their way through Boston in a Wednesday parade celebrating their fourth NFL title.

Well-wishers blew kisses, pumped their fists and screamed themselves hoarse as the team rolled through downtown aboard the World War II-style amphibious "duck boat" vehicles that have become a staple of the city's championship parades.

Some fans defied police warnings and climbed on giant piles of snow left from last week's blizzard to get a glimpse of quarterback Tom Brady, coach Bill Belichick and other players as trucks blew plumes of confetti into the air.

The crowd roared as a smiling Belichick and his players snapped selfies and took turns waving the Lombardi trophy earned in a hard fought 28-24 victory over the defending champion Seattle Seahawks on Sunday.

A beaming Brady held his young son, Benjamin, who

grinned and waved to the crowd. Later, Brady posted a video to Facebook.

"Thank you guys. Thanks for all your support. What a year it's been. Look at this!" he said panning the camera over the roaring crowd. "Let's go!"

The convoy carrying players, their wives and girlfriends, the team mascot, cheerleaders and more rolled down Boylston Street on route to City Hall, crossing the finish line of the Boston Marathon, where two bombs killed three people and wounded more than 260 others in 2013.

Fans sported No. 12 Brady jerseys, shouted the MVP's name and held "We are the CHAMPIONS" placards. One had a sign that read: "Belichick for President."

"I'm freezing, but it's been great. It's exciting," said Annie Cushing, a Quincy resident who had been standing in front of City Hall for hours before the parade started, wearing a No. 87 Rob Gronkowski jersey and a homemade Lombardi trophy hat made of tin foil and tape.

The real Gronk drew laughs with his hip-hop dance moves. At one point, he chugged a can of beer tossed up by a fan while wearing a goofy winter hat of a one-eyed "Minion" character.

Not to be outdone, wide receiver Julian Edelman stood tall on the roof of a duck boat in sunglasses and a white T-shirt, at times a waving Patriots flag and holding up signs from fans, including one taunting the Seahawks cornerback Richard Sherman.

By the city's colonial burial ground, where signers of the Declaration of Independence and other famous Bostonians were once laid to rest, a boy held high a sign on a wooden picket saying: "13 years old, nine championships," a nod to the city's other successful sports franchises.

Elsewhere, signs proclaimed "They hate us cause they ain't us," referencing a James Franco line in the movie "The Interview."

Carl Estrella of Cambridge wore a T-shirt saying "Deflate This," mocking allegations that the Patriots cheated with underinflated footballs in their AFC championship win against the Indianapolis Colts.

"After all that went on with the deflated balls, we are owed an apology," said Michelle Cote Moran, a Lowell resident watching the parade with her brother. "We're not going to get it, but it's all good. We did it again. We won."

NCAA FOOTBALL

Purdue snags big receivers, backs in recruiting class

Associated Press

WEST LAFAYETTE, Indiana — Purdue coach Darrell Hazell could be turning the "Cradle of Quarterbacks" into Power U.

On Wednesday, the Boilermakers took a detour from their traditional reputation by getting bigger and stronger across the offensive and defensive lines, adding three physical running backs and two 6-foot-3 receivers in their 25-player recruiting class.

Hazell just figured it's what Purdue needs to keep up in one of college football's most grueling conferences.

"It's a very physical conference and you saw the attrition teams had at the end of the year because it is such a physical conference," Hazell said, referring to the plan for his third recruiting class. "So that was something we wanted to do this

year."

The new guys could have a long-lasting impact on the perception of Boilermakers' football.

Purdue's coaches believe powerful 5-foot-11, 205-pound running back Markell Jones, Indiana's reigning Mr. Football from Columbus East, could compete for a starting job this year. He will be joined in the backfield by two other strong runners -- Tario Fuller from Georgia and Richard Worship from Ohio.

"When you look at them, they look like Big Ten backs," running backs coach Jafar Williams said. "I really think this group is going to change the shape of our running backs for years to come."

If all goes well, those three will be running behind four new offensive linemen including 6-8, 300-pound tackle Larry

Wells. The smallest of those four is Michael Mendez at 6-4, 286.

By adding receivers Anthony Mahoungou and Domonique Young, Hazell is hoping that will open things inside for the Boilermakers' slot receivers.

The Boilermakers also signed four linebackers and three defensive linemen including 270-pound tackle Eddie Wilson who defensive line coach Rubin Carter believes will add enough weight to become a 300-pound run-stuffer.

Purdue, of course, did take one quarterback -- Kentucky's record-setting Elijah Sandler, who is already enrolled in school and just started throwing after recovering from a torn ACL.

But for Hazell, this recruiting class wall about one thing.

"What we looked for in this class was to get bigger and stronger," he said.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

MEN'S SWIMMING

Irish strive to finish season on a high note

By **SEAN KILMER**
Sports Writer

Notre Dame aims to finish off its regular season on a high note Saturday when it takes on Cleveland State in seniors' last chance to swim competitively at Rolfs Aquatic Center.

The Irish (5-6) come off two wins and a loss in the Shamrock Invitational last weekend. Notre Dame defeated Missouri State and Incarnate World handily but fell to Big Ten foe Iowa.

In the Shamrock Invitational, the Irish set two pool records and said goodbye to 14 seniors on the official senior day. Among the record breakers was senior John Nappi, who broke the pool record for the 1,650-yard freestyle with a time of 15:21.60.

The 800-yard freestyle relay C-team also eclipsed a record time with a 6:35.03 mark. The team consisted of seniors Kevin Hughes, Broderick Kelly and Patrick Murphy and junior Michael Hudspeth. That group broke a record previously held by a University of Michigan relay team.

Saturday's competition marks Notre Dame's final tune-up for the ACC Championships and will give swimmers a chance to evaluate themselves, freshman Justin Plaschka said.

"I'm definitely excited for this meet against Cleveland State, as it's the last dual meet of my freshman season," Plaschka said. "I'll just look to do my best that I can because this meet will be a good test to see what position I am in and what I need to do in training the next few weeks."

Cleveland State (5-6) has enjoyed a strong 2014-15 season. The Vikings compete in the Horizon League and will seek to test the Irish in multiple areas, most notably 3-meter diving and the 100-yard backstroke.

Cleveland State sophomore Danny Roberts, last week's Horizon League Diver of the Week, recently scored a 324.53 in the 3-meter event, a number that could push a deep Irish diving team. Last weekend, the Irish claimed four out of the top five spots off the 3-meter board.

Philipp Sikatzki turned in a performance at his previous

meet that would have beat any Irish swimmer in both the 100-yard backstroke and 100-yard butterfly last weekend. His 48.74 in the 100-yard backstroke would have beaten Irish junior Bogac Ayhan's top time of 49.24 from last weekend. In the 100-yard fly, he would have won the race with a time of 47.97.

The 100-yard butterfly will feature Sikatzki and several Irish swimmers, including Plaschka and Ayhan.

"I'll approach [this meet] as I do the rest of the dual meets: ready to race," Plaschka said. "I'll just get up ready to race as fast as I can, like I will when I have to race the top competitors at ACCs."

After this weekend, the Irish head to the ACC championships, running from Feb. 25 through March 1 in Atlanta. The Irish finished sixth last year during a season in which they broke 15 school records.

Notre Dame and Cleveland State dive into the Rolfs Aquatic Center pool Saturday at 12 p.m.

Contact Sean Kilmer at skilmer@nd.edu



OBSERVER FILE PHOTO

Irish senior John Nappi races in the 500-yard freestyle event Jan. 31, 2014, during the 2014 Shamrock Invitational at Rolfs Aquatic Center. Nappi won the 1650-yard swim last weekend in a pool-record time.

NBA

George pushes for an early return

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Larry Bird isn't putting any constraints on Paul George's recovery.

In fact, the Pacers president of basketball operations is hoping George will make it onto the court this season. Just six months after the two-time All-Star gruesomely broke his right leg in two places, Bird told reporters that if doctors clear George to play, he should.

"I always say if the player is ready to play, he's got to play," Bird said Wednesday. "We're not going to hold him back if he's able to go out there and play. I think it's important because when you're out like that, you lose something. He's going to get beat up, he's going to get knocked around, he's not going to look good, but I still think it's important, if he's able to play, he should be out there."

Bird said doctors initially told him that it would take seven months for the leg bone to fully heal. If that timeline still holds, George could conceivably be ready for a return from the Aug. 1 injury sometime next month.

Being cleared may not be enough. Coach Frank Vogel acknowledged that getting into game shape and getting back in sync with his teammates could add another month or two to the rehab process, possibly delaying George's return until next season — the expectation all along.

George is expected to talk with reporters on Thursday, his first public comments since late November. After Bird spoke, George issued a one-word Tweet: "March?!"

He has steadily increased

his activity during practices, though Vogel declined to say what he's exactly been doing. He also has been traveling with his teammates on some road trips.

While those are signs of progress, they are not necessarily an indication of an imminent return or whether George is anywhere close to his pre-injury form.

"I think you've just got to be smart with it," Vogel said. "Like Larry said, if the doctors say OK, then I think he should be ready to go."

Indiana (17-32) certainly could use George on the court.

Though the Pacers are still ranked in the top third of the league defensively, they have been inconsistent. Offensively, the Pacers' struggles have been even worse and additional injuries have sapped Indiana of more scoring punch. Bird said he expected this team to come together by now.

Yet they are just 4 1/2 games out of the final playoff spot in the East and still have playoff visions. George's return could help.

"I want to win and that's been my goal, to try to get into the playoffs," Bird said. "Hopefully, down the road, we'll see where Paul's at. We still have no idea whether he's coming back or not, but it seems like every week he's getting better and better. If we do have an opportunity to get into the playoffs and he can get some games under his belt and get ready to go next year."

George's absence and the Pacers' continual woes have prompted speculation that Bird could break up the core of the two-time Eastern Conference runner-ups before the Feb. 19 trade deadline. The two biggest trade chips Indiana has are veteran power forward David West and two-time All-Star center Roy Hibbert.

Bird acknowledged he will listen to offers and will try to help improve the team upon George's return, whenever that is, but does not appear to be in a rush to make any moves.

Vogel isn't pleading for changes, either.

"I like the group that we have and I would love to come back with West, Hibbert, George (Hill) at the one, fill in a couple of spots and make another run at it," Vogel said. "Obviously, Roy and David have player options, but I'm pretty confident they'll be back."

Which leaves just one question: When will George be back?

"I have no clue whether he's going to play or not," Bird said. "But if he gets healthy and they say he can play and he wants to play, we'll put him out there."

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TRACK AND FIELD

Irish gear up for home invite and 'Meyo Mile'

By **ANDREW ROBINSON**
Sports Writer

After mixed results at the Razorback Invitational against the most competitive field they have faced thus far, the Irish will be tested once again this weekend when they host over 1,000 athletes for the Meyo Invitational.

The Irish struggled out of the gates last weekend at the meet hosted by the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Arkansas, which featured a combined 15 top-25 teams on the men's and women's sides. The men's squad finished 11th out of 12 teams, while the women were able to snag seventh out of 12.

Irish coach Alan Turner said he remains optimistic and thinks the attitude on the team is positive.

"We were pretty bad that first day, and the second day, we finally woke up and responded, so we ended on a pretty good note," he said. "The kids left the meet feeling, 'I can compete with anybody.' Obviously, we still have a road to go ... [but] I think what we did Saturday is going to project us to have a pretty good season."

The upcoming meet will feature a large field of athletes from dozens of schools across

the country, as well as from outside organizations. The invitational is full of top athletes in nearly every event, including the well-known Meyo Invitational mile race.

The 'Meyo Mile' is one of the most competitive mile races in the nation for NCAA and professional runners, and this year's race will feature 75 competitors in the women's race and 69 in the men's.

Headlining the field is 2014 Notre Dame graduate Jeremy Rae, representing the Speed River Track Club. Rae won the race all three years in which he competed for Notre Dame. In 2011, 2012 and 2014 – in 2013, he was out with a strained Achilles tendon – Rae ran sub-four-minute miles en route to his three victories, including a Notre Dame record 3:57.25 in 2014.

"[Jeremy] is in shape and ready to run, so we could easily see a sub-four-minute mile from him [again this year]," Turner said.

The event will also feature 2008 Olympian Taylor Milne, one of Rae's professional teammates, as well as Notre Dame junior Michael Clevenger, who Rae has said could break the four-minute barrier.

In the women's mile, junior Molly Seidel will compete



WEI LIN | The Observer

Irish junior Danielle Aragon leads freshman teammate Jessica Harris during a race Dec. 5 at the Blue & Gold Invitational at Loftus Sports Center. Harris has set three Notre Dame records in her last three meets.

after finishing first in the mile at the Razorback Invitational.

Top athletes and All-Americans will compete in events across the board.

"The Meyo Mile gets the attention ... [but] all the events are deep here at this meet," Turner said.

He said that freshman Jessica Harris, who has impressed early in the season, could challenge her own record of 2:06.91 in the

800 meters. After three collegiate meets, Harris holds three school records in the 1,000-meter, 800-meter and 600-meter runs.

She has contributed to a streak of Irish athletes breaking school records in each of their first four meets.

Turner also said that the women's 4x400 team, one of the top units in the country, could contend for a school record if each runner takes about a second off her usual

time.

"It's going to be a very packed event and a loud atmosphere," Turner said. "Our kids respond to that; they know it's the biggest meet of the year."

The Irish host the Meyo Invitational this weekend at Loftus Sports Center. The events begin Friday at 4 p.m. and continue Saturday starting at 10 a.m.

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FENCING

ND prepares for conference championships

By **CHRISTINE MAYUGA**
Sports Writer

Just two weeks shy of the ACC championships, Notre Dame will host all the teams in the ACC at the DeCicco

Duals on Saturday.

"This weekend will help us get ready for the conference championship, which is what we will be focusing on," Irish coach Gia Kvaratskhelia said. "Everything we are

doing at this point is gearing up to qualify for the NCAA championships."

The ACC conference championships begin Feb. 21 in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and the NCAA championships

start March 19 in Columbus, Ohio. Currently, the Irish top the NCAA women's coaches poll and hold the No. 2 ranking on the men's side, demonstrating the respect the team has garnered throughout the country, Kvaratskhelia said.

Notre Dame has turned in several strong performances this season. Last weekend, the Irish squads faced seven ranked teams at the Northwestern Duals and ended with a perfect 13-0 record, the women's team going 7-0 and the men's team finishing undefeated as well at 6-0.

The Irish now boast a 20-2 record for the women's team and 13-6 on the men's side. With numerous team members away at international competitions, including sophomore foilist Kristjan Archer and freshman stand-out sabreist Francesca Russo, Kvaratskhelia said he still expects his team to perform well.

"The absent players shouldn't affect our overall performance," Kvaratskhelia said. "Our team is very strong and has lots of depth."

The Irish are led in the

DeCicco Duals by freshman sabreist Jonathan Fitzgerald and junior foilist Lee Kiefer, who were named the ACC Male and Female Fencers of the Week for last week. It is the third occasion and second consecutive week on which Notre Dame has swept the awards.

Previous recipients include senior epeeist Ashley Severson and freshman sabreist Jonah Shainberg last month and Russo and sophomore foilist Hazem Khazbak in November.

Despite the abundance of individual accomplishments this season, the Irish are concentrating on moving forward as a whole, Kvaratskhelia said.

"We are focusing on the broad spectrum of the team, getting ready for the championship season," Kvaratskhelia said.

The Irish aim to come out on top once again at the DeCicco Duals at the Castellan Family Fencing Center this weekend.

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WEI LIN | The Observer

Irish junior epeeist Catherine Lee thrusts at Penn State sophomore Jessie Radanovich during last year's DeCicco Duels at Castellan Family Fencing Center on Feb. 8. ND defeated the Nittany Lions, 14-13.



CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Irish sophomore center Vince Hinostroza shields the puck from a UConn defender during Notre Dame's 3-3 tie Jan. 16.

Power Play

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

to a suspension. Sophomore center Vince Hinostroza has been a catalyst as well, dishing out 21 assists and totaling 25 points on the year.

"When Russo is on our power play, he likes to be a guy that's a shooter, and [Hinostroza] likes to be the guy who has the puck," Lucia said. "Once [Coach Jackson] separated those two, I felt like each guy kind of runs his own power play."

For most of the season, the Irish had used Lucia, Hinostroza, Russo and two defensemen — junior Andy Ryan and freshman Jordan Gross — on their first power play unit. Despite their individual production, they didn't seem to be gelling.

"You know, early on in the year, there were so many games that if we would have got a few power play goals, we would have won," junior center and team captain Steven Fogarty said.

Before playing Western Michigan on Jan. 10, Notre Dame had posted a 5.8 percent success rate on

the power play. Now, says Fogarty, the team feels like they have one of the best power plays in college hockey.

But figuring out the power play has not necessarily translated to on-ice success for the Irish. Notre Dame is 2-4-1 over their last seven games, now struggling to generate offense when it is at even strength. In last Friday's loss to New Hampshire, the Irish scored just two goals, both on the power play.

"[The power play is] maybe the one shining part of our game right now," Jackson said.

Still, Jackson said he knew all it would take was a tweak or two for his team's power play to jump from the bottom of hockey to one of the best recently.

"We have too much ability to be where we were," Jackson said.

The Irish travel to Orono, Maine, this weekend for a two-game set against Maine. The puck drops both nights at 7:05 p.m. at Alfond Arena.

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CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Irish senior defenseman Robbie Russo circles the net Jan. 16 against UConn at Compton Family Ice Arena. The two teams tied, 3-3.

W Bball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

junior guard Faith Randolph.

"Virginia's got two really good players," McGraw said. "A post player [Imovbioh] and Faith Randolph on the perimeter, [are] playing great basketball right now. So they have a great inside-outside game."

This season Imovbioh is averaging 13.6 points per game and 10.8 rebounds per contest, which leads the ACC. McGraw said defending Imovbioh will be similar to the job the Irish had defending Wake Forest senior forward Dearica Hamby on Sunday. Hamby collected 23 points and 10 rebounds, but Notre Dame defeated the Demon Deacons, 92-63.

"We can look at Hamby's shots," McGraw said when asked how the Irish will contain Virginia inside. "So we'll be able to look at some of the things we did [against Wake Forest] and talk about how we're going to defend them."

On the outside, the Cavaliers are one of the top 3-point shooting teams in the country, hitting 36.4 percent from long range, just off Notre Dame's mark (38.1 percent). Randolph has led the Virginia barrage, attempting 119 from beyond the arc, but has had plenty of help from freshman guard Mikayla Venson, who has put up 111 attempts of her own.

Venson ranks second on the team in assists and third in scoring and has been the driving force behind Virginia's offense in its past two wins. She was named ACC freshman of the week Monday after averaging 17 points per game and shooting 80 percent from 3-point territory over the two contests.

The ACC honor was the first of Venson's career. Against Notre Dame, she will face freshman forward Brianna Turner, who already has collected five



KAT ROBINSON | The Observer

Irish senior guard Madison Cable jumps up for a loose ball during Notre Dame's 70-50 win over Michigan on Dec. 13.

weekly accolades. Turner's last award came back on Jan. 19, but since then, the forward has racked up valuable minutes that will prove crucial come the postseason, McGraw said.

"Every experience she gets is going to help us down the road," McGraw said after the win over Wake Forest, in which Turner played only 22 minutes. "I thought it was great for [senior forward] Markisha [Wright] to be able to come in and give us great minutes and take some pressure off [Turner] so she knows that she's got other people that can help her."

McGraw has said several times this season that she is looking for greater senior leadership to guide a rotation that

features mostly underclassmen, especially in the midst of a trying ACC schedule.

"The older kids, in practice, try to bring energy and stay focused," Irish senior guard Madison Cable said. "It starts at practice. We've been talking about practice recently ... and we really need to come and be ready and have that translate over to the game. I think we're in a really good spot right now, but there's always room for improvement."

Notre Dame hosts Virginia tonight at Purcell Pavilion. Tip-off is scheduled for 7 p.m.

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KAT ROBINSON | The Observer

Irish junior guard Jewell Loyd looks for an open teammate during Notre Dame's 70-50 victory over rival Michigan on Dec. 13 at Purcell Pavilion. Loyd scored 14 points and pulled down five rebounds in the win.



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Irish sophomore guard Steve Vasturia runs up the court during Notre Dame's 77-73 victory over Duke on Jan. 28 at Purcell Pavilion.

M Bball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

never let up. Connaughton provided an early spark for the Irish, scoring 10 of the team's first 16 points to put Notre Dame up 11 with 13:56 remaining in the first half.

From there, Notre Dame's lead ballooned to 25 points, as the Irish held the Eagles (9-12, 1-8) without a field goal for over an eight-minute stretch, and the Eagles didn't reach double-digits until Boston College graduate student guard Aaron Brown hit a 3-pointer with 4:47 left in the half.

"We were in a heck of a rhythm, and it was beautiful basketball, the way we were moving and scoring and different guys doing it," Brey said of his team's first-half play. "When you're in that good a rhythm offensively, it does help your defense because it demoralizes the other team a little bit. ... And I thought our offensive efficiency didn't have them in a very good rhythm because they're thinking, 'God, what do we need to do to get a stop.'"

While Notre Dame's early success propelled it to a comfortable lead, it also proved unsustainable, Brey said.

"[The lead] got to 25 so fast, you worry about concentration and focus a little bit," Brey said. "... I never expect a league game to be easy."

Notre Dame, which shot 55.2 percent from the field and went 7-for-12 from 3-point range in the first 20 minutes, saw its half-time lead erode to 16 points after Boston College graduate student guard Dimitri Batten banked in a half-court shot to end the first frame.

That lead continued to shrink in the second half, as the Eagles upped their offensive efficiency and slowed down the Irish attack.

"I think they switched up their defense a little bit more," Irish senior guard Jerian Grant said of the Eagles' second-half play. "I feel like we missed some good looks. We were moving the ball offensively well, got some good looks."

After several low-scoring stretches of the half, Boston College closed within single-digits on a 3-pointer by junior guard Olivier Hanlan with 2:58 to go. Hanlan hit two more 3-pointers on the next two possessions to close Notre Dame's lead to 67-61 with 1:47 left. Hanlan finished the game with 28 points, going 6-for-9 from beyond the arc.

"Offensively, [Hanlan] got hot," Grant said. "They made some shots. Overall, I think we could have probably played him a little better, but he made shots. He's a great player."

But the Eagles would get no closer, as a fast-break dunk by sophomore guard Demetrius Jackson, his only made field goal of the game, put the Irish up eight with under a minute to go.

Despite the late surge by Boston College, Notre Dame was never under any sense of panic, sophomore guard Steve Vasturia said.

"I think we felt under control," he said. "We're always confident we've got the opportunity to win the game."

Grant and Vasturia finished as the high scorers for the Irish with 17 points apiece. Junior forward Zach Auguste added 16 points and five rebounds, while Connaughton totaled 11 points. The 6-foot-1 Jackson led all players with 10 rebounds.

Brey said games like Wednesday night's matchup fit in with his philosophy of steadily improving for March.

"On Monday, we came in and our whole theme was 'February improvement for March success'; this is a month we need to get better," Brey said.

"... Certainly [the] No. 1 [priority] was the defensive end of the floor, especially after Saturday. I thought we really digested that and wanted to do that, and so that's going to be our theme: 'February improvement.'"

Notre Dame will look to continue its improvement when it heads to Durham, North Carolina for a rematch with No. 4 Duke on Saturday. Tip-off is scheduled for 1 p.m.

Contact Brian Hartnett at bhartnet@nd.edu

Football

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

he will not participate. He is not going to play football again. And that is a decision he and his family made."

Senior linebacker Jarrett Grace, who broke his leg in October 2013, will be back with the Irish soon enough, Kelly said.

"Jarrett Grace vertical jumped 28.5 [inches] yesterday, had a 4.46 short shuttle, so he's really close to being back to where he was," Kelly said.

Junior safety Nicky Baratti, who had a season-ending shoulder injury last fall, will also return to practicing with the Irish, but will forego contact.

"Nick Baratti is doing well; he'll be cleared for spring," Kelly said. "Probably no contact, but he'll be cleared to go through everything in the spring, but we won't let him do contact."

Three members of Notre Dame's 2014 starting defense are currently rehabbing injuries suffered late in the season and seem to be on their way back to the field, Kelly said.

"[Sophomore safety] Drew Tranquill is coming back from ACL, but he's so far ahead right now," Kelly said. "I think he had 315 pounds on his back yesterday full squat at two and a half months. That's crazy, he's so far ahead of schedule. He'll be doing some drill work in the spring. [Junior defensive

lineman] Jarron [Jones] gets his boot off in the spring. [Senior linebacker] Joe Schmidt has had his boot off now for three or four weeks, and he's starting to move through his rehab."

Coaching staff

Kelly would not speak about his coaching staff, amidst rumors of some possible changes to the crew. However, Kelly assured the media he would be coming back.

"We've got nine coaches today," Kelly said. "We're going to talk recruiting today. Any changes that we have on the staff we will definitely get you up to date on it, but I'm not going to get into it today talking about coaches, who's coming, who's staying. I'm staying. I'll be here."

Blue and Gold Game

With Campus Crossroads construction well under way on Notre Dame Stadium, Kelly said the annual spring Blue and Gold Game is still up in the air.

"We've had some preliminary discussions about [the spring training game], but we're probably not ready to make a decision on it yet," Kelly said. "We're probably gonna have some form of spring game. I think the destination is going to be somewhere here on campus; we just don't know where it is going to be right now. Obviously the stadium is off line. We want to keep it on campus, but our options are limited, and the format has yet

to be decided."

The "unfrozen five"

Kelly said cornerback KeiVarae Russell and defensive lineman Ishaq Williams are both working on their academics in order to return to Notre Dame, and to his knowledge, they will be back next fall.

"KeiVarae is working on classes right now at the University of Washington, and he's had conversations with the appropriate people to get those classes transferred back here and to meet the needs he has relative to transfer requirements and meeting eligibility," Kelly said. "There's still some work to be done there, but I know he's working towards getting that done, and our expectations are to have him back."

"Ishaq has similar criteria. His bar is a little bit more complicated, but he knows what he needs to do as well. So we're hoping that both of them can get it done."

Senior Davaris Daniels talked about returning to Notre Dame, Kelly said, but due to some of the requirements needed to come back elected to enter the NFL draft.

"I think there were some complications with eligibility that we were going to have to work through, some high standards to be met," Kelly said. "There were some academic eligibility issues that were going to be difficult for [Daniels] to meet."

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Saturday March 28	South Bend Symphony "Tribute to Brubeck"	Wed-Thur April 29-30	Disney's Beauty and the Beast Broadway Theatre League

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CROSSWORD | WILL SHORTZ

- Across

1

"Whenever you're ready!"

8

Dangerous locale

15

Property recipient, at law

16

"Aha!"

17

Remote-sensing orbiter

18

Riviera resort

19

"Once in Love With ____"

20

Adriatic port

22

The "p" in the middle of certain abbreviations

23

Smooth over, as a drive

25

General on a Chinese menu

26

Ritz

28

Year Michelangelo's "David" was completed

29

Molotov cocktail, e.g.

31

Google stat

32

Pond creatures

34

Lotus ____ (listless race in Greek myth)

36

Play that introduced the word "robot"

37

What's that in Italy?

38

Whence the phrase "Put not your trust in princes"

41

Crasher of 1979

44

"You ____?"

45

Battle of Britain fighter

47

Jobs creation?

49

Friendly if a bit careless sort, supposedly

51

Bonanza find

52

One way to have ham

53

Drivel

54

Comedians, e.g.
- 57

____ broche (on a skewer)
- 58

Driving force
- 60

Beauty shop stock
- 62

Library receipt info
- 63

And other women: Lat.
- 64

Radial choices
- 65

1963 Johnny Cash hit

Down

- 1

A prankster may pull one
- 2

City on San Francisco Bay
- 3

Dickens boy
- 4

Lent's start, e.g.: Abbr.
- 5

Orch. member
- 6

"Laughable Lyrics" writer
- 7

#1 album, for four weeks, before "Woodstock"
- 8

Willow
- 9

"The wolf ____ the door"
- 10

Yucatán youth
- 11

Poetic contraction
- 12

Not-so-great poker holding
- 13

Provokes
- 14

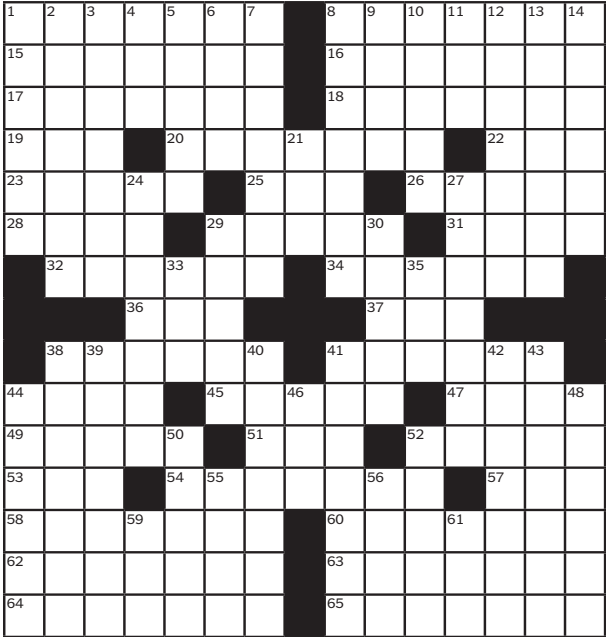
Spectacular display
- 21

"____ Beso" (1962 hit)
- 24

Garden-variety
- 27

Bring by cart, say
- 29

Second Amendment subject



- Puzzle by John R. Conrad

30

Produce an undesired effect

33

Neighbor of Rom.

35

Biblical possessive

38

New Jersey setting for "Coneheads"

39

Scrap

40

Union members

41

More dear

42

Medium for lots of talk

43

Seasoning from the laurel tree

44

Rat-a-tat

46

Apr. addressee

48

Time-out, of sorts

50

"Paradise Lost" figure

52

Ottoman Empire founder

55

Quiet

56

French roast

59

Japan's ____ Period (1603-1867)

61

N. Afr. land

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



HIGHLY PUNLIKELY | CHRISTOPHER BRUCKER

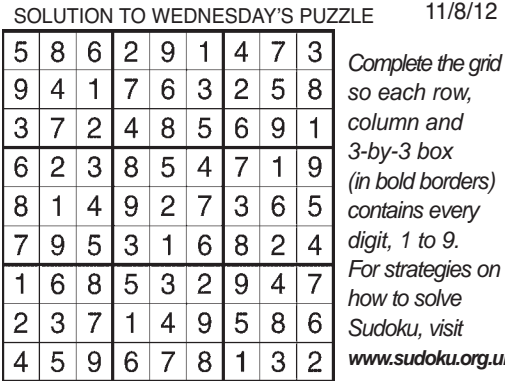
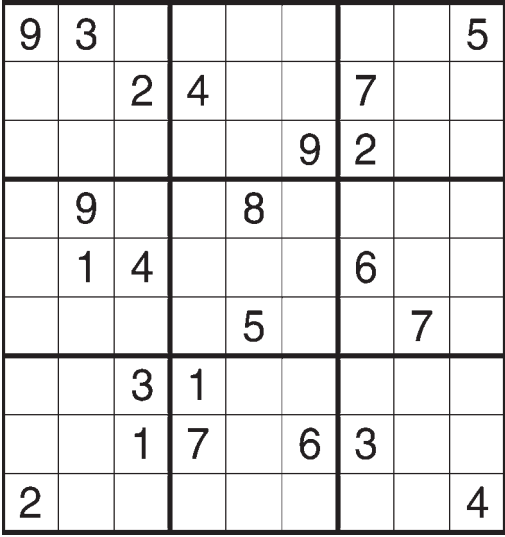


DOME NUTS | ALEXANDRIA WELLMAN



SUDOKU | THE MEPHAM GROUP

Level: 1 2 3 4



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HOROSCOPE | EUGENIA LAST

Happy Birthday: Keep emotions under control and do what has to be done if you want to get ahead this year. Personal and financial adjustments will bring good results as long as you follow through. Making noise without taking action will cost you financially, emotionally or professionally. Good fortune can be yours if you take action. Your numbers are 4, 9, 14, 22, 27, 31, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Energy is up, and romance is highlighted. Do your best to get your responsibilities out of the way so you can enjoy the rest of your day. Don't slow down because someone disagrees with you. Be gracious but focus on your success.★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Unexpected problems will develop. Refuse to give in to someone trying to force you to make a decision. You have to feel confident about your plans before moving forward. If something sounds too good to be true, take a pass. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your curiosity will result in an extraordinary conversation with someone quite different from you. Find out as much as you can, but don't believe everything you hear. Make changes based on your life, not on what works for someone else. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Give your very best no matter what everyone around you does. Someone will recognize your contribution and suggest a partnership. Don't let flattery cost you. Negotiate a deal that keeps whatever arrangement you come up with equal. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't waste energy fighting over a trivial matter. Consider how you should move forward and whether a difficult relationship is worth the trouble. An honest assessment and serious talk will help you change the dynamics or help you move on. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll be faced with demands if you let someone manipulate you. A relationship with someone you thought you could trust will be costly. A practical approach to the way you move forward will be needed to protect against heartache.★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Stop procrastinating and worrying and have a little fun. You can turn an ordinary day into one of love, romance, creativity and getting down to business if you avoid disputes with pushy people. Talks will lead to positive plans.★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't pay attention to petty individuals. Surround yourself with good friends who will help you reach your goals instead of criticizing everything you do. Be brave and follow your intuition and your heart, not someone trying to lead you astray. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll be inclined to brag, and with good reason, but do so knowing that someone will try to make you look bad by twisting your words. If you have a secret, keep it to yourself until sharing personal information is more appropriate. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your timing will be accurate, allowing you to put your plans in motion. A tempting investment will develop, but before you agree, make sure it's the right fit for you. If it jeopardizes your stability or security, take a pass. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The more you do to improve an important arrangement, the better. Share ideas and make plans to move forward. This is a day for change and positive action. Take the initiative and make things happen. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Get involved in organizational events that allow you to meelLearn from those with more experience than you, and you will find a way to get ahead. Offering a helping hand will instill the know-how necessary to develop a style that will separate you from the competition.

★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are engaging and imaginative. You are a leader and a crusader.

JUMBLE | DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

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

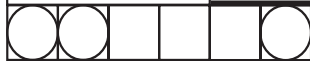
RUFYR



TAMGU



BOZEIM



SNIVHA



A:



(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: VIXEN GUILD SWATCH ABLAZE
Answer: The storm damaged the taxi when it did this — HAILED A CAB

WORK AREA



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



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FOOTBALL

Kelly talks more than just recruits

By ISAAC LORTON
Assistant Managing Editor

Irish coach Brian Kelly spoke a lot about recruits Wednesday during National Signing Day, but he also talked about several other crucial items, including returning players, injuries, possible coaching changes and three of the “frozen five” players.

Although the Irish have energetically recruited top prospects, Kelly said he and athletic director Jack Swarbrick were also actively working to ensure a few top talents returned. Kelly said it was critical to keep two juniors, defensive lineman Sheldon Day and left tackle Ronnie Stanley, from entering the NFL draft.

“We had great success with keeping a number of our players over the years, going back to Michael Floyd, Tyler Eifert, Manti Te’o and Zack Martin,” Kelly said. “But I felt this year after a couple players leaving early, I wasn’t going to leave

this up to a phone call. So I was going to go and visit both of them. ... We really wanted to be aggressive showing them and their families why it was in their best interest to come back to Notre Dame.”

“If they weren’t good locker room guys, I wouldn’t have gotten on the plane,” Kelly said. “But they are good guys that needed to get their degree from Notre Dame, and that’s why we did it.”

Injuries

A number of the Irish are recovering from injury-plagued seasons and are preparing to return to action. Senior offensive lineman Conor Hanratty, however, will not return to play, Kelly said. Hanratty decided to end his football career due to the multiple concussions he has received during his football career.

“Connor Hanratty will not participate,” Kelly said. “He has made the decision that

see FOOTBALL **PAGE 14**

MEN’S BASKETBALL | ND 71, BOSTON COLLEGE 63

Irish hold off rival BC

By BRIAN HARTNETT
Managing Editor



JODI LO | The Observer

Irish senior guard Jerian Grant rises over a Duke defender during Notre Dame's 77-73 win Jan. 28 at Purcell Pavilion.

For much of the first half Wednesday, it seemed that No. 10 Notre Dame had put its 76-72 upset loss to Pittsburgh on Saturday far behind it.

For parts of the second half, however, it seemed that a repeat of last weekend's loss wasn't out of the question.

Nonetheless, the Irish (21-3, 9-2 ACC) held on, riding a hot start and strong first-half defensive effort in order to survive a lackluster second stanza and defeat Boston College, 71-63, at Purcell Pavilion.

“I’m thrilled how we bounced back [from the Pittsburgh game],” Irish coach Mike Brey said. “We talked about that for two days, bouncing back.

“... I thought the first 10 minutes, what we were doing offensively was off the charts, and we combined it with really solid defense to give us kind of a big cushion that we eventually needed.”

Notre Dame led the game wire-to-wire, as senior guard Pat Connaughton hit a jumper seconds after the opening tip and

see M BBALL **PAGE 14**

ND WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

ND stays wary of Cavaliers

By GREG HADLEY
Associate Sports Editor

Irish coach Muffet McGraw hasn't forgotten the last time No. 4 Notre Dame played Virginia. She knows better than to take tonight's home matchup against the Cavaliers lightly.

In 2014, the Irish traveled to Charlottesville, Virginia, and barely escaped with their perfect record intact, scraping by with a 79-72 win, their second-narrowest victory of the year.

In that game, three of Notre Dame's top four scorers were seniors. Now, with a remodeled, younger lineup, McGraw no longer faces the pressure of an undefeated season, but the Irish coach still plans on using last season's game to guide her approach for Thursday.

“That was our closest game last year,” McGraw said. “I mean, we won by single digits ... so that’s a team that’s really really good.”

Like the Irish (21-2, 7-1 ACC), the Cavaliers (15-7, 5-4) lost three starters to graduation at the end of last year, but they returned two of their top scorers in senior center Sarah Imovbioh and



JODI LO | The Observer

Irish freshman forward Brianna Turner lays a shot in during Notre Dame's 88-77 win over Tennessee on Jan. 19 at Purcell Pavilion.

see W BBALL **PAGE 13**

HOCKEY

Line changes fuel power play revival

By BRIAN PLAMONDON
Sports Writer

The conversion rate of hockey power plays hovers around 17-18 percent, with the top-10 teams in Division I all above 22 percent this year.

After a success rate of 18.2 percent last year, Notre Dame's 12.3 percent (14-of-114) this season might seem like a reason the Irish are having an off year at 11-14-3, 6-5-3 in Hockey East.

That conversion rate, however, is misleading, as the Irish are having a renaissance of sorts on the power play in the second half of the season. Notre Dame is finally putting the pieces together, posting a 31 percent (9-of-29) conversion rate over its last seven games, including a power play goal in every game since Jan. 10. Over the last three games, Notre Dame has gone 5-for-10 (50 percent).

“As crazy as that is, it’s just a matter of switching

the point guys from what we had — and chemistry,” Irish coach Jeff Jackson said.

One of those moves involved shifting leading scorer and senior defenseman Robbie Russo to the second unit.

Junior left winger Mario Lucia also said the success of the power play has everything to do with personnel.

“I think we just got the right pieces together,” Lucia said. “The power play is all about fitting the puzzle together with the right players and finding the right chemistry and finding the right setup that works. [It] took us a little while to finally find that, but once we did, now it’s starting to click.”

For Notre Dame, getting the units right meant separating arguably its two best players. Russo has tallied 11 goals and 25 points this season, despite missing this past weekend's series against New Hampshire due

see POWER PLAY **PAGE 13**